



OPINION

Improve Agriculture Base

The reasons for the continuance of depressed prices to the United States Agriculture producers are becoming increasingly clearer to everyone. United States producers are being told to produce at world market prices or get out of business.

It's unbelievable that the mentality of the food policy makers in this country has deteriorated so much that they feel a large amount of the American food supply can and should be imported from foreign countries.

Under the proposed GATT agreement the American dairy farmer will become one of the sacrificial lambs.

Our dairy farmers are continually being told by some dairy and government leaders that GATT will open up all of these tremendous foreign markets for our dairy products. In reality the agreement calls for far more dairy imports into the United States with only limited amounts of increased exports.

The National Hoards Dairyman Journal now agrees the GATT agreement could cost the United States Dairy farmer a reduction in milk prices of nearly 75¢ per cwt.

The main supporters of the so-called Self-Help Bill fall in the same category with the trade negotiators for GATT. Neither the proposed Self-Help Program or the proposed GATT agreement will solve the plight of the American Dairy Farmer; nor will the problems being experienced by many other agriculture producers be lessened.

In the beginning, the amounts of manufactured dairy products coming into the United States as a result of GATT will not seriously erode the manufactured dairy market in this country; however, what will happen will be worse. The imports coming in will place a downward pressure on the manufactured dairy market which will depress all class prices to dairy farmers as the further depressed prices take place with our dairymen; the result will be an increasing number forced out of business. This could create a dependency for the United States to even import more dairy products.

The American farmer can no longer be expected to produce the bulk of the American food on 1979 prices. No other section of our economy operates on 1979 prices. It's up to the American farmer to immediately let his agricultural leaders and congress know what really has to be done to save and improve the agriculture base of this country. — Arden Tewksbury, Progressive Organization



Now Is The Time
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Update Immunizations

The recent case of tetanus in Lancaster County reminds us the importance of keeping our immunizations current.

Organisms that cause tetanus, polio, diphtheria, and measles are always present in the environment looking for an opportunity to strike. Tetanus causing bacteria is present everywhere around us — soil, bushes, trees, rocks, etc. Once introduced through a cut or wound, the bacteria causes a life threatening situation by locking the jaws.

These and other dreaded diseases may be prevented by vaccinations. If you do not remember when you had your last tetanus shot, schedule one this week with your doctor. Review your family vaccination schedule with your doctor and make sure all the proper vaccinations are received by any family member.

If cost is a factor, many hospitals offer free or very low cost vaccinations. Talk with your doctor and make sure everyone in your family is properly vaccinated for

grounds, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. and 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Southeast Pennsylvania Regional Fruit Growers Twilight meeting, Wolf's Orchard, New Smithville, 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

Wednesday, June 8

Pa. Veterinary Nutrition Forum monthly meeting, Days Inn, Lancaster.

Catawissa Valley Fair, Catawissa, thru June 11.

Thursday, June 9

Lancaster County Pasture Walk, Allen Weickel Farm, Peach Bottom, 10:30 a.m.

Friday, June 10

Saturday, June 11

Columbia-Luzerne Holstein picnic.

Sunday, June 12

Monday, June 13

Poultry Management and Health Seminar, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, noon.

Tuesday, June 14

Flag Day

Wednesday, June 15

Cumberland Wool Growers Wool Pool, Carlisle Fairgrounds, Carlisle, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

Thursday, June 16

Friday, June 17

Delmarva Chicken Festival and Cooking Contest, Delaware State U., Dover, Del., thru June 18.

Eastern Regional Shorthorn Show and Judging Contest, Howard County Fairgrounds, thru June 18.

tentus, polio, and other important diseases.

To Clean And Service Fans

This past week I had the opportunity to check poultry house fans for amount of air they were moving. The 36 identical fans were producing anywhere from 2,000 cubic feet per minute (cfm) to 9,000 cfm per minute. For most fans the partially closed louvers were reducing each fan capacity by 40 percent.

With the cool spring, this reduced fan capacity was not hurting egg production. However, if left unattended, it would cause severe egg production drop and probably higher hen mortality this summer.

In addition, by not servicing the fans now, the farmer was spending at least 40 percent more for electricity. Some areas that needed attention were correcting partially closed louvers, tightening fan belts, replacing worn motors, and replacing worn pulleys.

Now is the time to check all fans and make necessary repairs and adjustments. Also, do not forget to regularly blow the dust off fans and louvers.

To Ventilate Dairy Barns In Summer

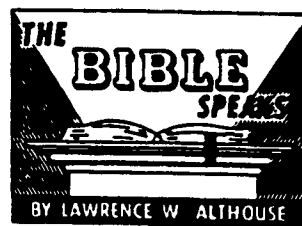
According to Glenn Shirk, dairy barns may be a nice place to keep cows on a hot summer day — that is, if the barn is properly ventilated. The barn provides cows shade, easy access to fresh feed and water and a clean comfortable place to lie down.

Tiestall barns may be tunnel ventilated. A 36- to 40-foot wide tiestall barn requires four 48 inch fans in one end of the barn with all the air inlets located at the opposite end of the barn. You will need two and a half square feet of inlet area for every 1,000 cfm fan capacity.

For four 48 inch fans, you will need an inlet of 5 feet wide across the full width of the stable or its equivalent.

Provisions should be made to ventilate the barn in the case of a power failure. Shirk says that another way to force fresh air into the barn and create a breeze around the head and shoulder area of cows is to rely on a properly designed pressurized duct system.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "The reason people are successful is not by how much they talk, but by how attentively they listen."



THE ILLUSION OF FREEDOM
May 22, 1994

THE ILLUSION OF FREEDOM

Background Scripture:

Galatians 5

Devotional Reading:

1 Timothy 6:10-12

Somewhere I read that after World War II, when India was successful in obtaining its independence from the British Empire, thousands of Indians attempted to ride the railroads of India without tickets. They had seriously misunderstood what freedom is.

Don't most of us?

In our childhood and adolescent years we yearn for our freedom from parental control. When at last that day arrives, we believe ourselves to be "free at last." Looking back on that day, some of us can see that that was an illusion. Actually, all childhood and adolescence is a process of growing free of control by others. But we are seriously mistaken if we think that shedding parental control makes us truly free. During these years of "growing up" we may become increasingly under the control of our peers. And, freed of the legal control of our parents, we may lose our newly-found freedom to our own appetites. Thinking we are "free at last," we may be more in bondage than before.

THE YOKE AGAIN

That's why Paul's admonition to the Galatians is so timely today: "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (5:1). That's the tough part: not submitting again "to a yoke of slavery." The fact is, something has to be in control of our life. Someone has to be in the driver's seat. Otherwise there would be complete anarchy and we would never achieve anything. I don't

mean "achieve" being President of the United States or a world-famous entertainer, I mean we could not achieve even the simplest tasks of functioning in our society.

So, the only question is who or what we put in our driver's seat. Paul suggests that there is a higher and lower self in each of us. This lower self he often speaks of as "the flesh," a reference not so much to our physical bodies as to the selfish, self-indulgent, debilitating drives of our human nature. There is also a higher self in each of us and Paul usually indicates this reality as "Spirit," that which lifts us to our highest potential. So, we can hand over control of our lives to our hormones and self-indulgent desires, or we can put the Spirit in the driver's seat.

WHO'S IN CHARGE?

Now, the interesting thing about this choice is that, if we give ourselves over to our appetites, we are no longer in control of our lives. We are slaves to our own hormones. We are not free because we have chosen to be dominated by something which is guaranteed to affect our ultimate destruction. How strange, then, that some people think of this as "freedom." If, on the other hand, we put the Spirit in charge of our lives, we are free to become our best selves. For freedom is not the ability to do what we want, but the power to do what is best for us, our highest good.

So Paul counsels us, "For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love be servants of one another" (5:13). The highest freedom is to serve others, not because we have to, but because we choose to. Any other image of freedom is an illusion.

So Jesus was a truly free man. What about you?

Farm Calendar

Saturday, May 21

York County Dairy Princess Pageant, 4-H Center, 8 p.m.
Organizational meeting of Green Valley Cooperative, ASI Building, Penn State, 10 a.m.

Sunday, May 22

Monday, May 23

Lehigh Valley Horse Council meeting, Pleasant Hollow Farms, Coopersburg, 7:30 p.m.
Spinning and Weaving Demonstration, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 24

Ephrata Area Young Farmers meeting, Hibshman Farmstead, Springfield Rd., 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 25

Thursday, May 26

Mercer County Round Bale Silage Demonstration, David Shaffer Farm, Mercer, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Friday, May 27

Atlantic National Angus Show, Timonium, Md., thru May 30.

Saturday, May 28

Sunday, May 29

Monday, May 30

Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 31

Wednesday, June 1

Nutrient Management Advisory Board meeting, 2301 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Pa. Dairy Industry Futures Forum, Penn State Scanticon Conference Center Hotel, University Park.

Thursday, June 2

Dairy On-Farm Problem-Solving Satellite Conference, down-linked to Lancaster Farm and Home Center and other sites, call local extension office for details.

Friday, June 3

Philadelphia County Fair, Fairmount Park, thru June 12.

Bradford County Dairy Princess Pageant, East Smithfield, 7 p.m.

Saturday, June 4

Md. State 4-H Horse Judging Contest, Howard County Fairground.

Md. 4-H Dairy Youth Fun, Frederick County 4-H Camp and Activities Center, thru June 5.

Sunday, June 5

Monday, June 6

Tuesday, June 7

Ag Technology Day, Early Summer Crop Management Field Session, Westmoreland Fair-

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