



OPINION

Make Urban Population Pay For Water, Too

Water resources have become the limiting factor for both the expansion of agriculture and the development of the land into residential and commercial use. Often the finger is pointed at agriculture's use of water. And the recent proposed fees for water use in the Susquehanna River Basin emphasize this public thinking.

In our report last week, a complaint was aired that said a good farmer had pulled a stream dry from irrigation. This would indicate that the farmer was using more than his share of the water. But at this time of year there should have been plenty of water in this stream for the farmer and everyone down stream--except that in the last few years, a very large residential development has been installed in the upper part of the aquifer that feeds this stream. Authorities who know about the situation believe it's these urban dwellers that are the culprits in the lower stream levels, and not the farmer. But no one is ready to point the finger at this real source of the problem.

Why not? Management of water sources has become necessary. Most people realize that water, like air, is a natural resource that must be shared by everyone. But agriculture should not be singled out to pay the price of overuse. If development is put into proper perspective in water conservation, we may very well eliminate the need for farmland preservation efforts. Stop development where water resources cannot support it. That would take care of many of our environmental problems.

It's certainly more environmentally sound to use the water to grow food and keep the open space of farmland than to cover the earth with concrete and development.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, July 9

Lebanon Fairgrounds, Lebanon, thru July 13.

Sunday, July 10

Ephrata Area Young Farmers Association annual family picnic, Ephrata Community Park, 12:30 p.m.

Monday, July 11

Derry Township Fair, Derry, thru July 16.

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Fair, Pocono Downs, thru July 16.

Mason-Dixon Red and White Field Day, Em-Tran Farm, Rheems, 1:30 p.m.

Cattlemen's Field Day, Laurel Valley Simmental Farm, Ligonier, 8 a.m.

Tuesday, July 12

Penn State Animal Housing Expo,

North Central Regional 4-H Education and Achievement Days, Penn State DuBois Campus. Milk Marketing Inc. Mid-Year Delegate meeting, Fawcett Center for Tomorrow, Ohio State University, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, July 13

Central Maryland REC Field Day, Turfgrass Facility, 8:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

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

Pa. Purebred Dairy Cattle Assoc. annual judging school, Juniata and Mifflin counties.

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Farm Forum

Editor:

There it was — a time consuming, labor intensive and colorful display consisting of a summer table, chairs, opened umbrella with checkered tablecloth all on a raised platform between the frozen food cases and the dairy case. A hand written sign hung suspended from the ceiling said, June National Dairy Month (even though it was July 1 when I stopped into the busy, large supermarket).

What shocked me as I neared the display was all along the base (both sides facing the aisles); margarine and processed cheese spreads. Every major brand one could imagine!

The feelings I had at that moment? Anger and disappointment. We as dairymen work too long, too hard for a quality product and share our hard earned money for advertising to be confronted with this ignorance. Trying to regain my composure I asked to speak to

the Dairy Case manager. "I would like to make a comment." The assistant manager approached and asked if he could help me.

I stated that I noticed the June Dairy Month display and the margarine everywhere. "Margarine is not a dairy product!" I told him. He proceeded to mention that the display being in the middle of the main aisle. . . I acknowledged the fact that no refrigeration unit was present. So I suggested a different location of the sign might be better. Granted it was no longer June, but I asked him if he realized July was National Ice Cream Month. His reply before he turned away was "March is Frozen Food Month."

As I travelled home the more I thought on the meeting the angrier I became and the reality kick in the mid-section prompted me to share this experience with others in our industry: dairymen, wives



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Say It Is Hot

I was amazed this week when a poultryman told me we were not in the hot weather season yet. This was in reference to how he was managing his ventilation fans in his poultry house.

Once hot weather arrived, he was going to clean the fans and open the louvers all the way to move more air.

He was correct about cleaning the fans and opening the louvers, but I thought we had been experiencing hot weather for at least a month!

Talking with the service person on the way back to the office, he told me many farmers manage their houses by the calendar instead of the thermometer. To be excellent farmers, you need to understand the weather and anticipate what it is going to be.

Seasons, calendars, etc. are poor indicators of the weather. Experience, weather forecasts, and weather in other parts of the country are better indicators of the conditions you will need to manage.

We know hot weather brings thunderstorms and possible power outages. Thus, standby generators should be tested more frequently and be ready for a power failure. Temperatures above 85 F. mean we need to move as much air as possible through confinement housing and cool the house down to 65 F. at night so animals will want to eat feed and continue to produce.

Let the thermometer and the weather we are having dictate your actions, not the dates on the calendar.

To Cool Milk Fast

Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, reminds us that to preserve the quality and flavor of milk, it needs to be cooled down from body temperature to less than 40 F. within one hour of milking. Similarly, at milking time, when warm milk is added to cold milk already in the tank from previous milkings, the blend temperature should not exceed 40 F.

As you can see, a lot of heat must be removed from milk at milking time. To help the cooling compressor accomplish this big task on hot, humid days, follow these ideas:

- Install a pre-cooler to reduce milk's temperature before it enters the bulk tank, allowing you to use

and families. We must speak up and educate not only the consumer, but the ones responsible for selling our products in a favorable light. Personally I am not a vigilante, on the contrary, but I will not forget this experience for a long time.

Susan Schnebly
Clear Spring, MD

this captured heat to preheat water before it enters the hot water heater. You save energy in cooling milk and in heating water.

- Put the compressor in a breezy location and, if necessary, use fans to blow air over the compressor.
- Install a larger compressor.

To Practice Food Safety

It is summertime, and with summer comes chicken barbecues, sizzling steaks, and grill-cooked hamburgers, pork, and veal.

Along with summer heat and food preparation comes increased risk of microorganisms that may cause food poisoning.

Following a few precautions will help reduce food poisoning risks.

- Keep all food refrigerated until preparation or grilling time. Prepare all foods in a clean area with well-washed hands and utensils. If meats are to be marinated, do so in a plastic or glass container in the refrigerator.

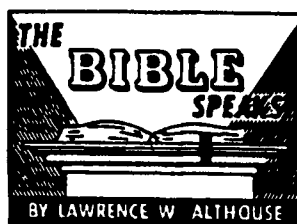
Keep the grill clean and free of

food particles. To prepare the grill for cooking, rinse in warm water, then coat it with a nonstick vegetable spray or vegetable oil to keep food from sticking. Thoroughly wash the grill in hot water and soap after each use.

When building the fire, be sure it is hot enough to properly cook the meat. A good rule is to use 30 briquettes per one pound of meat. Be sure food is fully cooked before serving. The time it takes to cook the meat or poultry depends on the position of the grill, weather, temperature of the coals, and degree of doneness desired.

When food is fully cooked, place it on a clean plate or serving dish, not on the same plate used to bring raw food to the grill. Thoroughly wash all plates used to carry uncooked food before using again. When the meal is over, promptly refrigerate all foods and leftovers.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "The best inheritance a parent can give to his children is a few minutes of his time each day."



GOING IT ALONE
July 10, 1994

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Background Scripture:

Exodus 18

Devotional Reading:

Exodus 18:1-12

Moses had what I call "the Pastoral Syndrome," an affliction that seems to particularly strike clergy with the same disturbing frequency with which the general public is bothered with sinus and the common cold. Unlike those two maladies, however, "the Pastoral Syndrome" includes episodes of hallucination. Pastors are frequently under the delusion that they and they alone must do it all if it is to be done at all. "It" may mean converting the neighborhood to Christ, solving the problems of all their parishioners, securing justice in the community, and making certain the church makes strides which are recorded in heaven.

Of course, clergy are not the only ones to be afflicted with these delusions. Lots of people I know believe that the world rests squarely on their shoulders and that they must hold it up all by themselves. I can understand that attitude, for it was mine for all too long. Unfortunately this attitude dooms one to disappointment, defeat and perhaps even bitterness. At first, it is kind of flattering to think that we are holding up the world all by ourselves, but after while we get a bit weary and begin to wonder why others aren't doing their share.

To be sure, people like this do tend to get a lot accomplished. But they also often discourage other people from shouldering their share of the burden, leading them to conclude that they have nothing to contribute. They sense that we think that they can't do it right — we're the only ones who can! — and so they never do learn to do it at all.

A FAITH PROBLEM

Most of all this is a faith problem. When we assume that it all

depends upon us, it means we are not willing to trust God. Just as God taught the people to live one day at a time and trust to him for the rest, so Moses had to learn to share responsibility and trust that God had given abilities to others beside him. Yes, we need to do whatever we can with all the power and devotion that we can, but we also need to trust God to pick up where our effort ends. A clergyman associate of mine preached a sermon on this text from Exodus 18. He exhorted his congregation to learn to trust God and share responsibility with others. I was amused because this clergyman had a chronic and acute case of "the Pastoral Syndrome." He assumed that if he didn't do it, it would not be done or, at least, not done rightly. Yet, although he understood the meaning of this text for his congregation, it never occurred to him to apply it to his own life and ministry. Maybe I was so amused because I had once shared his delusion.

TAKING ADVICE

There are lots of times in our lives when we need someone like Jethro to come to us and say: "What is this that you are doing . . . ?" Fortunately, Moses was willing to listen to his father-in-law and because he was willing, he was able to make an important change in his life. Jethro encouraged him to trust in the Lord and share the responsibility. "What you are doing is not good." (If someone said that to you, would you listen?) "You and the people with you will wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you; you are not able to perform it alone" (18:18). It is "not good" for Moses and it is "not good" for the people. When someone tries to do it on their own everyone is negatively affected.

But Moses was able to take advice from his father-in-law and he was able to share the burden, two great achievements for any person. Moses learned that he didn't have to — couldn't — go it alone. Have you?

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