



OPINION

All Milk Safe From Antibiotic Residues

Tests to screen all loads of milk for antibiotics at a level of five parts per billion have been used throughout the U.S. since January 1, 1995. This means that consumers will not get any of the six beta lactam classes (penicillin) or any illegal drugs in the milk which they buy and consume.

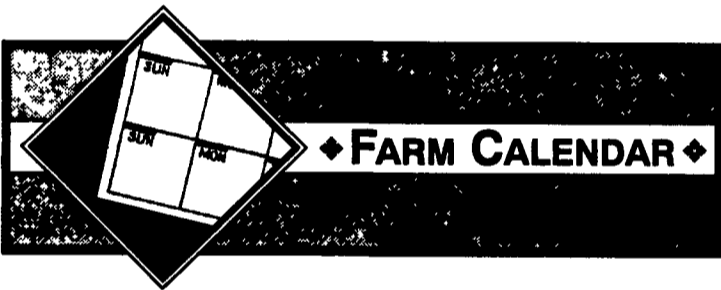
According to Ronald Hostetler, Cambria County agent, screening tests have been standardized at the most sensitive level of 5 ppb, which they can detect with reproducible results. Pennsylvania has been screening loads of milk with the best tests available for nearly three decades.

The Food and Drug Administration has determined that based on the latest available technology that this is a safe level. With any test or technology it is not practical or possible to attain a zero level.

Presently every load of milk received at a processing plant in Pennsylvania is sampled prior to unloading and processing and tested by one or more screening tests. Any load positive at the 5 ppb level is disposed of for other than human food. Because antibiotics are used to treat sick milk cows, more than 2,000,000 pounds of milk had to be disposed of in the January through March period.

Similar procedures are used in all states with more than 68 million pounds being dumped in fiscal year 1994. These levels are being reduced as success reaches more than 99 percent by the action of dairy farmers who withhold and dump milk from treated cows. This is the way it should be.

Therefore, because of proper action by dairy farmers and the aggressive testing procedures, consumers can be sure that the fluid milk and dairy products they buy are safe and free from harmful antibiotics.



Saturday, June 10
Dauphin County 4-H Communication Day, extension office, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Armstrong County dairy princess pageant, Center Hill Church of the Brethren Fellowship Hall, Kittanning, 7:30 p.m.

Lebanon County dairy princess pageant, Lebanon County Vocational School, 7:30 p.m.

Butler County dairy princess pageant, Clearview Mall Center Court, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Chester County dairy princess pageant, Coventryville U. Methodist, 7:30 p.m.

Emu Open House, Hammercreek Exotics, Lititz, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sunday, June 11

Monday, June 12
Poultry Management and Health

Seminar, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, noon.

Tioga County dairy princess pageant, Mainesburg Community Center, Mainesburg, 7 p.m.

Pa. Producers Research and Development Commission meeting, Solanco Fairgrounds, Quarryville, 7 p.m.-10 p.m.

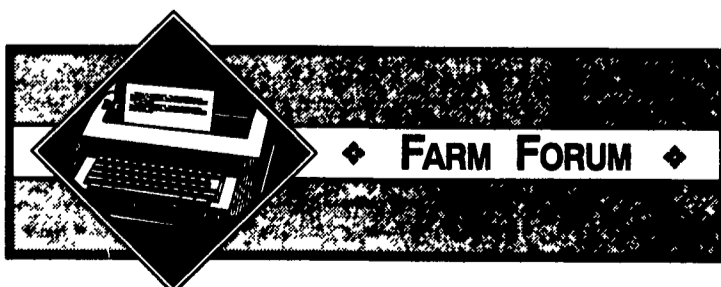
Tuesday, June 13

State FFA Convention, Penn State University, University Park, thru June 15.

Mid-Atlantic Fruit School, W.Va. University Experiment Farm and Holiday Inn and Knights Inn, Martinsburg, W.Va., thru June 15.

Centre County Wool Pool, Grange Fairgrounds, Centre Hall, 7 a.m.-11:30 a.m., and 1 p.m.-2

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Editor,
On Memorial Day, May 29, a tornado took down the chicken house on the Roy Weaver farm on Camp Rodgers Road, Ephrata. For the next three days, friends and neighbors came to help and brought food for the workers. We

would like to thank everyone who helped us. We are fortunate to live in an area where people are so willing to put aside their own work to help a neighbor. We really do need each other.
*The Roy Weaver Family
Ephrata*

**Now Is
The Time**
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Choose A Guardian

Death and taxes may not be anyone's favorite topics. However, people seem more willing to plan for them than illness and disability that may occur anytime.

Most people plan for death by having a legally valid will. But most people seem reluctant to provide for someone to take care of matters while they are still alive but incapable of managing their affairs.

A legal guardianship assigns the financial responsibilities of one person to another. People who need a guardian because they are physically or mentally unable to manage their finances receive a guardian by assigning one themselves or allowing the court to assign one.

When the courts appoint a guardian, they consider kinship and geographical proximity. This could be a person the ward would not have chosen themselves. In addition, a court-appointed guardian faces a tremendous burden of paperwork and bureaucracy. Each purchase and many financial transactions must be justified to the court's satisfaction.

With the help of a lawyer, draw up a simple, durable power of attorney that will assign responsibility to a guardian of your choice. This makes things easier for the ward and the guardian. The problem with a durable power of attorney is that it may be drawn up only when the person is still capable of making important legal decisions. When you are incapacitated, it is too late.

Protect yourself and your family by drawing up a durable power of attorney.

To Know Alternative Uses Of Corn

Corn is now being used for more than animal feed. High fructose corn syrup is the sweetener of choice in the expanding soft drink industry.

Corn is also a basic ingredient in the production of high quality vitamins and amino acids which were previously derived only from the petro-chemical industry.

In addition, we are seeing exciting developments in a number of new product areas. An increasing number of privately owned ethanol plants have been started in Iowa. Ethanol is a clean burning alcohol derived from corn. It is also a renewable energy resource.

The increased demand for prepared foods boosts the corn processing industry, which provides many of the starches, syrups, and

oils found in microwave, ready to eat products.

Corn starch has also found a role in the manufacture of recycled paper and the reduction of pollution in waste water from paper mills. Research has also shown that corn products may replace salt as an ice melt.

All these new uses were made possible from research. It is another example of how funded research creates new demands for products.

To Be Aware Of Poisonous Plants

Summer storms and dried-up pastures are two conditions that increase animals' exposures to poisonous plants in pastures.

A variety of poisonous plants are present on many farms. Fortunately, animals generally have the good sense of not eating them.

However, very hungry and not well-fed animals will be more likely to eat poisonous plants.

One of the leading causes of poisoning is wilted wild cherry

leaves. Limbs may break as a result of storm damage. As the leaves wilt, the levels of hydrogen cyanide and sugars increase, making the leaves more poisonous and more palatable. Once the leaves become completely dry and brown, they become safe.

Yew clippings is another source of livestock poisoning. Some other toxic plants are Jimson weed, black nightshade, hemlock, bracken fern and rhododendron and azaleas.

To help prevent weed poisoning in cattle:

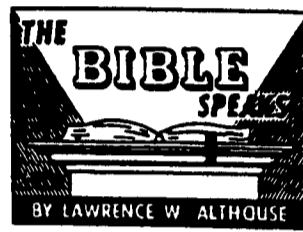
- Be sure animals are adequately fed before turning them out to pasture.

- Remove broken wild cherry limbs from cow areas.

Never throw ornamental clippings into or next to pastures.

- Clip pastures regularly or use an approved or labeled herbicide to control unwanted weeds.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote:
"Begin each day with a personal outlook that will open doors, welcome opportunity, and bring serenity."



WHY ARE YOU LIMPING?
June 11, 1995

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Background Scripture:
I Kings 18

Devotional Reading:
Deuteronomy 6:5-15a

In our newspaper recently I read an article reporting a poll of the American public indicating that 95 percent of those polled said they believed in God or some ultimate being!

At first, I was pleasantly surprised, but, after giving it some thought, it occurred to me that I need not have been so surprised. In my own experience I have found just about everyone I've known could fit into that 95 percentile. Actually, I've personally known only one professional atheist and that was 50 years ago. I've known some agnostics — while the atheist does not believe in God, the agnostic believes that we cannot know if there is a God.

But that doesn't mean that the balance of people left after you subtract the atheists and agnostics believe essentially the same. So, more important than whether people believe in a deity is the kind of deity in which they believe.

THE NAZI GOD

In the 1930s and '40s many Nazis believed both in God and Adolph Hitler. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German Lutheran pastor, protested that Nazism and Christianity were incompatible. The God of Jesus Christ, he said, was not the god of the Third Reich. For those pronouncements he was thrown into a concentration camp and just 50 years ago he was executed by the Third Reich.

During the Middle Ages there arose in the Church, a diabolical phenomenon called the Inquisition. Some brave souls, martyrs most of them, protested that the God of Jesus was not the god of the Inquisition. Historians have helped us to understand that neither was the God of Jesus Christ the god of the Crusades, nor of many of the other aberrations that have often been paraded under the banner

of Christianity or some other religion.

In our own times Christianity has been used as a cloak to lend respectability to other blasphemies against the God of Jesus Christ. Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism have also been abused in a like manner. Someone has commented that God made us in his own image and we have returned the favor. Too often the god we present to the world is not the God of Jesus Christ but a projection of human passions and prejudices.

WHO IS GOD?

So in I Kings 18 the prophet Elijah comes to the people of Israel — and to us — with two great imperatives: "If the Lord is God, follow him; but if-Baal, then follow him" (21). First, the people must decide who is God. Is it the Lord or is it Baal? Is it the Creator/Savior God of Abraham, Isaac, Israel, Moses and Joshua, or is it the licentious deity of the Baalists? And for us it is imperative that we too decide what is the nature of the God in whom we will believe, is he the God of love revealed in Christ or the god of prejudice and injustice, the deity of selfish privilege? Just because we call ourselves Christians doesn't mean the god we serve is the Lord.

Once we have decided that, we come to the second imperative: follow the God you have chosen. It is not enough to say you believe in him, but to live as Jesus Christ has shown us. The problem is that often we try to profess one God but serve many. We salute the Lord of Jesus Christ but we pattern our lives and our society on other gods. Elijah chided the Israelites, saying: "How long will you keep hopping from one leg to another?" — switching from one god to another? Choose just one and live accordingly.

Elijah's challenge is just as timely for us: Why are you professing one God but failing to serve Him alone? Why are you still limping?

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