



OPINION

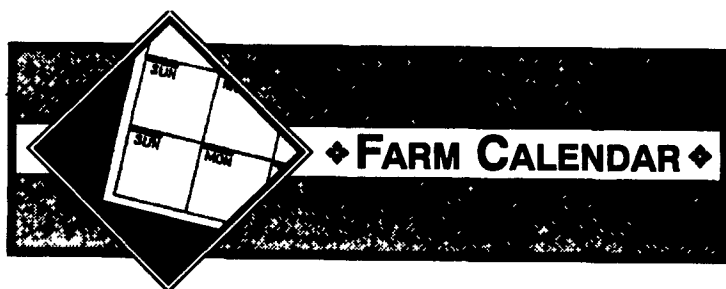
Beauty Is Contagious

The Dairy of Distinction program to recognize dairy farms whose owners work to keep their farmsteads looking good has been completed for another successful year. In Pennsylvania, for example, 43 new farms have received the recognition. Each one is a good representation to consumers of where milk originates. Attractive dairy farms enhance consumer confidence in the dairy industry. Certainly, the winners of the Dairy of Distinction award do their part to increase this confidence.

For many dairy farmers, the award symbolizes years of hard work, sprucing up the barns and fences. To others, it becomes a symbol of how they view their farm and gives employees and visitors alike a sense of respect for the farmstead.

With our special section in this issue, we also honor these farmers and say, "Thank you," for promoting the dairy industry through beautiful farms. Beauty is contagious. Often, when one farm wins the award, neighboring farms also do the necessary work to win the award. This is the way it was planned to work.

If you have a nice looking dairy farm, plan to apply for the Dairy of Distinction award next year.



Saturday, July 29

Southwest Pa. Holstein Championship Show, Fayette County Fairgrounds, Uniontown, 9:30 a.m.

Jackpot Steer Show, York Fairgrounds.

Lebanon Area Fair, Lebanon, thru Aug. 5.

West Central 4-H/FFA Dairy Show, Centre Hall Grange Fairgrounds.

Pa. Ayrshire Field Day, Homestead Acres, Connoquenessing, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sunday, July 30

Pa. Grange Junior Camp, Howard, thru Aug. 5.

Potter County Fair, Millport, thru Aug. 5.

Union County West End Fair, Laurelton, thru Aug. 5.

Mercer County Grange Fair, Mercer, thru Aug. 5.

Hot Weather Cow Comfort, Crawford and Venango Counties, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Monday, July 31

Morrison Cove Dairy Show, Martinsburg, thru Aug. 4.

Goshen Country Fair, West Chester, thru Aug. 5.

Clearfield County Fair, Clearfield, thru Aug. 5.

Tuesday, August 1

Fayette County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Uniontown, 9 a.m.

Jacktown Fair, Wind Ridge, thru Aug. 5.

Southwest FFA Dairy Show, Morrison Cove Memorial Park, Martinsburg.

Farm Field Day, Nutrient and Pesticide Management, Meckley's Limestone Products Farm, Mandata, 9 a.m.-noon.

Central Susquehanna Valley grazing meeting, Gordon and Terri Roup, Washingtonville, 7 p.m.
Franklin County Holstein Club Field Day, Ricecrest Farms, Chambersburg, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Wednesday, August 2

Cattle Carcass Evaluation, New Holland Sales Stables, also

Aug. 4.

Lancaster County Beef Cattle Evaluation Workshop, New Holland Sales Stables, 7 p.m. and Aug. 4 at Stoltzfus Meats, Intercourse, 7 p.m.

Eastern Ohio Dairy Days, Tuesday at Shaland Holsteins, Carroll County, and Wednesday at Shipley Farms, Licking County, Aug. 2-3.

Pa. Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program, Albright's Mill, Kempton, 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and Anthony's Feed Mill, Strausstown, 12:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

Agricultural Field Day, farm of Dick and Eleanor Rice, Rte. 867, north of New Enterprise, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 3

Northern Tier Championship Show, Wyoming Fairgrounds, Meshoppen, 10:30 a.m.

Sustainable Dairy Farm Crop Production System Field Day, Weaver Homestead Farm, New Holland, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Lancaster County Holstein Field Day, Dale and Debbie Hershey, Kinzers, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

South Central FFA Dairy Show, Shippensburg Fairgrounds.

Farm Field Day, Pine Hurst Acres, Riverside, 9:30 a.m.-noon.

Pa. Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program, Oley Valley Feed, Oley, 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and Moyer & Son, Reading, 12:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

Dairy Barn Meeting, Klein Farm, Easton.

Ephrata Area Young Farmers Meeting, Hibshman Homestead (Schantz farm), Springville Road, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, August 4

Lebanon County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Lebanon, 9 a.m.
Morrison Cove Dairy Show, Memorial Park, Martinsburg, 9 a.m.

Potter County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Millport, 10 a.m.
Wayne County Fair, Honesdale, thru Aug. 12.



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Improve Conception Rates

Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, reminds us during periods of hot weather, conception rates in dairy cows may decline for a number of reasons.

Cows are less active and harder to detect if in heat, dry matter intakes are less, cows may be in negative energy balance and elevated body temperatures reduce conception rates in cows and contribute to lower fertility levels in bulls.

A number of things may be done to help reduce these problems.

Observe cows for heat in the cooler hours of the day and night. Maximize energy intakes by feeding cows during the cooler hours of the day and night. Increase the energy density of the ration while also meeting the cows minimal forage and fiber needs.

Provide cows with plenty of water and make feeding and watering areas enticing to cows. Do not get cows overheated and agitated before breeding.

Keep them as cool as possible for a day or two after breeding. If there is a risk of farm bulls becoming temporarily sterile, rely heavily on artificial insemination. Semen in the tank is immune to hot weather.

For improved heat detection, use heat detection aides such as pressure pads, crayons or activity markers.

To Understand Yellow Jackets

During mid-summer we can expect to see yellow jackets swarming around picnic tables, backyard barbecues, garbage cans and any place there is food outdoors.

Yellow jackets normally feed on other insects. They capture flies, beetles, roaches, etc. to feed themselves and their young. However, the food we enjoy is also great food for yellow jackets.

Among other things, they also like hamburgers, cheese, cookies, soda and beer.

Yellow jackets are aggressive if someone comes near their nest. However, when they are foraging they will usually flee if someone waves a hand at them.

If a person hits them with their hand, takes a bite of a hamburger or drinks some soda when a yellow jacket is doing the same, the person is likely to be stung.

Interesting, only the female yellow

low jackets sting.

The yellow jackets we have in the northeast are social insects. Queens and males are produced in the fall. These mate and the males die while the queens over-winter alone under rocks, bark or debris that offers some protection.

In the spring, each female starts a nest alone. She constructs a comb, lays eggs and collects insects that she feeds her young.

After the first brood emerges they become foragers while the queen stays home to lay more eggs and protect the young.

To Protect Yourself From Yellow Jackets

How does one protect themselves against yellow jackets?

There is no perfect answer.

Picking up carefully after a picnic helps. If any bits of food are left on a table or on the ground, the yellow jackets will continue to

forage.

Garbage cans should be tightly closed.

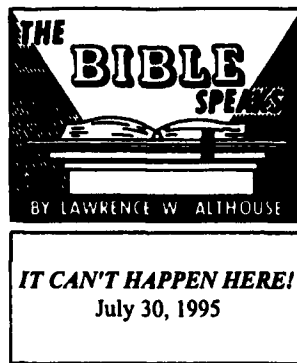
Dressing properly helps. All stinging insects are much less inclined to sting through light colored, smooth finished clothing. Covering the head with a light colored hat or scarf gives protection.

Light colored socks are better than dark ones. Stinging insects are irritated by rough materials such as wool, suede, leather and sweat.

On the other hand, using too much perfume may attract these insects because it makes people smell like flowers.

Generally speaking, repellents that are effective against flies and other biting insects do not protect against stinging insects.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Excellence can be yours if you offer respect as readily as you expect it."



IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE!
July 30, 1995

Background Scripture:

Micah 1 through 3

Devotional Reading:

Micah 2:1-7

Do you remember when Communism reigned throughout Eastern Europe? After 40 long years I doubted that I would see the day when the yoke was lifted. But then, suddenly it was shattered and with it the Soviet Union and its satellites! These people were now free. I remember one commentator exulting that this was the next best thing to the coming of the Kingdom of God. And so it seemed.

In recent years we have had occasion to visit behind what was once the Iron Curtain — in Russia, Estonia, Poland, Hungary, East Germany, and the Czech Republic. And, often, what we discovered was profoundly disturbing.

Yes, these people were now free — free to suffer the social ills of crime, drug abuse, economic exploitation, private and corporate greed. While for a few in Russia, economic and personal freedom has meant sudden prosperity and wealth, for most it has brought instant poverty and a hopeless future. As one citizen of St. Petersburg told us, "Under Communism we had some money, but there was nothing in the shops to buy. Under capitalism we have lots to buy, but no money."

FREE AT LAST?

Last year, we found that many car rental companies in Europe will not rent cars to be driven into Eastern Europe. The reason: the high incidence of car theft. We were also warned to be on our guard when walking the streets of these former Communist cities. In Wenceslas Square, the very heart of Prague, a group of young people tried to rob us in broad daylight with scores of people passing by.

Most disturbing to us was the realization that all this burgeoning crime and corruption was introduced by the demise of Communism and the rise of free market

economy. Some people told us wistfully that they would prefer to see Communism return and bring order to their society once again.

At this moment our own country is not exactly a shining beacon for either democracy or the free market. Our government seems paralyzed and those who exploit the free market are widening the abyss between the haves and the have-nots. We no longer trust our public officials, respect our legal system, or have compassion for the needy in our midst. Conflict seems to have become the national pastime. We are a nation glued to our television sets watching the tawdry trial of O.J. Simpson and ignoring the truly earth-shaking issues that should be the concern of free people. We have been seduced into becoming a nation of peeping-toms exulting over someone else's dirty underwear.

IDOLATRY'S NEW NAME

Now, Communism is not the answer. But by themselves, neither are democracy and free enterprise — without a strong moral undergirding. Otherwise democracy is dominated by demagogues, free enterprise is used for greedy exploitation, and personal freedom becomes personal license. Yes, we need to strengthen both marriage and the family, teach values in the home and in the community. But none of us can be truly prosperous and fulfilled so long as we are selfishly oblivious and unresponsive to "the least of these my brethren."

Although consumerism seems to underlie our free enterprise system, it must be tempered with spiritual values lest sheer materialism corrupt us as much as Socialist materialism corrupted Soviet society. As much as idolatry — an old name for materialism — corrupted the nations of Judah and Israel, prompting dire prophecies from Micah: "Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins..." (3:12).

Don't worry, said the preachers. It can't happen here, said the people of Israel and Judah.

But it did.

Lancaster Farming
Established 1955
Published Every Saturday
Ephrata Review Building
1 E. Main St.
Ephrata, PA 17522
—by—
Lancaster Farming, Inc.
A Steinman Enterprise
Robert G. Campbell General Manager
Everett R. Newswanger Managing Editor
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