



OPINION

Family First

Attitude makes all the difference in whether or not happiness can ever be part of a farming operation.

What that means may be simple to understand by those who already have it, but for those frustrated by mounting or seemingly overwhelming obstacles, it is difficult to understand or even consider without cynicism.

What is described as a good attitude is part of good mental health, and traditionally, considering how much information about animal health and comfort that is continuously made available to the farming community, it is almost remarkable that techniques for maintaining good mental health has not been made more widely available to farmers.

Farmers are constantly challenged mentally. That's been a large part of the attraction of farming — it's never the same from day-to-day and demands awareness, clear thinking, creativity and a positive attitude.

It also requires an ability to be open to reality, rather than blinded to concepts of desire.

For the past 10 years and still today, it seems that no one widely respected public leader has been able to provide the American public, especially the family farmer, with a clear vision of direction.

The Smiths and the Joneses have more, live better and work less than we do and we should be more like them to have self respect. Right?

Wrong. That's all a sham. We can not forget that the Smiths and the Joneses do not exist. If they appear to exist, who cares — most likely that apparition is a gimmick to stimulate product consumption.

What the Smiths and Joneses don't have is you and your family.

Those without some spiritual development, those whose past intermediate family didn't possess or pass on good coping skills, and those convinced that singleness of direction, force and persistence are the only ways to achieve goals and achieving goals is the only way to achieve happiness are probably in need of a friend and maybe family.

Recently the saying, "Wherever you go, there you are," has become popular because of its ironic simplicity and seeming philosophical advice that where ever we are in life, that is what we have to deal with and if we can't find happiness in our situation, comfort in our family and God, then something should change.

Attitude.

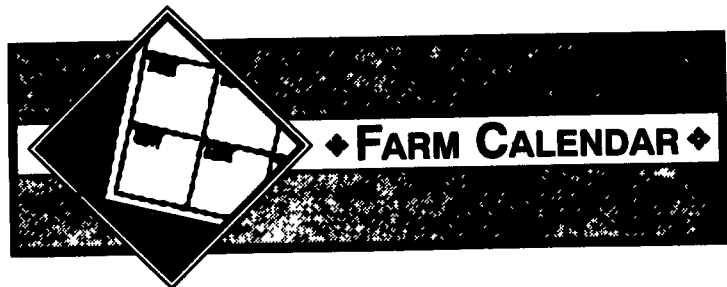
With all the pressure on farmers to deal with volatile, uncertain markets, a political arena that rewards outlandishness and hate rather than knowledge, understanding and strength of character, and a growing general business ethic that can be described as "predatory capitalism (or canabalism)," it is understandable that frustration and cynicism have seeped into farm family relationships and operations.

People need people. Family members need each other. Farming is a business that can involve the family, but the success or failure of that business should not determine the success or failure of a family.

That's the family attitude makes.

No matter what the circumstance, attitude makes the difference in whether there will be hope, love and companionship or misery, malaise and despair.

If the happiness of a family derived from love and respect doesn't come first, then what is a family farm?



Saturday, March 9

Wayne County Dairy Day, Honesdale High School, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Maryland Holstein Eastern Shore Showcase Sale, Quarryville.
Regional Christmas Tree Seminar and Trade Show, Chestnut Ridge Resort, Blairsville, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 10

Monday, March 11

Poultry Management and Health

Seminar, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, noon.
Maryland Holstein, Kent County annual meeting, Galena.
Maryland Holstein Eastern Shore hearing meeting, Farm and Home Center, 7 p.m.
Octorara Young Farmers Awards banquet, West Fallowfield Christian School, 6:45 p.m.
York County Chamber of Commerce, Adams Electric Co-Op, (Turn to Page A11)



Now Is The Time
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Manage Mastitis

Managing mastitis flare-ups has a lot of similarity to managing a hay mow fire, according to Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent.

Think of subclinical mastitis as smoldering embers in a hay mow waiting for an opportunity to flare up. In the case of cows, these hot spots are the code 5 cows on your DHI SCC report.

These are the cows that keep your herd cell counts hanging in the 300,000 to 500,000 range. These cows will generally move one of two directions: up or down. As with sparks in the hay mow, all it takes is a little fanning to cause a flare-up.

With cows, this fanning may be in the form of added stresses placed on the cows such as other infections, injuries, changes in the weather, changes in the feeding program, milking system failure, changes in milking practices, discomfort, poor ventilation, etc. We need to focus on the clinical cases and get them under control or cull them from the herd.

At the same time, we need to vigorously seek out and attack the subclinical cases (code 5 cows) so they do not become tomorrow's flare-ups. When the number of subclinical cases is reduced, the job of managing the herd becomes much easier. Thus, it is very important to reduce the number of code 5 cows in the herd.

To Know Sow Nutrition

According to Chester Hughes, extension livestock agent, it is important that brood sows and gilts

Farm Forum

Editor:

February 21, 1995 is definitely a night that I will always remember! Being the 1995-1996 New York State Dairy Princess was an incredible feeling and one that will always be close to my heart. I knew that moment would mark the beginning of a year full of excitement, hard work and lots of fun. I also knew that with a great amount of determination, enthusiasm, and many smiles, I would be able to make a difference in the lives of agricultural and non-agricultural people throughout our state.

Over the last twelve months, I have done my best to represent the farmers of New York State and the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council, Inc. (ADADC) at numerous promotions. Many times, I have shared my children's presentation entitled "A Very Special Animal" to audiences young and old. I have had the opportunity to give speeches at several meetings such as the National All-

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get the proper levels of nutrients for successful reproduction.

Feeding in excess is not only wasteful and costly but may increase embryonic mortality. A limited feeding system using balanced, fortified diets is recommended.

Individual feeding insures that each sow gets her daily requirements of nutrients without consuming excess energy. As a rule of thumb, four pounds of a balanced diet per day usually will provide adequate protein and energy.

During cold weather, additional feed may be required, depending on type of housing. Heavy milking breeds or females that are still breeding will require that more total nutrients. With limited feeding, it is extremely important that each sow gets her level of feed and no more.

The daily feeding of a limited amount to each individual is the most popular system. Its success is based on having an adequate number of feeding stalls or space for individual animals.

To Know

Some Statistics

As agriculture prospers, so pros-

pers the nation!

All of us depend upon food and fiber for substance. We also enjoy and expect a bountiful supply of high quality food at a very affordable prices.

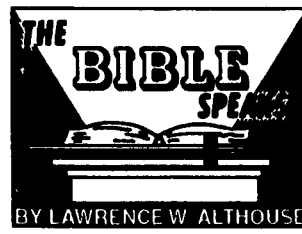
Americans spend 11.4 percent of disposable income on food. The United States has 7 percent of the world's tillable land and produces 13 percent of the world's food. Food and fiber production accounts for 17 percent of our gross national product.

Less than 2 percent of the United States' population are farmers. Today's farmer feeds 129 other people.

The United States spends only two percent of its research and development budget on agricultural research and extension education programs. These monies indirectly help everyone, not just the two percent farmers.

This two percent compares to 54 percent spent on defense research and 44 percent on other civilian research.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Respect cannot be learned, purchased or acquired — it can only be earned."



WHEN IS ENOUGH "ENOUGH"?
March 10, 1996

WHEN IS ENOUGH "ENOUGH"?

Background Scripture:

Matthew 18:21-35
Deutotional Reading:
Ephesians 4:25 to 5:2

Right after the Christmas holidays I made a surprising and baffling discovery: all of my shirts have unaccountably gotten tighter around my neck! I can get them buttoned, but sometimes only with a lot of effort.

That's the way the parables often affect me. I find these simple stories a kind of judgment on the ponderous ways in which I try to communicate the gospel of Christ. Jesus used simple stories to communicate what would probably evoke from me a wordy treatise.

Peter comes to Jesus with a problem that has probably troubled each of us at some time: "Lord, how often shall I forgive him? As many as seven times?"

SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN

I probably would have given Peter an answer in 10 or 11 good-sized paragraphs, but Jesus says simply, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven." Now some of us would do the math in our heads and exclaim, "Aha! We must forgive our brother 490 times!" Peter, of course, being from the Middle East, knew better than to interpret Jesus literally. In fact, not having much, if any schooling, Peter probably didn't know the product of seventy times seven. Jesus wasn't saying that he should forgive his brother 490 times and no more, but that forgiveness is beyond calculation.

The parable that follows confirms this, for Jesus is teaching us that we ourselves should forgive as often as we want God to forgive us. Since we don't want any limits on his forgiveness (Who among us could afford to take a risk such as

that?" there should be none on ours either.

Unfortunately, this is one of the parables of Jesus that I can relate to all too well. When I look at my own status before God, I cannot entertain any thought of the endless mercy of God. If his forgiveness were limited to some particular number — like 49,000 — I'm sure I would already be over the limit. I have no illusions about how much I depend upon God's unlimited grace.

DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH?

At the same time, however, when I think of my role as the forgiver rather than the forgiven, the situation appears to be completely different. Then, like Peter, I tend to think that "seven times" is a lot of forgiveness for anyone to expect of me.

There have been a few people in my life, however, who have received from me at least seven forgivenesses and beyond that. So I find myself praying, "Lord, when is enough enough?" When can I stop forgiving?

And the forgiving which he gave to Peter is the same one he gives to me: "It's enough if when you don't need any more forgiveness yourself." Of course, when is that? Never! So, what the king said to the unforgiving servant, God says to me: "You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me; and should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" As George Herbert says, "He who cannot forgive breaks the bridge over which he himself must pass."

"When we ask God when we can stop forgiving others, the answer is always "Never."

The Althouses will lead a group to the Holy Land, Oct. 9 to Nov. 2, 1996. Space limited. For information, write them at 4412 Shenandoah Ave., Dallas, TX 75205.

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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