



# OPINION

## Got Milk!

"GOT MILK?" It's the punch line to a cute series of ads paid for by dairy farmers with an assessment on the milk they produce.

Got milk? What if the answer were "no?" Residents of New York City can tell you how it felt, during the blizzard of '96, when dairy cases were empty, when shoppers fought over the last milk, and guards had to be posted on delivery trucks.

Got milk? Americans are lucky to have abundant, good food at reasonable cost. American consumers expect this. But we've all seen films of Russians, or Bosnians, or Africans, queued up, waiting for food.

Got milk? Dairy men get an average \$13.00 per cwt. for their milk. Average cost to produce that milk is \$16.00 per cwt. To stay in business, you need a profit. Continued losses, and you're out of business.

Got milk? Farm families do not know a 40-hour week. Their children do not benefit from child labor laws. Farm families work from well before dawn to exhaustion at night. So we can have milk.

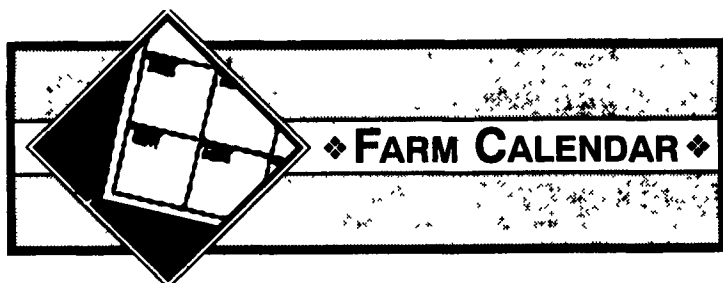
Got milk? We enjoy cheap, wholesome, and plentiful food, thanks to unpaid and underpaid American farm family labor. And today, American farm families find they cannot afford to continue producing that food for those prices.

Got milk? What if the answer were "no?" Where would we be without farm commodities? Without the food and fiber that farmers produce?

Got milk? What if the answer were "no?" If farmers go out of business, who will replace them? Who else has the versatility, the ingenuity, the know-how to operate a farm?

We have got to educate the consumer — and we are all consumers — that without farmers, there will be no milk. Without farms, the grocery shelves will be empty. Without farmers, Americans will go hungry. And without farmers — their ingenuity, their versatility and their know-how — there may be land, there may be seed, there may be animals, there may be equipment, but there will not be productive farms. Once gone, the farming community will be hard to bring back.

Got milk: I think we know the answer. If we want to continue to have milk, meat, grain, fruits, vegetables we've got to make sure that farmers make a profit. Katherine Shelly, Susquehanna County Farm Bureau.



**Saturday, March 30**  
Fruit Tree Pruning Demonstration, Bertram's Orchard, Honesdale, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.  
Ag and Biological Engineering at Penn State Open House, University Park, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Sunday, March 31**  
Palm Sunday

**Monday, April 1**  
Keystone Farm Credit annual meeting, Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland, 6:15 p.m.  
Timber taxation meeting for private landowners, Arena Restaurant, Bedford.

**Tuesday, April 2**  
Poultry Sales and Service Conference, Nittany Lion Inn, University Park, thru April 3.  
Solanco Young Farmers meeting, farm stress management, Solanco High School, 7:30 p.m.  
Dairy lea informational meeting, Fair Haven Inn, Fair Haven, Vt., 1:30 p.m.  
Dairy lea informational meeting, Leaning Pine Restaurant, Peru, N.Y., 8 p.m.  
Dauphin County Farm Bureau spring meeting banquet, Camp Hebron, Halifax, 7 p.m.  
Keystone Farm Credit annual

meeting, Holiday Inn, Fogelsville, 6:15 p.m.  
Pa. Council of Cooperative Extension Associations annual meeting, Nittany Lion Inn, State College, 9:15 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 3**  
Dairy lea informational meeting, American Legion, Schaghticoke, N.Y., 1 p.m.  
Dairy lea informational meeting, Best Western, Little Falls, N.Y., 7:30 p.m.  
Alternative Ag Conference For Southern Md., Waldorf Jaycee Community Center, Waldorf, Md., 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
Tioga 2000 Seminar, Schoonover's Restaurant, Middlebury Center, 12:30 p.m.-3 p.m.  
Bradford County/Pa. DHIA Spring Conference, Sinbad's Restaurant, 10 a.m.

**Thursday, April 4**  
Manor FFA awards banquet, Penn Manor High School, 6:30 p.m.  
Ohio Spring Dairy Spectacular, Ohio State Fairgrounds, Columbus, Ohio, thru April 6.  
Kickoff barbecue dinner, Ohio Spring Dairy Spectacular, Voinovich Center, Ohio State Fairgrounds, 4 p.m.



## Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz  
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

### To Use Safety Features

While headlines in news articles and ads may highlight the ever-increasing productivity of new farm equipment, the revolution in safety has been just as dramatic.

Guards and shields are being designed to allow easy service access to the components they protect so people will be more likely to keep the shields in place. Handholds and footsteps have been positioned for easy reach and designed for non-slip gripping.

Equipment controls are more clearly marked with colors and symbols standardized throughout the industry. The controls are easier to operate to minimize fatigue and improve control.

Lighting systems have been improved to help you see and be seen. Various safety interlocks and operator present controls reduce the possibility of starting in gear or working on running equipment.

Safety is one area where manufacturers set aside their competitive strategies and work together to offer safety equipment to farmers. Industry councils meet regularly to discuss safety issues and share thoughts on ways to make all farm equipment safer.

### To Cater To The Cow

High producing cows spend most of their time doing three basic things: standing to be milked, standing to eat, and lying down chewing their cud and making milk.

With this in mind, Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, states a dairy farmer's goals should be:

- Encourage cows to maximize feed intake. Each pound of dry matter a cow consumes has the capability of producing about two and half pounds of milk, provided the ration is properly balanced and the cow is healthy and comfortable.

- Encourage cows to lie down and chew their cud. When they chew their cud, they produce more saliva which keeps their rumen

**Friday, April 5**  
Pa. Holstein Spring Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 9:30 a.m.

**Saturday, April 6**  
Wye Angus Sale, Wye Research and Education Center, Queenstown, education program 9:45 a.m.-noon, sale 1 p.m.

**Sunday, April 7**  
Easter Daylight Saving Time Begins

**Monday, April 8**

**Tuesday, April 9**  
Ephrata Young Farmers meeting,

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functioning at peak efficiency, thus producing more nutrients for milk production. Also, when cows lie down, more blood flows through their udders. This blood is carrying the nutrients they need to make milk.

- Minimize the time cows are standing up and away from feed. In other words, keep fresh feed in the manager all the time. Do not keep cows standing more than one hour waiting to be milked. Make sure feed and water are easily accessible to cows all the time, especially after milking.

- Provide cows with a non-threatening environment so they may eat and lie down with the assurance that they will be safe.

### To Use IPM

An abbreviation frequently in the news is IPM. This is short for Integrated Pest Management.

Dr. Tim Elkner, extension horticultural agent, reminds us that IPM involves using chemical, biological, and cultural practices to pro-

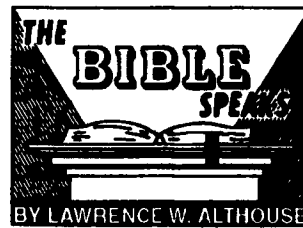
vide effective and environmentally sound control of weeds and other pests.

Any type of farming enterprise could benefit from IPM. The potential advantages are both economical and environmental.

There are several things you need to keep in mind when setting up or evaluating an IPM program. First, an effective IPM program suppresses pests rather than eradicating them. Second, your IPM program must take into account the local environmental and ecological conditions.

Each operation's IPM program may be different to control the same pests. Finally, an effective IPM program takes time to develop and extra care to plan, implement and monitor. However, the time you devote to your program will surely pay for itself in the future.

*Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Winners never quit. Quitters never win."*



GOOD REASONS FOR BAD DECISIONS  
March 31, 1996

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Background Scripture:  
Luke 14:1-24  
Devotional Reading:  
Luke 14:7-14

Have you noticed how often in the parables of Jesus there seem to be such good reasons for bad decisions? It was concern for his own family that led the unforgiving servant to beg for a mercy he refused to give to others. It was a sense of fairness that caused the workers in the vineyard to grumble against the householder. It was fear of the Master's reactions that led the one-talent servant to bury his talent in the ground. All good reasons but bad decisions.

And in the parable of the great feast, what could be more logical than for invitees to ask to be excused so that one could: (1) take care of a newly-bought field, (2) another look after five yoke of oxen, (3) and a third to attend to his new wife? These are all good reasons, aren't they?

Yes, they would appear to be — just as many reasons we give for failing to respond to God's call. Look, God, you know I spend every waking moment on my job; there's no time for anything else. Father, you know if I had blown the whistle on my own company, I would've been out of a job and my family out on the street. Jesus, I couldn't afford to get involved; I've got to live in this neighborhood. These are all good reasons, too — as far as they go.

### DIVINE VS.

### HUMAN REASONS

The problem with all of the above is that God and his children often see things very differently. Jesus makes this point several times in Luke 14. Dining at the home of a local functionary, Jesus heals a man of dropsy. The lawyers and Pharisees present are outraged for they see this act as a violation on the Sabbath. Jesus does not: "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" Jesus asks them.

Then he tells another parable

and makes it clear that God's view of honor and importance are quite different from ours. Take the humble place at the banquet table, he counsels. "For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (14:11). But that is not the way we learn it, is it? The best seats go to those we judge to be the best people — even in churches.

Another difference can be discerned from our invitation list. Don't invite your friends and relative or rich neighbors, he says. "But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just" (14:12-14). The wisdom of this world says, get your reward now!

### REMOVING THE SCREENS

In the parable of the great feast, Jesus makes it plain that the great feast is the kingdom of heaven and these people are passing it up for much lesser things. And the very people they disdain the most — the poor, the helpless, the outcasts — will be there in their stead.

Their reasons are nothing more than excuses. The word "excuse" comes from the Latin *ex causa*, meaning "free of charge." They are the mental gymnastics by which we hope to free ourselves of the charges against us. The Rev. George Arthur Buttrick has said that "Everyone is prone to set a screen of lies between himself and reality. Life is a process of removing the screens so that in God's light shall we see light" (Ps. 36:9).

Jesus challenges us as he challenged his listeners to remove the screens that keep us from seeing the divine reality and stop giving good reasons for making bad decisions.

*The Althouse 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 Stearnman Enterprise  
Robert G. Campbell General Manager  
Everett R. Newswanger Managing Editor  
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