



OPINION

Beef For Dinner Tonight

We don't know why the cow was mad. Maybe she was disgusted because she picked up a virus somewhere and got sick. Or maybe she was furious because a news photographer took her picture when she wasn't looking her best.

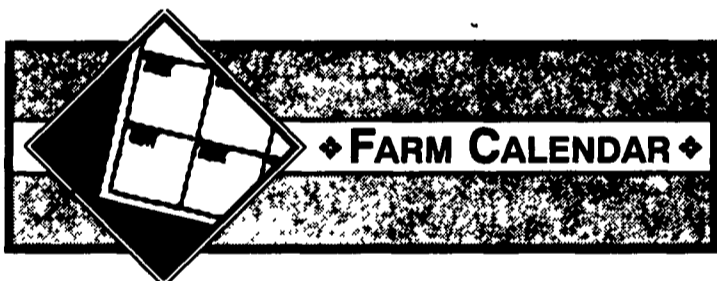
We do know there is no such thing as "Mad Cow Disease." This is only an anonyim for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) given by the opponents of agriculture to scare people and cause economic loss to farmers and ranchers who follow scientifically prescribed methods of animal husbandry.

Actually, BSE has no scientific link with Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD), the human brain disorder found in 10 cases in the United Kingdom over the last two years. According to Dr. Tom Gomez, the liaison from the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the cases in the UK are unique in that they varied from the usual CJD profile and may therefore be a new variant of the human disease. Differences from the typical symptoms for CJD include the young age of the persons affected, clinical findings, and the absence of electroencephalogram features.

"No known risk factors accounted for the 10 cases of CJD," Gomez said. "There is no direct evidence, but the most likely link is eating BSE-infected beef."

Speaking at the Livestock Conservation Institute's annual meeting in Colorado Springs, Gomez emphasized that there is no scientific data or proof of connection between BSE and CJD. Still, the announcement that there may be a link sent shock waves throughout Europe and the British cattle industry. And, of course, the live cattle futures market in Chicago dropped limit for several days early in April as the manipulators of public opinion moved the hysteria here.

When you consider 10 cases of CJD from an unknown source against the billions of hamburgers, steaks, and roasts that have been sold and eaten for their excellent, good tasting, nutritious food value—what's for dinner tonight? Beef. Without question. It's a lot safer than getting out of bed in the morning.



Saturday, May 4
Adams County Apple Blossom Festival, South Mountain Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., thru May 5.

Delaware Valley Old Time Power and Equipment Association Inc. Days of the Past Swap Meet and Flea Market, Washington Crossing State Park, Titusville, N.J., 7 a.m.

Md. Sheep and Wool Festival, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, Md., thru May 5.

Emu Processing Seminar, Pa. Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday, May 5

Monday, May 6
Crowning Apple Queen, South Mountain Fairgrounds, 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 7

Wednesday, May 8
Lancaster County FFA Leadership School, Lancaster Mennonite High School, 4 p.m.

Thursday, May 9
Southeast Pa. Twilight Fruit Growers meeting, Jersey Acres Farms, Pine Grove, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, May 10

Saturday, May 11
22nd Annual Western Pa. Sheep

And Club Lamb Sale, Mercer County 4-H Park, Mercer, 6 p.m.

Sunday, May 12
Happy Mother's Day!

Monday, May 13
Poultry Management and Health Seminar, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, noon.

Tuesday, May 14

Wednesday, May 15

Thursday, May 16
Pa. Fair at Philadelphia Park, thru May 27.

Friday, May 17
Blue Ridge Open Sheep Dog Trial, Sunnybrook Farm, White Post, Va., thru May 19.

Responsible Use of Animals Conference, DoubleTree Hotel, Middletown, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 18
Berks County dairy princess pageant, Ag Center, Leesport, 6:15 p.m.

Sunday, May 19

Monday, May 20

Tuesday, May 21

Wednesday, May 22

Thursday, May 23
Lebanon County Weed Identifica-



Now Is The Time
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Sign Up For Clean and Green

If you have not already enrolled in Clean and Green for lower tax assessment, you have until June 1, 1996 to enroll for the 1997 tax year.

Lancaster County is planning on mailing out the new tax notices in mid May. These will be the values for the 1997 tax year.

Act 319, Clean and Green, allows farms to be assessed on the soil's income-producing ability instead of market value. This will mean a substantial tax savings for farmers.

If you signed up for Clean and Green in 1995, you will receive your Clean and Green assessment later this summer. You do not need to do anything now. If you did not sign up in 1995, you have until June 1 to participate in 1997.

If you have any questions about Clean and Green, call our office at (717) 394-6851.

Remember, you have 30 days to appeal your assessment once it is mailed from the county. To appeal your values, contact the Lancaster County Assessment office at (717) 299-8381.

To Register Water Use

John Hoffman, Pennsylvania Poultry Federation, reminds us that May 11, 1996 is the deadline for anyone using more than 10,000 gallons of water per day for any consecutive 30-day period to register that use with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

The 10,000 gallons includes use from all sources, including public water supplies. Typical farming operations using more than 10,000 gallons of water per day are dairy operations with more than 200

tion meeting, Lebanon Valley Ag Center, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Friday, May 24
1996 Atlantic National Roll of Victory (ROV) Angus Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, thru May 26.

Saturday, May 25
Handicapped Riders Event of the Devon Horse Show Riding and Driving Classes, Thorncroft Equestrian Center, Malvern.

Sunday, May 26
Championship Class and Awards Ceremony, Handicapped Riders Event of the Devon Horse Show, Devon Horse Show Grounds, Devon.



cows, swine farrow-to-finish operations with more than 250 sows, and poultry laying operations with more than 125,000 chickens.

These figures are based on animal consumption and do not include water in cleanup, manure handling and evaporative cooling. If you did not receive a form and need to register you may call Harrisburg at (717) 772-4048.

To Evaluate Losses From Weeds

Robert Anderson, extension agronomy agent, reminds us that each weed species has a different effect on yield and quality.

Taller weeds and weeds that produce a large amount of biomass are usually more competitive and have a greater impact on production than do smaller weeds.

Even low populations of weeds create the potential for producing a

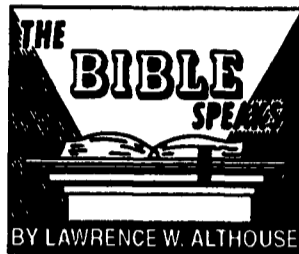
very large number of seeds which could, in subsequent years, reduce crop yields.

Some weed species may cause a delay in harvesting the crop. Delays in harvesting could result in higher crop losses in the field and a reduction in crop quality.

Some weeds may also add seeds to the crop during harvest which must be removed before use. If those seeds cannot be removed, they could make the crop unusable.

Most research points to the need to achieve at least 95 percent control. However, if harvest efficiency, market value, and prevention of additional weed seeds to the soil are considered, then weed control should be in the 98 to 99 percent range.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "A commitment to excellence will turn any enterprise into a success."



ARE YOU HAPPY?
May 5, 1996

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Background Scripture:
Matthew 5:1-12
Devotional Reading:
Psalms 1:1-16

I have found that, if you ask people if they are happy, five out of 10 will reply, "What do you mean by 'happy'?"

Isn't it strange? Ask anyone almost any question and you get a "yes," "no" or something in-between. But when we ask if they are happy, many tend to answer our question with one of their own. Can you think of a term in our language that should be more easily understood than "happy" or "happiness?"

Yet, I can understand that response, for I knew all about happiness until I started writing about it today. It all began when I began to look for a synonym for "blessed" as in "Blessed are the poor in spirit . . ." What does this "blessed" of the beatitudes mean, I wanted to know? My Bible dictionaries and commentaries suggested that "blessed" as used in the beatitudes means "happy" — "Happy are the poor in spirit." One writer said that the Greek word which we render as "blessed" denoted "the highest stage of happiness and well-being, such as the gods enjoy."

COMPLETELY SATISFIED

Then I asked myself what happiness means and that's when the trouble started, for I had already defined happiness for myself as being satisfied or contented. So, am I happy? Well, yes — but not entirely. I am not contented with the hate, misery and oppression I find in the world. I am not satisfied that I have done all I could to minister to those needs. And so on. (At that rate, who can be happy?)

Jesus says, "Happy are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:3). But how can that be? The kingdom of heaven is not here yet, not in its fullness. Jesus also says, "Happy are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" (5:4). The words that tripped me up here were "shall be" — how can you be happy now if

you will be comforted later?

I found help with these questions in two quotations I dug up. One of these was from T.S. Eliot's play, *The Family Reunion*: "I feel quite happy," Harry said, "as if happiness did not consist in getting what one wanted, or in getting rid of what can't be got rid of, but in a different vision." Instead of waiting for things to change before I can feel happy, Eliot's Harry is suggesting that one can be happy by seeing things differently. One doesn't have to wait for things to get better, if we can see our present situation in a different light — in the light of the Gospel. **AS CLOSE AS YOUR NOSE**

The second quotation that helped me was from Josh Billings: "If you ever find happiness by hunting for it, you will find it as the old woman did her spectacles, safe on her nose all the time." We go looking to find happiness when all we need to be happy is already at hand — if only we recognized it. So happiness is not something that falls on you out of the blue, or that you catch like pneumonia. It is not something that is guaranteed to come with the right gift or material windfall. It is something we are carrying around inside of us and are just too stupid or stubborn to look.

Isn't this the happiness that Jesus promises in the Beatitudes? The people who are truly happy, says Jesus, are not those who have won the lottery, but those who see life and themselves through different eyes, with a different scale of values. That which they prize most highly is humility compassion, love, courage, faith and purity. When we have these qualities in our lives and recognize them as the highest good, we ARE happy. We don't have to wait for happiness to come to us. We already have it. I may not be satisfied with the world or even content with myself, but I am both satisfied and content to be in God's hands.

So, are you Happy?
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 75025.

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