

# Lancaster Farming

## OPINION

### Neighborly Farm Odors

The conflict continues between owners of new homes located close to farms where normal operations may cause offensive odors. Should the non-farm neighbors just put up with it, or should the farmers change their practices?

Nuisance issues involving farmers and their non-farm neighbors are not new. As far back as 1965, farm publications were talking about the possibility of landing in court if your manure odors were offensive to your neighbors. Today, more people are opting to move out of the city to the country, and the number of animals kept on many farms has increased drastically.

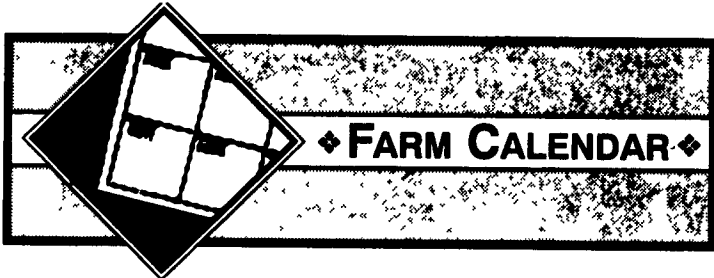
A recent conference sought to get a handle on what could be done to bring the two sides together. Of course, education and communication were at the top of the list of solutions.

A program to let new home buyers know about agriculture operations before they buy the home could be started in the local community. Include with this information a discussion about the right to farm law. Handouts about what to expect from country living could be distributed by real estate agents for new rural home buyers.

One of the most important negative aspects of education about rural life comes from the "Old MacDonald" representation in commercials and other public presentations. We need to revamp this image to portray modern, typical farming scenes.

Farm tours should be combined with processing plant, grocery distribution centers, and animal research center tours. If you host a farm tour point out how you minimize other problems, such as flies, water quality concerns, and the appearance of the farm. Many odor complaints arise as the result of other concerns about the operation. By managing all areas of possible concern, odor issues may be minimized.

Many times it is the farmer's attitude that causes the problem. Tell your neighbors you are going to haul pig manure early in the week so the odor will be gone by the next weekend when they are likely to have an outdoor picnic. If you make an effort be to your neighbor what you would want him or her to be to you if your positions were exchanged, you will have gone a long way toward eliminating legal problems from odors.



**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.

**Monday, May 27**

Memorial Day  
Lancaster Farming office closed.

**Tuesday, May 28**

**Wednesday, May 29**

North East Interstate Dairy Compact meeting, Mountain View High School, Kingsley. 8 p.m.

**Thursday, May 30**

Cream Ridge Twilight Fruit Growers meeting and strawberry breeding showcase, Rutgers Fruit Research and Extension Center, Cream Ridge, N.J.  
Philadelphia County Fair, thru June 9.

Southeast Pa. Twilight Fruit Growers meeting, James Rodichok Farm, Tower City, 6:30 p.m.

Mifflin County dairy princess pageant, Belleville Lutheran Church, Belleville.

North East Interstate Dairy Compact meeting, Bradley Hall, Columbia Crossroads. 8 p.m.

**Friday, May 31**

**Saturday, June 1**

Mid-Atlantic Highland Association 5th Annual Highland Cattle Show, Garrett County Fairgrounds, in conjunction with Garrett County McHenry Highland Festival.

Bradford County dairy princess pageant, Northeast Elementary School, Rome, 8:15 p.m.

Huntingdon County dairy princess pageant, Juniata Valley Elementary School, Alexandria, 8 p.m.

Berks County Wool Pool, Leesport Farmers Market, Leesport, 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Sunday, June 2**

**Monday, June 3**

15th Annual Md. 4-H Calf Tournament, Piney Branch Golf and Country Club, Hampstead.

Jefferson County dairy princess pageant, Jefferson County Service Center, 8 p.m.

**Tuesday, June 4**

Economics and Environment Workshop, Lebanon County Extension Office, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 5**

Frederick County, Md. Pasture Walk, Holterholm Farms, Ron and Kathy Holter, Jefferson, Md., 10 a.m.-noon.

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

**To Combat High Feed Prices**

Dairy farmers are in the business of converting feed into milk.

According to Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, feed-related costs represent more than half the cost of producing milk. The drastic increases in feed prices over the past months have forced dairy farmers to make some very important decisions.

When corn prices nearly double, producers scramble for alternative feeds. Consequently, the alternative feeds become scarce and expensive. Thus, you need to help cows make the best use of all feeds they consume so more nutrients end up as milk in the tank or flesh on the cow and less as expensive fertilizer in the gutter or wasted feed.

To help accomplish this, keep rations properly balanced. Also, feed and care for cows so their rumens stay healthy and function at peak efficiency 24 hours a day.

**To Look At Cropping Systems**

Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, says you may want to consider some changes in your cropping system in view of the current high feed prices.

You may want to grow more grain crops for a year or two to maximize total farm profit.

Either rent more land or grow less forage. If you farm more land, consider hiring a custom operator to do some of the fieldwork. This will help to reduce production

**Thursday, June 6**

Chester County dairy princess pageant, Russelville Grange, Russelville, 7:30 p.m.

**Friday, June 7**

Pa. Forest Stewardship Conference, Days Inn Penn State, State College, 7 p.m.

**Saturday, June 8**

Bedford County dairy princess pageant, N.B.C. High School Auditorium, Laysburg, 7:30 p.m.

Wayne County dairy princess pageant, Belmont Fire Hall, Pleasant Mount.

**Sunday, June 9**

Horse Trials, Beginner Through Open Novice, Thorncroft Equestrian Center, Malvern.  
Brandywine Carriage Driving Show, Willowdale, Kennett Square, 8:30 a.m.

Antique Tractor and Equipment Collector's Show, Oley Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Monday, June 10**

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

Northampton/Lehigh county dairy princess pageant, Stockertown Memorial Hall, Stockertown, 7:30 p.m.

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costs and work loads.

Reducing forage acreage also reduces total nutrient production and cow-carrying capacity of the farm. This means you might have to purchase more forages, cull some cows, or contract a farmer to raise your heifers.

You may want to utilize quickly available home grown feeds by harvesting or grazing small grains and by early controlled grazing of some hay fields. However, be sure not to harm hay stands by over grazing or by grazing when soils are too wet.

**To Consider Options To High Feed Prices**

Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, discusses some additional options you may want to consider as strategies for dealing with high feed prices.

Feed scarce and expensive feeds to profitable cows only and continue to feed and care for them

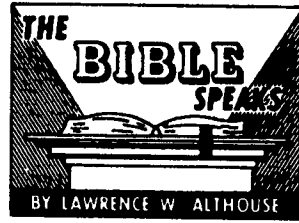
well. That means culling the less profitable cows.

Also, drying off some lower producers (those worthy of keeping) early will allow them to consume less expensive feeds. Contracting someone else to raise your heifers and dry cows will reduce your feed requirements.

Remember, you are in the business of converting feed to milk. You cannot do that unless you put lots of feed into cows. The last 10, 20, or more pounds you can squeeze out of a well-cared-for cow is the cheapest and most profitable milk you will ever produce.

One pound of 11 cent corn dry matter (\$5.20 per bushel) has the capability of producing 2.5 pounds of 13 cent per pound milk worth a total of 33 cents. But be sure to keep the cow and her rumen healthy and functional and monitor production responses closely.

*Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Every problem has a solution. Hang in there and you will find it."*



**REPORTING FOR DUTY!**  
May 26, 1996

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**Background Scripture:**  
Matthew 6:5-15; 7:7-14; Luke 11:1-13

**Devotional Reading:**  
Matthew 7:7-14

Why is it that we do such a poor job of teaching each other how to pray? I can't recall anyone in church or seminary teaching me how to pray. I do remember that some people taught me how to say my prayers, but that's not the same as praying. Many of the prayers I heard said in church were not really prayers—they were performances.

They remind me of a man in a Quaker meeting, who, according to Rufus Jones, made some announcements before closing with a prayer. But, in the middle of his prayer, he remembered some information he had overlooked. And so he prayed: "Thou knowest, O Lord, that there is plenty of food for all who wish to stay for dinner, and Thou knowest that there is hay in the shed behind the meeting-house for all the horses."

**TEACH US TO PRAY!**

So, when the disciples of Jesus come to him, saying, "Lord, teach us to pray," I can understand why they made this request. I'm sure they had heard and said many prayers, but they seem to realize that, whatever else they were doing, they were not praying. And they came to that realization because they saw Jesus praying and they knew something was happening when He prayed that did not happen when they prayed.

I'm not talking about being taught the "right" technique—there is none. Jesus condemned a popular technique of his own day: "And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do..." (Mt. 6:5). The "how" of prayer has nothing to do with saying the right words, in the right way. Jesus gives his disciples a simple prayer to teach them how to pray: *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we have forgiven our*

*debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil (Mt. 7:9-13).*

True, we often use these same words—or words very similar—when we pray. But "how" is not in the words, but in the spirit behind the prayer. It is a prayer that is concerned not only with our daily bread, but also God's kingdom. There's nothing wrong with praying for our daily bread—we should—but there's more to prayer than daily bread. There is, as we see in the Lord's Prayer, praise, thanksgiving, submission to God's will, receiving and giving forgiveness, a request for guidance and commitment to God's plan and purpose.

**THE DAILY BREAD LEVEL**

I'm afraid my prayers never get past the "daily bread" level. God does care about my daily bread, my safety and well-being, but He also cares about my soul and my place in his kingdom. Once a mother overheard her son praying and she noticed that he was mostly telling God what kind of help he wanted from him. Later, the mother told him, "Son, don't bother to give God instructions; just report for duty."

So prayer is not just a matter of getting, but also of giving, of submitting ourselves to God's purpose. It is not a matter of getting him to do what we want, but of offering ourselves to do what He wants.

And prayer is much more than words. Senator Jacob Javits used to tell about the little girl who lived next door. She really believed in the power of prayer. When her brother built a trap to catch sparrows, she prayed hard that he wouldn't catch any. And he didn't! When her mother asked her, "What made you so sure your prayer would be answered?" the little girl replied: "I went back there three days ago and kicked the trap to pieces!"

*The Althouses will lead a group to the Holy Land, Oct. (to Nov. 3, 1996. Space limited. For information, write them at 4412 Shenandoah Ave., Dallas, TX 75205.*

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