



OPINION

Matthew, David, Heath And John, Congratulations

As reported last week, the Pennsylvania senior Holstein dairy bowl team won the national contest at the Holstein Association USA, Inc., convention in Fort Worth, Texas. The four-member team included Matthew and David Day, Heath Ocker, and John Creek.

We are always gratified when our youth excel. And this is quite a feat. In competition with the best from 20 other states, this team won handily, scoring by a fairly wide margin even in the finals over the team from Wisconsin.

You could say practice makes perfect. Last year at the national convention, hosted by the Pennsylvania Holstein Association in Pittsburgh, this team came in second.

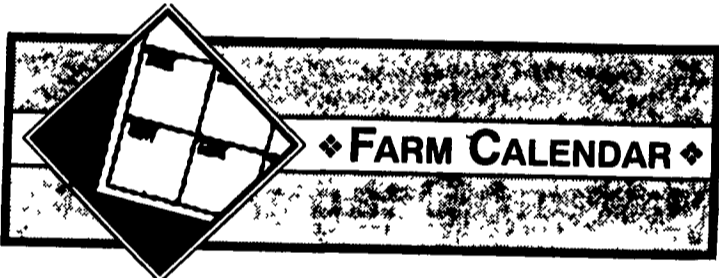
But the real story is maybe not the national honors as great as they are. Like any contest of knowledge and skill, years of hard work went into the win.

This team has been working together for six years. With this hard work came an education. Sometimes they learned to come in second. At such times they learned to depend on each other. They learned discipline and self control. They gave us the pleasure of watching as they grew from boys to men.

In addition, they learned a lot about the dairy industry that will be valuable in whatever job resumes they may offer in the future.

But to us, the greatest part of the story is their good attitude. When we did the interview last week, they first wanted to thank their coach Ann Day who happens to be Matthew and David's mother. And in a letter to supporters that all the members signed, they said that none of these awards would have been possible without all the wonderful support of friends in the dairy industry.

Matthew, David, Heath, and John, we give you our best wishes. And by the way, congratulations!



Saturday, July 13
Effective Pastures: Tour and Field Day, Hickory Hill Farm, Delaware State University Research Farm, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Maryland Simmental Field Day, Howard County Fairgrounds.

Sunday, July 14
Jefferson County Fair, thru July 20.
Show Series, KA Equestrian Center, Cochranville, 8:30 a.m.
Tulpehocken Adult Young Farmer picnic, Wilbur and Arlene Hershey, 12:30 p.m.

Monday, July 15
Armstrong County Junior Holstein Show, Crooked Creek Horse Park, Ford City, thru July 16.
Effective Pastures: A Tour, Delaware State University, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Tuesday, July 16
4-H Leadership Conference, Millersville University, thru July 19.
Armstrong County Junior Holstein Show, Crooked Creek Horse Park, Ford City, 9 a.m.
Lakeview Farm Pasture Walk, Jeff B. Stoltzfus Farm, Oxford, 10 a.m.-noon.
Southeast District Dairy Show, Lebanon Fairgrounds.
Leola Produce Auction twilight meeting, Leola, 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.
Fruit Grower's Twilight meeting, Green's Fruit Farm, Elysburg, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Solanco Young Farmers meeting, Dwayne Peifer's dairy barn, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 17
Jefferson County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Brookville, 9 a.m.
Lycoming County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Hughesville, 10 a.m.
Somerset County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Meyersdale, 6 p.m.
Dairy Facilities and Management Tour, begins at Lebanon County Ag Center, 9:45 a.m.-3:15 p.m.
Maryland Extension Open Forum Twilight meeting, Larriland Farms.

Thursday, July 18
Kent County Fair, thru July 21.
Progress Through Communications for Agriculture tenth annual tour of ag and forest facilities and picnic, Edko Farms, Kosa Family, Ulysses, 1 p.m.

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Editor,
For as long as most dairy farmers can remember, they have always heard, you can't raise milk prices because there is too much milk.



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Check Cows' Behavior

When a lot of cows lie down and chew their cuds soon after eating, they are telling you that a lot of things are right, according to Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent.

They have a comfortable rest area that entices them to lie down. The result is they expend less energy and more nutrient-laden blood passes through the udder and milk production increases.

Their rumen is functioning well, which indicates that digestion and milk production are efficient. When a lot of cows stand up to chew their cud or stand partly in their stall, or lie in alleys or lie backwards in their stalls, they are telling you they would like to have a more comfortable place to rest.

It is a clue to you:

- To check bedding depth and softness of cow beds.
- To check the length and width of stalls.
- To check the amount of lunge room cows have for their heads when they get up.
- To check the positions of neck rails, cow trainers, tie rails, length of tie chains, curb heights, etc.

To Read Cows' Body Language

Cows cannot talk but they can communicate to us by various forms of body language.

Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, reminds us the better we are at reading their body language and responding to it, the more effective we will be as herd managers.

When we walk into a group of cows, do they walk up to you and can you walk amongst them without them getting excited or getting up from their stalls and scurrying to get away from you? If so, these cattle probably have received good care and treatment.

Cows like these are relaxed and generally produce better. Do cows get up easily without hesitation and discomfort? Can they easily get to and operate waterers without getting shocked? Do cows stand back and wait their time before eating and drinking?

If so, this may be happening for a number of reasons. They may be

Yet, every time some farm organizations develop and promote milk supply-management programs, these same people cry out against the proposal, saying, you

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first calf heifers who are at the bottom of the peck order. It may be beneficial to manage them as a separate group even if they are receiving the same ration.

Other reasons include insufficient bunk space and watering areas or inadequate water flow. Learn to read cows' body language. Cater to them and they will reward you well.

To Know Reasons For Cow Behavior

Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, offers the following ideas based on your cows' behavior.

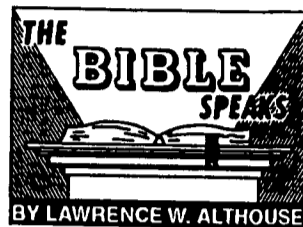
If cows are reluctant to walk to feeding and watering areas because of poor footing, it may be necessary to groove concrete alleys. Also remove small, sharp objects from their walkways.

Do cows consume more feed

from one end of the bunk than another? If so, it may be beneficial to create another access lane to the bunk or to the other side of the bunk to reduce the distance cows have to walk. This also helps cows to feel less trapped in dead-end alleys.

Do cows congregate in favorite spots? If so, try to determine what it is that attracts them to these areas. Then try to duplicate those conditions in the areas you want the cows to use. It might mean providing better ventilation, more air circulation, more light in the feeding and rest areas, or moving the feeding and watering areas closer to the rest area.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Like ripples from a single drop of water, a positive attitude spreads to everyone."



DON'T FORGET TO
REMEMBER
July 14, 1996

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Background Scripture:

Psalms 105

Devotional Reading:

Psalms 106:1-12

In Psalms 104, the Psalmist looked at the wonders of God's world and, when he contemplated all of these, he felt led to praise God.

The Psalmist in Psalms 105 also is led to praise God because of his contemplation. But his time, that to which he gives his deepest thoughts is not in nature, but in history.

In my life span I have witnessed the anxiety of the Great Depression, the struggle of World War II, the fearful fight against Communism, and now that Communism is no longer our great enemy, it would seem we have turned against ourselves. I've often thought about all those changes I've seen in my 66 years and wondered just how it was that a whole world moved from crisis to resolution, from another crisis and another resolution, and so forth.

The popular interpretation is that various individuals have been responsible for moving the rest of us from one struggle to another. Roosevelt, Churchill, Hitler, Truman, Stalin, Ghandi, Gorbachev and so many others. Certainly each of these people played key roles in the history of our times. But, behind these people and their movements, is there not something else that shapes our history?

A SINGLE THREAD

In Psalms 105 the Psalmist does a quick survey of the major outline of the history of Israel. From the time of the Patriarch Abraham, through the conquest of the Promised Land he looks for a single thread that connects all these varied events and people. In each of these acts of powerful people, the Psalmist sees the hand of God working in human history and moving both creatures and creation in the direction of his will. It is God who is in charge of history, not his children. So when he contemplates the history of his people, the Psalmist is moved to praise and thank the Lord for his mighty acts.

Actually, the Old Testament never devotes much space or time to ideas about God. What the Old Testament recounts in detail are the events in which God has been seen to be acting. God is revealed to the people of Israel, not in creeds or doctrines, but in his saving and redeeming acts. So the people of Israel were concerned, not so much with what God is as they were with what God does.

And the key to this perspective is remembering. The Psalmist remembers and he challenges the people to remember with him what God has done: "Remember the wonderful works that he has done, his miracles and the judgments he uttered. . ." (105:5). Furthermore they are to help others to remember: ". . . make known his deeds among the peoples! . . . tell of his wonderful works!"

LORD OF HISTORY

Isn't that what being a disciple of Jesus Christ is all about — being aware of what he has done for you and witnessing to it? Why do we not search the annals of history and our own lives to find that same single thread? God acting through the acts of his children, moving history — both personal and corporate — to that purpose he has ordained. People may bring on the crises but God moves us through them. He is the Lord of history. In a sense, history is *His Story*.

God also remembers: "He is mindful of his covenant forever, of the word that he commanded for a thousand generations" (v.8). And: "For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham his servant" (v.42). So there is not only purpose in history, but also faithfulness. While they were still landless nomads in the desert, he made his promise to make them a great nation. It took a long time for that promise to be fulfilled, but it was the people not God, who delayed.

Someone has said that the Christian with an experience will always be closer to God than the one with a doctrine. What we all need to do is to contemplate our own experiences in order to find that same thin strand of Providence. Let us never forget to remember the mighty, saving acts of God.

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