



# OPINION

## Real Farm Sustainability

Just because you call alternative agriculture sustainable does not make it so. Alternative agriculture may rely less on inputs, but production may be diminished to the extent that the bottom line is no better than before. In addition, with lower production, two of the major responsibilities of agriculture may be lost.

Agriculture should prevent hunger around the world and protect wildlife from the loss of habitat. Today's modern, high-yielding farming practices are the most sustainable we have ever had. They are continuing to change and improve in efficiency, safety, and sensitivity to the environment in direct proportion to our investments in agricultural research and technology.

The evidence of mainstream farming's gains in yield and sustainability reinforces the call for additional research investments to develop high-yield technologies further, to meet these goals and the increasing demands placed on agriculture, and to do so safely and without failing in our long-term responsibility to wildlife or the environment. Low yield production means we will need to plow up more land to feed the world and in doing this we reduce the land that can be given to sustaining wildlife and even endangered species.

We must base our efforts on the real issues of agricultural sustainability and not on secondary social issues or unfounded fears.

## FARM FORUM

Editor,

After a thorough review regarding the need of the Northeast Dairy Compact, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman has given the green light to allow the Compact to become a reality.

The U.S. Congress approved the Compact in the 1996 Farm Bill and it was signed into law by President Clinton on April 5, 1996.

However, Congress placed a stipulation on the Compact which gave Secretary Glickman the responsibility to review the need of the Compact and the impact the Compact could have on the total dairy industry.

All six New England States are part of the Compact, and they now will be gearing up to implement the new pricing concept.

The U.S. Congress actions also allow six other states to join the Compact. However, each of the six individual states must pass needed legislation which will allow the states to become part of the Compact.

Now is the time for our state legislators to take action. Sen. John Kuhl Jr., chairman of the New York State Ag Committee has already introduced the needed legislation in the New York Senate. Eleven other senators co-sponsored the bill. Assemblyman William Parmen has also introduced the needed Bill in the New York Assembly.

In Pennsylvania, Sen. Roger Madigan, chairman of the Pennsylvania Senate Ag Committee, has introduced Senate Bill 1637 which would allow Pennsylvania to join the Compact. Sen. Madigan immediately responded with his action after Pro Ag and others

held meetings with him and we held to public meetings.

Now is the time for dairy farmers to contact their state representatives and senators urging them to support the proposed bills in Harrisburg and Albany. Also, dairy farmers in the other four states should become involved. These states are New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. The governors in these states should be contacted and be urged to support their states participation in the Compact.

All dairy farmers must be aware of strong rumors circulating around the milk shed regarding possible court actions that might be taken by some milk handlers in an attempt to block the implementation of the Compact. Again, I urge all dairy farmers to contact their buying handlers and urge them to refrain from such actions.

With the strong possibilities of milk prices paid to dairy farmers approaching \$16 cwt. this fall, it will become easy for everyone to become complacent toward any new idea. Remember blend prices in Order II fell from \$15.47 cwt. in December of 1989 to \$11.23 in December of 1990 (\$4.24 decline). Let's not let it happen again!

The Northeast Dairy Compact could become a very important instrument in maintaining much needed higher prices for dairy farmers.

You as a dairy farmer will play an important role in the total effort.

Arden Tewksbury  
Progressive Agriculture Organization  
Meshoppen

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

### To Plan Fall Seedings

Late August and early September is a good time to establish new pastures or new stands of grass or alfalfa, according to Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent.

Soil moisture and temperature in early September generally favor good germination and growth. Compared to spring seedings, there is less risk of young seedlings being stressed or killed by hot, droughty conditions of summer.

Weed competition is less of a factor with late summer seedings because many of the annual weeds will be killed by frost. Young grass and alfalfa seedlings thrive better in the cooler months of fall. If soils are dry, keep the alfalfa seed in the bag until moisture conditions improve.

If alfalfa is seeded too late, it may not be well established before entering winter dormancy. In that case it may be better to wait for an early spring seeding.

### To Look At Kernel Milk Line

Based on criteria of total plant yield, nutritive value and dry matter content, corn silage harvest (tower silos) should begin by one half milk line (ML) and should conclude by three fourths ML.

The ML forms on the endos-

perm side of corn kernels as they pass from late milk to early dough stage. As this begins, a starch layer forms at the outer rim of the kernel. The dent forms there as the starch hardens around this outer kernel rim. The conversion to hard starch then moves down the kernel from the dent (crown) to the tip during the next 10 to 20 days, depending on the hybrid.

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Kernel color turns more yellow as the starch in the endosperm farthest from the cob turns solid. When the ML reaches the kernel tip, the black layer of cells forms, indicating the kernel starch accumulation is complete.

### To Examine Fields For Blue Mold

The past week's weather (cloud cover, cool temperatures, and rain) has been perfect for blue mold growth.

Tobacco fields that have not been topped should be checked for

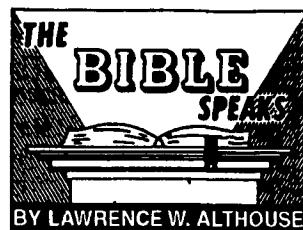
blue mold. Fields that are being topped or have been topped will require no treatment.

If you find blue mold in late tobacco, John Yocum, Penn State agronomist, recommends you spray with Acrobat. He reminds farmers it is illegal to spray Ridomil over the top of tobacco. Ridomil is not labeled for this type of spray and there is a good chance the blue mold is resistant to this chemical.

To help answer questions on the growth and spread of blue mold, farmers are being asked to report blue mold findings to Robert Anderson, extension agronomy agent, at (717) 394-6851 or John Yocum at (717) 653-4728.

Remember, blue mold appears as yellow spots on the leaf with a blue gray fuzzy growth on the underside of the leaf.

*Feather Prof.'s Footnote:* "Courage: The ability to overcome obstacles along the way."



WHATEVER BECAME OF SIN?  
August 18, 1996

### Background Scripture:

Psalms 51

### Devotional Reading:

Ezekiel 18:25-32

Twenty-three years ago, Karl Menninger, M.D., co-founder of the famous Menninger psychiatric center in Topeka, Kansas, wrote a book entitled, "Whatever Became of Sin?" (Hawthorn Books, NY).

The book shocked a lot of people because the concept had seemed to become obsolete, even with many Christians. Struggling against an overemphasis upon the sinfulness of human nature, many people went to the other extreme of denying the concept of sin itself. According to the prevailing mood of many, people did not so much sin as make mistakes. Instead of being sinful, they were presumed simply misguided. Many people ascribed to the concept of sin serious problems of low self-esteem.

Then along came a respected psychiatrist who said that mental and moral health are identical and concept of sin is essential to both. Granted that some religionists emphasized human sinfulness to the exclusion of everything else, when we deny the reality of sin we deny ourselves the opportunity of true self-esteem.

### FACING THE BEAST

The late Samuel Terrien, Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament at Union Theological Seminary in New York, in commenting upon the 51st Psalm, wrote that: "The psalmist knows that a consciousness of sin, far from leading man into pessimism, despondency and despair (as many humanists and psychologist maintain), is on the contrary the prerequisite for the healing of personality and discovery of the power to live aright" (*The Psalms And Their Meaning Today*, Bobbs-Merrill, 1952).

Essentially, that is what Dr. Karl Menninger was saying, too. Only when we recognize the reality of sin and deal with it forthrightly can we escape the joy that it sucks out of our lives. Classic Christianity is not obsessed with human depravity but the joy of escaping from the guilt which no one needs to teach us. Unless we are mentally or morally impaired,

guilt, no matter how well and deeply repressed, poisons us from within. As Seneca has said, "Some have sinned with safety, but none with peace of soul." That is the bad news.

The 51st psalm beautifully demonstrates the need for repentance and forgiveness. The psalmist uses four different words to label what bedevils his conscience: "Sin," "iniquity," "transgressions," and "that which is evil." "Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy steadfast love; according to thy abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions, wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin" (51:1,2).

### DELIBERATE & TWISTED

A *transgression* means an act of deliberate rebellion. *Iniquity* represents a twisted or distorted state of mind and soul. *Sin* is missing the mark or falling short of the goal. Note that the psalmist meets the problem head on, neither excusing himself or trying to shift the blame, even partially, to others. "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in thy sight" (v.4a). Nothing keeps guilt persisting within us more than failing to consciously recognize it. Once we see it, we can get rid of it. And that is the good news!

The psalmist uses diverse terms to indicate what he is seeking from the Lord: *blot out* — erase it from the record, *wash me thoroughly* — to purify completely, and *cleanse me* — free me of that which makes me feel unclean.

But the psalmist wants to be free not only of his sins that he has committed, but of the sinful proclivity that gave rise to the sins. He asks not only to be forgiven, but to be made a new person: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me" (v.10). Following forgiveness there must be transformation.

"Restore to me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners will return to thee" (vs.12,13).

Saturday, August 17  
Crawford County Fair, thru Aug. 24.

Pa. Holstein Central Championship Show, Huntingdon Fair-

grounds, Huntingdon, 4 p.m.  
Third Annual Olde-Tyme Peach Festival, Middletown, Del., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Northeast District 4-H Dairy Show, Wyoming County Fair-

Monday, August 19  
Harford Fair, thru Aug. 24.

Mountain Area Fair, thru Aug. 24.  
Sykesville Ag and Youth Fair, thru Aug. 24.

Williamsburg Community Farm Show, thru Aug. 24.

Susquehanna County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Harford, 10 a.m.

A.I. Training School, Brethren Service Center, New Windsor, Md., thru Aug. 21.

Penn State Bradford County Jersey (Turn to Page A19)

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