



OPINION

Already Critical

Dairy farmers are going out of business in alarming numbers. Prices paid to farmers for milk have not kept pace with costs of production. This year, especially, high feed prices have eroded any little increase that did exist.

In a recent news release The New York State Grange saluted National Ag Secretary Glickman for signing the enabling legislation of the New England Dairy Compact. This Compact is designed to develop a means for stabilizing prices to provide a reasonable profit margin for the farmer. The commission that oversees the Compact includes consumer representatives so both the consumer and the farmer sides of the pricing situation are heard. Stabilization on a regional basis is necessary now that the federal government is less involved.

But as usual, when someone takes the side of the farmer, the public is fed a line of bull. A New York Times editorial claims that this legislation favors the New England Dairy Farmer's "Cartel" over the poor. This appears to be reminiscent of Dan Rather and the "milk additives" where the misinformed instructed the uninformed.

Concentrating the control of any product into an increasingly small number of individuals has never been successful in retaining fair prices. This does not seem to be a direction to take with something as critical as our supply of food. American consumers still enjoy one of the lowest percentages of food cost of any nation in the world. This has been possible by maintaining a large number of individuals in the business of farming.

It is a much better strategy to provide reasonable prices and maintain an adequate supply rather than to continue with a lower price, force producers out of business and wait until the situation becomes critical before something is done. With many markets undersupplied right now, we may have already reached the critical point.



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Produce Milk

Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, reminds us when milk prices increase, butterfat and/or protein differentials increase. When base building time is here (Federal Order 4 shippers), it is time to produce more milk and milk with normal component levels.

Aim for efficient levels of high milk production per cow rather than going to the expense of increasing herd size. Aim for normal levels of milk components instead of the highest fat test or highest protein test.

When milk is \$15 per hundred-weight (\$0.15 per pound) and butterfat differential is \$0.14 per pound, you cannot afford to give up more than a one percent drop in milk production in an effort to raise fat tests 0.1 percent. That is not much of a drop. For a 60 pound per day producer, that means a drop of only 0.6 pound of milk per day. So be sure you are striving for the right goals.

To Produce Normal Fat Milk

Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, states dairy farmers should strive for normal fat tests.

Think of fat tests as the rumen's thermometer. When tests are low, the rumen is not normal.

Cows may be acidotic, appetites may be depressed, and cows may

West Alexander Fair, thru Sept. 7.
Ox Hill Community Fair, thru Sept. 7.

Tuesday, September 3
Chrysburg Farm Show, thru Sept. 7.

Jamestown Community Fair, thru Sept. 7.

Wednesday, September 4
Bellwood-Antis Farm Show, thru Sept. 7.

Luzerne County Fair, thru Sept. 8.
Outstanding Farm Family awards banquet, Fleetwood Grange Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, September 5
Pike County Fair, thru Sept. 8.

Friday, September 6
York Inter-State Fair, thru Sept. 14.

40th Annual Thurmont & Emmitsburg Community Show, Thurmont, Md., thru Sept. 8.

Mason-Dixon Historical Society Steam and Gas Roundup Show Days, Carroll County Farm Museum.

Saturday, September 7
West Central 4-H/FFA District Dairy Show, Lycoming County Fairgrounds.
Northwest District Dairy Show, Crawford County Fairgrounds, Meadville.

Sunday, September 8
Show Series, Grazing Acres Farm, New London, 8:30 a.m.

be more prone to get ketosis, laminitis, etc. Feeds are digested less efficiently with more nutrients ending up in the gutter rather than in milk.

To return fat tests to normal, you need to:

- Feed ample amounts of good quality forage that supply adequate amounts of effective fiber. The fiber should be digestible and long enough to stimulate a lot of cud chewing activity.

- Feed a balanced ration.
- Avoid slugging the rumen with more than eight pounds of grain at any one time. Feed TMR mixes. If that is not possible, feed forages ahead of grains and feed grains at more frequent intervals.

- If necessary, feed additives such as buffers, yeast cultures, and rumen microbials. Be sure to compare costs to returns for these additives.

To Control Feed Prices

The recent rise in feed prices has created challenging times for livestock and poultry farmers.

The new crop forecasts indicate we will continue to see high feed prices for a long time.

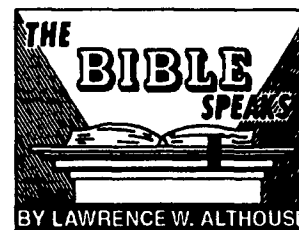
We have entered a new level of grain usage. As the world standard of living increases as a result of free world trade, the demand for food will increase.

One way farmers can control feed costs is through hedging. On Tuesday, Aug. 27 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Lou Moore and Dr. Jim Dunn, Penn State agricultural economists, will discuss how you may use the futures market to control feed costs.

Corn and soybean meal make up the largest portion of feed. Even if you do not mix your own feed, you still can hedge your feed costs by buying corn and soybean futures that offset the amount they compose of your ration.

The meeting will be held in the lower level meeting room of the Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "When called to lead, do so with foresight, courage and character."



ON SAVING THE WORLD
August 25, 1996

Background Scripture:

Psalms 96

Devotional Reading:

Psalms 98:1-9

As a minister I'm afraid that all too often in my pastorates I urged people to come to our worship services out of loyalty to God and the Church. I probably gave some people the impression that the purpose of worship is to satisfy some requirement that God places upon us. If we are not regular in worship, we assume that God and the pastor are displeased, although maybe not in that order.

In other words, worship is all too often regarded as an obligation. We do it from time to time to keep God happy or to keep God from getting too angry or disappointed with us. It is easy to see why some people regard attending worship on the same level as visiting their dentist — they know it is good for them, but at best it is uncomfortable.

Read the 96th Psalm and you will see that the psalmist didn't regard praising God as an obligation, but as a blessed opportunity. It is not self-discipline that motivates him but the joy of celebrating the glory of God's kingship. "O sing to the Lord a new song . . . Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day" (96:1,2).

WHO NEEDS IT?

So, we worship God, not because he requires it of us, or because he is flattered by it. In fact, we do it because we need it. Worship does something for us. When the psalmist shouted, "Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all people!" he was being lifted up above his normal state of consciousness to an experience that transformed him.

By focussing upon the Lord, the worshiper is transformed. Maybe that's why many of us still don't enjoy worship and praising God is so difficult for us. We are so self-centered that we think of God only in terms of using him for our own ends. In worship, just for one brief

hour we have the opportunity to forget ourselves and become immersed in Him whose glory has the power to make us better, truer, more loving people. President Calvin Coolidge once said, "It is only when men begin to worship that they begin to grow." Worship opens us up to spiritual growth.

It is obvious that what the psalmist is experiencing, worship, is something rather different than simply attending worship. It is a time when our eyes can be lifted up beyond the four walls of the church sanctuary, a moment when we can grow beyond our own narrow range of concerns, and catch a vision of what life was created to be.

MORE THAN CHURCH GOING

The psalmist is caught up in a vision of the whole of creation praising God and celebrating his glory. He calls, not just to his own people, but everyone everywhere: "Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength . . . Say among the nations, 'The Lord reigns!'" (vs. 7,10a). The psalmist sees all nature joining in this celebration: "Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the wood sing for joy before the Lord. . ." (vs. 11,12).

Going to church will not transform the world, but worship will. Many years ago Archbishop William Temple said this in a broadcast in the USA: "I am disposed to begin by making what many people will feel to be a quite outrageous statement. This world can be saved from political chaos and collapse by one thing only, and that is worship. For to worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination with the beauty of God, to open up the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God."

Lancaster Farming

Established 1955

Published Every Saturday

Ephrata Review Building

1 E. Main St.

Ephrata, PA 17522

- by -

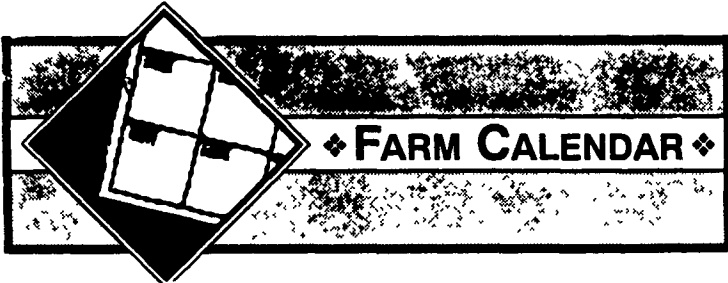
Lancaster Farming, Inc.

A Steinman Enterprise

Robert G. Campbell General Manager

Everett R. Newwanger Managing Editor

Copyright 1996 by Lancaster Farming



Saturday, August 24

South Central 4-H District Dairy Show, Pa. Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.

Pa. Holstein Southeastern Championship Show, Schuylkill Fairgrounds, Summit Station, 10 a.m.

115th Maryland State Fair, Timonium, Md., thru Sept. 2.

Susquehanna County 4-H Livestock Sale, Harford Fairgrounds, 1 p.m.

Bucks County Farm and Conservation tour, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Southeast Cattleman's Association Beef Grazing Tour, MAP Farm (the Firestines), Womelsdorf, 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, August 25

Indiana County Fair, thru Aug. 31.

Maryland Organic Food and Farming Association's Annual Field Day, Summer Creek Farm, Frederick County, Md., 2 p.m.-6 p.m.

Monday, August 26

West End Fair, Gilbert, thru Aug. 31.

Annual Rural Development Conference, Lancaster Holiday Inn (formerly Host), thru Aug. 28.

Tuesday, August 27

Big Knob Grange Fair thru Aug. 31.

Allentown Fair, thru Sept. 2.
Greene-Dreber-Sterling Fair, thru Sept. 2.

Centre County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Centre Hall, 9:30 a.m.

Car-Den Holstein Farm Pasture Walk, Arden Landis Farm, Kirkwood, 10 a.m.-noon.

Controlling Feed Costs Through Hedging, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Wednesday, August 28

DEP Ag Advisory Board Meeting, Rachel Carson State Office Building, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.

South Mountain Fair, thru Sept. 1.

Stoneboro Fair, thru Sept. 2.

Sullivan County Fair, thru Sept. 2.

Wyoming County Fair, thru Sept. 2.

50th Anniversary Convention of the National Association of Animal Breeders, Cheyenne Mountain Resort, Colorado Springs, Colorado, thru Aug. 30.

Thursday, August 29

Pork Quality Assurance meeting, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, supper 6 p.m., meeting 6:30 p.m.

Friday, August 30

50th Anniversary Convention of the National Association of Animal Breeders, Cheyenne Mountain Resort, Colorado Springs, Colorado, thru Aug. 30.

Saturday, August 31

Juniata County Fair, thru Sept. 7.

Mon Valley 4-H District Dairy Show, Fayette County Fairgrounds, Uniontown.

Sunday, September 1

Maryland Holstein Futurity, Timonium.

Cambria County Fair, thru Sept. 7.
Spartansburg Community Fair, thru Sept. 7.

Monday, September 2

Labor Day
Md. Holstein State Fair Holstein Show, Timonium.
Waterford Community Fair, thru Sept. 7.