



OPINION

Dairy Of Distinction, A Distinguished Program

The Dairy of Distinction Program was developed to recognize the most attractive dairy farms in the region. The farms that apply for the recognition are rated for neatness, maintenance and roadside appearance by a team of judges from each local district. Dairy farms exhibiting the highest standards of excellence are named.

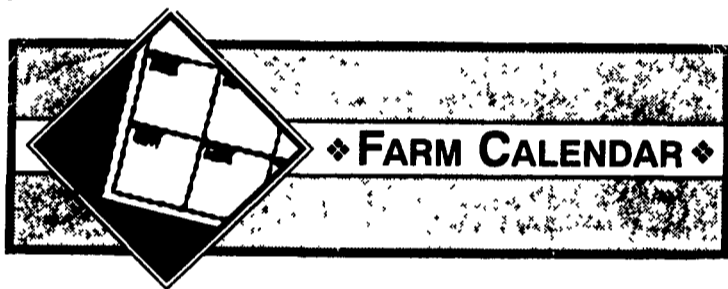
There are a lot of very good things about this program. First, it is run on a very low budget by volunteers. And it starts milk and dairy product promotion at the very root of where a good impression on consumers must start. Dirty cows and sloppy barnyards and farmsteads do not appeal to the wholesomeness of milk.

In Pennsylvania alone, more than 650 dairy farms have been named to receive the Dairy of Distinction award. And many of these farms use the designation to promote their own farm or to attract employees for their dairy operations.

We would like to congratulate the 1997 winners. A special section this week is dedicated to them. And a program at Ag Progress Days in August will bring these winners together.

But we would also like to compliment the area moderators of the program. These volunteers are the backbone of the program, encouraging their local dairy farms to apply, selecting the judging team, and presenting the awards.

Most dairy promotion efforts cost a lot of money. But the Dairy of Distinction program has distinguished itself by getting something done at the farm level with a small budget. Keep up the good work.



Saturday, July 26

Pa. Holstein Southwest Championship Show, Fayette County Fairgrounds, Uniontown, 10 a.m.

Lebanon Area Fair, Lebanon Fairgrounds, thru Aug. 1.

Carroll County Fair, Carroll County Agricultural Center, thru Aug. 2.

Mercer County Grange Fair, Mercer, thru Aug. 2.

Potter County Fair, Hillport, thru Aug. 2.

Pa. 4-H/FFA West Central District Dairy Show, Grange Fairgrounds, Centre Hall.

Sunday, July 27

Monday, July 28

Morrison Cove Dairy Show, Martinsburg, thru Aug. 1.

Clearfield County Fair, Clearfield, thru Aug. 2.

Goshen Country Fair, West Chester, thru Aug. 2.

Fingerlakes Chapter of Fellowship of Christian Farmers picnic, George and Julia Holmes' Home, 3220 Jacksonville Rd., Trumansburg, N.Y., 2 p.m.

Pa. Northeast 4-H/FFA District Dairy Show, Troy Fairgrounds, Troy.

Tuesday, July 29

Pa. 4-H State Achievement Days, Penn State, thru July 31.

Pasture/Rotational Lot Management Conservation Tour, Aaron Stoltzfoos, Welsh Vue Farm, Gap, 10 a.m.-noon DST.

Ag Horizons VIII Program, Wildwood Conference Center of Harrisburg Community College.

Franklin County Field Day, Ed and Glen Brake Farm, Mercersburg, 11 a.m.

New Stanton Farm and Home Fair,

New Stanton, thru Aug. 2.
Grain Field Day, Research and Demonstration Area, Rt. 429., 9:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 30

Octorara Young Farmers Association Summer Tour, Mason Dixon Farms and Eisenhower Farm, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Hoof Care Workshop and Trimming Demonstration, Beaver Farm, Bangor, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Thursday, July 31

Muck Crops Day, Celeryville.

Pa. Tree Fruit Grower Field Day, Penn State Fruit Research and Extension Center, Biglerville, 2 p.m.-8 p.m.

Morrison Cove Holstein Show, Memorial Park, Martinsburg, 9 a.m.

Cut Flower Conference and Tour, Howard Community College, Columbia, Md., thru Aug. 1.

Capitol Region Summer Turf and Ornamental School, Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Dauphin County Holstein Association twilight meeting, Bob Kessler, Curtin, 7 p.m.

Pa. South Central 4-H/FFA District Dairy Show, Shippensburg Fairgrounds.

Friday, August 1

Deadline for Pennsylvania Soybean Contest entries.

Northwest Championship Show, Fairgrounds, Stoneboro, 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship of Christian Farmers International Fourth Annual Conference, OSU Ag Tech Institute, Wooster, Ohio, thru Aug. 3.

1997 Performance Ram Test and Sheep Producers field day, Penn State Ag Arena, thru Aug. 2.

Lycoming County Holstein Club



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Utilize Small Grains in Drought

Most of Pennsylvania is under a drought watch with many areas experiencing severe drought conditions. Even with Wednesday and Thursday's rains, many producers are going to need supplemental feeds. Small grains and soybeans can provide additional forage, according to Dr. Elwood Hatley, Penn State agronomist. Spring oats may be used for fall grazing or silage. It may be seeded during August and early September at about three bushels per acre. In most cases no additional inputs are required. Penn State has not been able to obtain significant yield increases from added nitrogen especially when planted following drought stressed corn. Winter grains may be used for grazing this fall or silage next spring. Winter rye has traditionally been the major small grain used for forage. It has the most winter hardiness and can be planted the latest for both erosion control and forage. Corn, rye and oats were seeded on August 5 at Penn State Research Farm, Landisville, Pa. Silage yields were: Corn (harvested October 5) - 1.5 tons per acre and 61.2 per cent TDN, rye (harvested at soft dough) -

picnic, Marvin Waltz Farm, Jersey Shore, 7:30 p.m.

Wayne County Fair, Honesdale, thru Aug. 9.

Eastern Arabian Horse Show, East Coast Championships and Country Fair, Quentin Riding Club, thru Aug. 3.

Pa. 4-H/FFA District Dairy Show, Morrison Cove Memorial Park, Martinsburg.

Saturday, August 2

4th Annual Lancaster County Conservation Expo at the Shirktown Threshing Festival, Bob Shirk Farm, Churchtown, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Pa. Performance Tested Ram Sale, State College.

Clinton County Fair, Mackeyville, thru Aug. 9.

Greene County Fair, Waynesburg, thru Aug. 9.

Sunday, August 3

Bedford County Fair, Bedford, thru Aug. 9.

Schuylkill County Fair, Summit Station, thru Aug. 9.

Union County West End Fair, Laurelton, thru Aug. 10.

Monday, August 4

Co-op Education Conference, Pittsburgh, thru Aug. 7.

Tioga County Fair, Tioga Co. Fairgrounds, Whitneyville/Wellsboro Aug. 4-9.

Butler Farm Show, Butler, thru Aug. 9.

Cochranon Community Fair, Cochranon, thru Aug. 9.

Dawson Grange Community Fair, Dawson, thru Aug. 9.

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2.06 tons per acre and 68.4 per cent TDN and oats (harvested at soft dough) - 2.05 tons per acre and 75.8 per cent TDN.

To Look At Soybeans

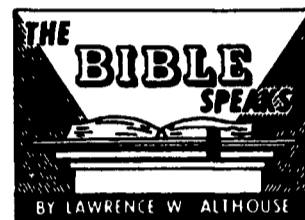
Dr. Elwood Hatley, Penn State agronomist, reports soybeans tend to be more drought tolerant than other gram crops because they flower over a longer period and can take advantage of late rains. However, with severe prolonged drought, plants may start dying. Under these conditions, harvesting as silage is an option. Soybean silage tends to be higher in protein and fiber than corn and lower in protein and higher in fiber than alfalfa. Soybeans may also be seeded for silage until early August. They will continue to grow until the temperatures approach freezing this fall. In some areas this could provide sizable tonnage. Limited data indicates that soybeans planted in mid-July at State College could yield approximately 1.5 ton of dry matter per acre when harvested in mid-September. Planted this late, they should be seeded with a grain drill at a seeding rate close to 300,000 seeds per acre. They should be harvested prior to a killing frost to

maintain as much leaf material as possible. These are a few ideas on ways to increase your forages for this winter.

To Protect Yourself From The Sun

Prolong unprotected exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays may lead to skin cancers, according to Dennis Murphy, Penn State agricultural engineer. To prevent skin cancers, farmers should use sun screens regularly. Using a product with SPF (sun protection factor) of at least 15, which will block 94 per cent of the ultraviolet B rays most likely to cause skin cancer. The SPF factor is a rating that multiplies the protection naturally provided by the skin. For example, if your skin burns after an hour, using an SPF 15 sun screen allows you 15 hours of exposure before burning. Sunglasses are a must. Prolong exposure to the sun can damage the retina, cornea and lens of the eye. Remember the sun is the strongest between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Feather Prof's Footnote:
"Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one."



HAS SOMEONE PAID THE BILL? July 27, 1997

Background Scripture:

Hebrews 10:1-14

Devotional Reading:

Hebrews 9:11 through 10:18

"Sir, someone has paid your bill."

"I beg your pardon?" I replied to the hotel clerk.

"Your bill has been taken care of," he assured me.

In time, I discovered who that "someone" was and my reaction was one of deep gratitude. I felt indebted to our benefactor.

Actually, I had dreaded checking-out of the hotel. I knew that we had charged to our room a number of expensive services. It was a pricey hotel and we were afraid our room bill would come as a great shock to us. And it would have — except that a friend had already paid it. In a sense this is what lies at the heart of the good news of Jesus Christ: "Sir/madam, someone has paid your bill!"

How much more unnerving is it to contemplate standing before our Creator? The "bill" we accumulate along the way in life — no matter how careful we are — tends to be overwhelming. Even the best of us tend to run a bill that is devilishly expensive.

ANDREW CARNEGIE

Andrew Carnegie, for example, was a ruthless steel baron of the late 19th century. Later, however, Carnegie began to give away large chunks of his wealth, establishing libraries throughout the world and buying pipe organs for deserving groups. His philosophy: "The man who dies rich dies disgraced."

Yet, despite the great amounts he gave away, he died a very, very rich man. I don't know whether, by his own definition, he felt "disgraced," but Carnegie found that it is virtually impossible to give enough away to settle the bill. That's the way it is in life: we can never say enough, give enough, do enough or be enough to settle our

account with God.

Under the Levitical priesthood, people tried to pay the bill with sacrifices which the priests made on their behalf. But the system didn't really work, because people tended to concentrate on the ritual rather than the meaning behind it. Hebrews says plainly, "... it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins" (10:4). He also recalls the words of the Psalmist (which he attributes to Christ): "Sacrifices and offerings thou hast not desired, but a body thou hast prepared for me" (10:5,6) — a little different from your Bible because he is quoting from the Greek translation of the Hebrew scriptures.

A SINGLE SACRIFICE

The point is that God does not require these sacrifices and they are of only temporary value, at best, to the people. In stark contrast, however, is the sacrifice which Jesus makes of himself. "For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified" (10:14).

We do not sacrifice animals today, but we have our rituals — ecclesiastical and personal — by which we seek relief from our guilt and atonement for our sins. Some people direct the guilt inwardly, loathing themselves and trying to inflict the punishment they feel they deserve. Others project it outwardly, hating and despising others because they cannot deal with their own guilt.

Here the gospel comes proclaiming that "Someone has paid your bill" and we strive to live rightly, not to win God's grace — which we can't — but we strive to live rightly because we have already received his grace. Our lives are dedicated to demonstrating by the way we live how deeply we are grateful that the bill has already been paid — in full!

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