

OPINION

Tasty Hamburgers

The meat industry has been hit with a great deal of publicity about tainted hamburger. But it is important to note that consumers should not worry as long as they take precautions to make sure any meat is well-cooked.

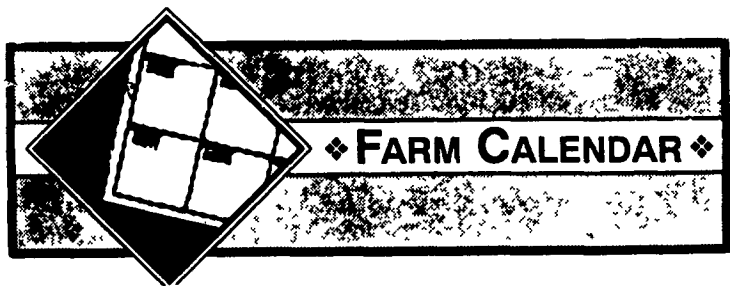
The U.S. Agriculture Department has recalled frozen beef patties from a Hudson Food plant in Nebraska because of concern that some of the meat may be contaminated by E. coli bacteria.

Common sense dictates that hamburgers, as well as any other type of meat, should be well-cooked. If it is cooked properly, you will have no problem. The necessary heat is 160 degrees internally according to food experts.

According to Janet Riley of the American Meat Institute, meat is sterile on the inside. When you grind it, you distribute bacteria from the outside. A rare steak is most likely ok, but a ground product like hamburger needs to be cooked thoroughly.

There is still a question as to where the contamination came from at Hudson, but officials do not believe it started at the plant but at one of the suppliers. But USDA found a problem with records for tracing the meat production so they needed to have a much larger recall of product than would have otherwise been necessary.

Millions of hamburgers are consumed each day by the world population as testimony to the wholesomeness of this favorite fast food. We believe the general public will continue to eat hamburgers that are well-cooked and nutritious. It's hard to find anything more tasty coming from an outdoor picnic grill.



Saturday, August 30
Northwest 4-H/FFA District Dairy Show, Warren County Fairgrounds, Pitsfield.
Mon Valley 4-H/FFA District Dairy Show, Westmoreland County Fairgrounds, Greensburg.
Juniata County Fair, Port Royal, thru Sept. 6.

Sunday, August 31
Cambria County Fair, Ebensburg, thru Sept. 6.
Spartansburg Community Fair, Spartansburg, thru Sept. 6.

Monday, September 1
Lancaster Farming office closed.
Cambria County Fair, thru Sept. 5.
Ox Hill Community Fair, Home, thru Sept. 6.
Waterford Community Fair, Waterford, thru Sept. 6.
West Alexander Fair, West Alexander, thru Sept. 6.

Tuesday, September 2
Claysburg Area Farm Show, Claysburg, thru Sept. 6.
Jamestown Community Fair, Jamestown, thru Sept. 6.

Wednesday, September 3
Bellwood Antis Farm Show, Bellwood, thru Sept. 6.
Pike County Agricultural Fair, Matamoras, thru Sept. 7.
Penn Jersey Soybean Field Meeting, three separate locations: Wertville Rd., Ringoes, N.J., 10:30 a.m.; Rayna Farm in Stewartville, N.J., 1:30 p.m.; and Rt. 115, Stockertown, Pa., 6:30 p.m.

Twilight Potato Field Meeting, Forrest Wessner Farm, Germansville, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 4
Luzerne County Fair, Dallas, thru Sept. 8.

Friday, September 5
York Interstate Fair, York, thru Sept. 14.
Mason-Dixon 35th Annual Steam

and Gas Roundup Show, Carroll County Farm Museum, thru Sept. 7.

Saturday, September 6
Susquehanna County Holstein Sale Fairgrounds, Harford, noon.
Berks County 4-H Fair, Benefit Auction and Chicken Barbecue, 4-H Center, fair 9 a.m.-3 p.m., auction 2 p.m.

Sunday, September 7
Conservation Society of York County 75th Anniversary, Indian Steps Museum, Airville, 2 p.m.
Woodland Demonstration Tour, PP&L Montour Preserve, Washingtonville, 1:30 p.m.

Monday, September 8
Green Township Community Fair, thru Sept. 13.
Managing Price Risk Using Dairy Futures, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster.

Tuesday, September 9
Pasture Walk and Conservation Tour, Levi J. Fisher, Quarryville, 10 a.m.-noon DST.
Albion Area Fair, Albion, thru Sept. 13.
Denver Community Fair, Denver, thru Sept. 13.
Sinking Valley Fair, Skelp, thru Sept. 13.
Ephrata Area Young Farmers mentoring meeting, Ephrata High School, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 10
Berlin Brothersvalley Community Fair, Berlin, thru Sept. 13.

Thursday, September 11
American Gold Cup and Fall Festival at Devon, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., thru Sept. 14.

Friday, September 12
The Great Frederick Fair Ag-Stravaganza, thru Sept. 20.
Hinkelfest, Farmer's Pride Airport, thru Sept. 14.
Mushroom Festival, Kennett Square, thru Sept. 14.

Now Is The Time
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Adjust Silage Blower
A silage blower with one quarter inch too much paddle tip clearance suffers approximately 20 per cent loss in blowing power, according to Brian DeMaris, New Holland Service Engineer. Blower paddle clearance should be checked and possibly realigned every year. All you need is a few minutes, a nickel, a dime and two pennies.

The following tests are the same for the discharge blower on your forage harvester and the blower at the silo. Place a nickel and dime at the bottom of the blower case. Slowly by hand, rotate the paddles in a clockwise manner passing the two coins. When properly adjusted, the paddle should pass over the dime but push the nickel up the side of the case to about the 8 o'clock position before there is enough clearance to let it slip by the paddle. If the nickel drops before this, the clearance is unnecessarily wide. This cuts capacity and throwing distance.

If the nickel rides higher, the clearance is too tight which will cause the band to overheat and rob power.

Remember repeat the test for each paddle and make the necessary adjustments. Use the two pennies to adjust clearance. Lay the pennies in the bottom of the blower case about an inch from each edge. Loosen the paddle mounting bolts till the paddle touches the pennies. This assures the paddle is square with the band. Then re-tighten the mounting bolts with a torque wrench. Make sure each bolt is re-torque on every paddle. If the paddles are worn they should be replaced. Normal use causes paddles to wear beyond adjustment in 3 to 4 years.

To Look At Pregnancy Rates

Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County Extension Dairy Agent, states pregnancy success rates depends upon heat detection and conception rates. Based on Lancaster DHIA records in April representing over 700 herds, 44 per cent of cows in heat were detected and

Northeast Lamb Pool, Troy Sales Barn, Troy, grading noon, sale 3 p.m.

Saturday, September 13
Schaefferstown Harvest Fair, Alexander Schaeffer Farm Museum, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Cambria County District Horse Show, Bedford.
Pasture Management Field Day, John Rodgers' Plum Bottom Dairy Farm, Belleville, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sunday, September 14
Beaver Community Fair, Beaver Springs, thru Sept. 20.
Gratz Fair, Gratz, thru Sept. 20.

only 43 per cent conceived. This results in only a 19 per cent pregnancy rate (44 per cent times 43 per cent).

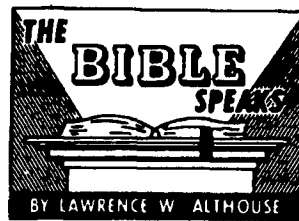
At 19 per cent pregnancy rate, it takes 5.3 heat periods to get cows settled. That is 111 days from the volunteer waiting period. For these herds this period was 59 days. This results in cows being open for 170 days (111 plus 59). Add the 280 days gestation period and you have a 450 day calving interval or about 15 months. To improve profits you may want to shorten the calving interval by improving pregnancy rates. To do this you will need to set heat detection and conception rate goals.

To Set Pregnancy Rate Goals

Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County Extension Dairy Agent, reports

many dairy farmers need to improve their calving intervals. A 12.5 calving interval is 380 days. Subtract from that a gestation period of about 280 days and you have 100 days cows are open. If you shorten your volunteer open days to 45 then you have 55 days to get cows bred or 2.6 heat periods. To achieve this we need a pregnancy rate of 38 per cent. This may be attained by a number of combinations of heat detections and conception rates from 70:54 to 60:63. Goals you need to set include number volunteer open days, heat and conception rates. The shorter your calving interval, the higher profits you should attain.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "Talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet."



NO LASTING CITY
August 31, 1997

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Background Scripture:
Hebrews 13
Devotional Reading:
James 5:7-16

A little over a month ago I returned to preach at the church in Mohnton, Pennsylvania where I had served for 13 years before coming to Dallas, Texas 22 years ago. The invitation from the current pastor had been on my calendar for several months and I looked forward to it as a kind of homecoming.

Of course I realized that it would not be exactly the same church I had left in 1975. Some of my former parishioners had passed on, some moved away, and there were new people who had come since my departure. I knew also that the church building itself had undergone some extensive renovation. Yet, despite all of this preparatory thinking, I was not prepared to find that the appearance of the congregation was surprisingly different.

I really should not have been so surprised, for I know better — just as you do. Change is one of the facts of life with which a Christian must deal. Hebrews puts it metaphorically: "For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city which is to come" (13:14). We all know that with the mind but we have a hard time accepting it in our hearts.

ACCEPTING CHANGE

I hope it isn't so for you, but I find that the older I get, the harder it is for me to accept the changing of things to which I have grown accustomed — institutions, practices, friends, relationships, associations. I must constantly struggle with myself to acknowledge and accept the changes that I cannot avoid. I know that "we seek the city that is to come," but I am often trying to cling to what Hebrews describes as "no lasting city."

The writer asks his readers to remember and consider the examples of the leaders who introduced them to and nurtured them in the way of Christ. One gets the impression that these leaders had died in the faith. Instead of bemoaning the fact that they were no longer with them, he tells them to

concentrate on the examples these leaders had provided them and even to "imitate their faith" (13:7).

A few nights ago I awoke in the middle of the night and, for some reason, began to think about all the people who had been influential in the formation of my faith over these years. Many of them are no longer with us and I have lost track of others. I gave God profound thanks for what these people had meant for my own spiritual condition.

ONE FIXED POINT

Yet, although these Christian influences have come and gone in my life, I realize that the one reality that has never changed for me is Jesus Christ. My understanding has changed over the years — and probably will continue to change — and my way of responding to him has, too. But Christ himself is the one fixed point in the whole universe of my experience. He is the one immutable, unalterable, eternal reality in my existence. So, I can say with the writer of Hebrews: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (13:8).

Some of those who read the Epistle to the Hebrews probably found it difficult to resist the temptations to fall back on rituals and practices upon which they had depended for many years. Hebrews is not saying that they must give up these practices, but that their dependence, their trust, their hope cannot be based upon altars, strange teachings, foods, buildings or sacrifices. These are all "earthen vessel," as Paul put it in II Corinthians 4:7, not the "treasure" of the gospel.

So, although the trappings of the gospel have changed and continue to change, the good news of Jesus Christ remains constant. We can remember and draw strength for "the good old days," but we cannot live in them. We "seek the city which is to come" as we "continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God . . ." (13:13). No matter how much things have changed and continue to change, God still requires of us the same response now that he has always set before us: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (13:16).

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