



OPINION

Experience All-American

The All-American Dairy Show is scheduled for this week. And what a good time this is to see excellent cows and heifers in their show clothes. One of the notes from past years is that often when these major national dairy shows are in progress, the stands at the Farm Show arena are not very full of people. That's hard to understand when these shows can be such an educational tool to illustrate what each major breed is looking for in their champions.

But the All-American is not just breed shows. Specific youth activities also will be highlighted. Along with showing and fitting contests, the Junior Dairy Management Contest will test the comprehensive dairy knowledge and skills of 4-H and FFA members.

The dairy judging forum is also held with nearly 500 youth participating in dairy cattle judging that includes class placings and oral reasons.

In addition, we would like to congratulate Obie Snider as the recipient of the All-American Dairy Show Image Award. Snider has been part of the show since its inception in 1964 and has helped the show become one of the premier dairy cattle shows in the nation. He will be honored at the buffet on Wednesday evening in the small arena.

For all the above reasons and many more, we think it would be a good time to make a trip to Harrisburg and experience the All-American Dairy Show first hand.

◆ FARM CALENDAR ◆

Saturday, September 20
 Bloomsburg Fair, Bloomsburg, thru Sept. 27.
 Annual Farm-City Festival and Farm Open House, Yellow-Buttercup Farm, Mummert Family, East Berlin, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Timber Marketing Workshop, Dauphin County Ag and Natural Resources Center, Dauphin, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Pa. Dairy Princess Banquet and Coronation, Harrisburg Sheraton East, Harrisburg, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 21
 All American Dairy Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Sept. 25.
 Over the Hill Horse Show, Hunter Hill Stables, Coventryville, 9 a.m.
 Mason-Dixon Red and White

◆ FARM FORUM ◆

Editor:

I cannot believe that it has already been a year since I was given the honor of serving as PA Dairy Princess. The past twelve months have been the greatest months of my life. I have the opportunity to visit many places across the state and meet numerous people. But most importantly I was able to be a spokesperson for the dairy industry on behalf of all PA dairy farmers.

Being raised on a dairy farm, I have always known that dairy farmers were special people. However, this past year I have really grown to respect and admire everything that a farmer does in life and I tried to pass that appreciation to the hundreds of consumers that I have come into contact with this year.

People of all ages, not just children, have no idea where milk comes from or all the hard work that it takes to produce it. Some people think that farmers still milk the cows by hand. This is just one example of the many misconcep-

tions consumers have about the dairy industry. That is why promotion is so important. I believe promotion is a key part of the future of the dairy industry.

The Dairy Princess program not only promotes the dairy industry, but also teaches young girls to become positive role models. I have gained so much by being dairy princess. I have become more outgoing, acquired the ability to write and deliver speeches and gained more self confidence. Overall the year has been amazing.

Tonight, some other very lucky lady will have a wonderful year ahead of her to be the representative for dairy industry. Even though I will no longer wear the crown, my love and support of the industry and respect for those in it will always remain. Thank you all for a wonderful year and God bless!

Sincerely
 Angela M. Werley
 1996-97 PA Dairy Princess

Now Is The Time
 By John Schwartz
 Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Pick Up Farm Show List

The premium list for the 1998 Pennsylvania State Farm Show has arrived at your county cooperative extension office. The premium list contains all the classes for the Farm Show, entry forms and deadlines for the various classes. Entry deadlines vary from September 30 to October 27 to November 5 to December 5 and 15 to various dates in January. To make sure you make your entries on time, pick up your copy of the premium list now. The dates for the 1998 Pennsylvania State Farm Show are January 10 to 15, 1998.

To Understand Hessian Fly

The Hessian fly is a potential pest of the winter wheat crop. While it has not been a severe problem in recent history, the potential is always there if farmers forget to follow the rules of good management. The Hessian fly is a long legged, two winged, sooty black insect that resembles a small mosquito. It has two generations during the wheat production cycle.

The fly spends the summer in the pupa stage. First generation adults emerge from late August through September. They begin laying eggs on volunteer and early planted wheat. Eggs hatch and the maggot develops through three instars which feed inside the wheat plant and stunts its growth. Damage is usually not very visible. After feeding the maggot enters the pupa stage to over winter just below the soil surface, near the crown of the plant.

In late March through April, a second generation of flies emerge

Dairy Cattle Association 3d Annual Picnic, Red Crest Farm, Jack and Stacy Hull Skinner, Mercersburg, noon.

Monday, September 22
 Reading Fair, Kutztown Fairgrounds, thru Sept. 28.

Tuesday, September 23
 Pa. Holstein Fall Championship Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 9 a.m.

N.E. Poultry Golf Tournament, Holiday Inn Lancaster Host, Lancaster.

Morrison Cove Community Fair, Martinsburg, thru Sept. 26.
 Ephrata Fair, Ephrata, thru Sept. 27.

Pumpkin Variety Demonstration, Dan Schantz's Farm, Zionsville, 1:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 24
 Eastern National Holstein Sale, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.

West Lampeter Community Fair, Lampeter, thru Sept. 26.

Schuylkill County Extension Service annual meeting, Hegins Fire Company, 6:30 p.m.

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and lay eggs. Maggots then emerge three to seven days later and crawl down the plant to feed at the crown or joints of the stem. This spring feeding will result in weak joints causing lodging, reduce head size and produce shriveled seeds. After feeding the maggot enters the pupa stage to go through the summer.

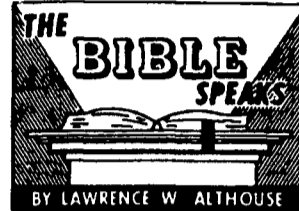
To Control Hessian Fly

According to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent, once a field becomes infested with Hessian fly, there is no chemical control available to stop the damage to wheat. Control of Hessian fly is based solely on prevention using good crop management. First, destroy all volunteer wheat. Destroying volunteer wheat several weeks before planting the new

crop will reduce the possibility of fly population build up.

Hessian flies may use barley or rye as a host but not oats. Thus, you need to delay planting these crops or destroy volunteer plants. Second, plant a resistant wheat variety. Check with the seed source. If it is not, it is especially important to destroy volunteer wheat, barley and rye. and Third, plant wheat after the fly free date. This varies from county to county. In Lancaster County, planting wheat between October 1 to October 15 will usually avoid Hessian fly problems. Planting later will mean plants will be smaller going into winter and more seed is needed to optimize yield potential.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "Be as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own."



A BAG WITH HOLES
 September 21, 1997

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Background Scripture:

Haggai

Devotional Reading:

Psalms 31:1-14

A boy on his way home from Sunday School was seen sobbing by a man waiting for a bus. "What's the matter?" the man asked. The little boy rubbed his eyes while he explained that he had lost his money for bus fare and his family was waiting for him to come from Sunday School. The man, who considered himself an atheist, said to the little boy, "But if God loves you, why hasn't he sent someone to help you?" Looking him in the eye, the little boy replied, "I'm sure he has told someone, but I guess he didn't hear him!"

Many times when we see someone in need and no one helping, it is not because God has not sent someone to help, but because those someones either have not heard or, hearing, have not responded. How often do we find ourselves asking, "Why don't they do something about that?" What we need to do in many of those instances is to change the question just ever so slightly, substituting the noun "we" for "they."

In the days of the prophet Haggai — the 6th century BC — I am sure people looked at the ruins of the Jerusalem temple and exclaimed, "Why don't they do something about that?" Of course, this was not a matter of no one hearing God's command to restore the temple. Haggai tells us the people did hear, but they answered, saying, "The time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord" (1:2). That is a response to God that is still very contemporary, isn't it: "Good idea, Lord, but not just now."

A SHAMEFUL STATE

The sorry state of the temple probably bothered and embarrassed the returned exiles, but Haggai tells us, "Thus says the Lord of hosts: This people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord" (Haggai 1:2). WE can only speculate on why that time had "not yet come,"

but judging from our own times, we may assume that there were a number of excuses: "Poor economy," "Too much unemployment," "It's all I can do to keep ahead of taxes" and so on.

I will have to admit that these sound like pretty good reasons. Actually, there's usually "some truth" in all our excuses. That's why we use them — it saves us from lying outright. It permits us to feel justified in not rising to the challenge. Probably the people of Haggai's day believed their own excuses: they really did not think the time had not yet come for them to rebuild the temple.

That's why it was so unsettling when "the word of the Lord came to Haggai the prophet" and he proclaimed: "Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?" (1:4). This one sentence throws the situation into a whole new light. Up until this point one might get the impression that the people were so impoverished that they were living in hovels and shacks. But Haggai is talking about "paneled houses" and these were not by any means your basic shelter. A paneled house was one that required the services of a fine artisan. These people were not so poor that they could not afford to add some frills to their lives.

HOW'S IT WORKING?

Their problem, then, is not a lack of means, but a lack of will. These people are looking out for their own interests. But where does it get them?

Haggai says to them, "Consider how you have fared? You have sown much, and harvested little; you eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm/ and he who earns wages earns wages to put into a bag with holes" (1:6). No matter how strongly and compellingly this self-centeredness has driven them, it has not brought them any real satisfaction. We too may constantly put off responding when God calls because we are sure this is not the right time. But the right time never comes and all of our running after material gain is like pouring our money and our lives into pockets with holes.

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