



OPINION

Let's Hope The Appeal Is Successful

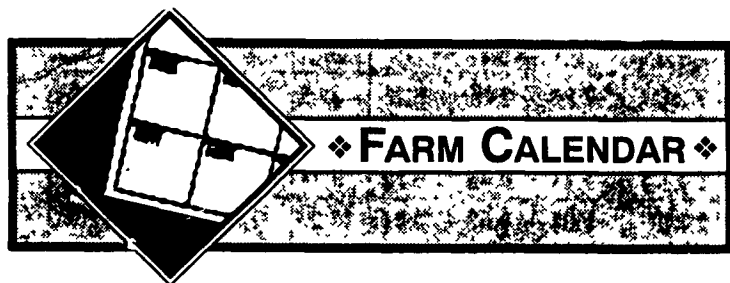
As reported last week, U.S. Minnesota District Judge David Doty threw out a Depression-era system of 32 milk marketing orders that pay farmers a price differential for milk based on their distance from Eau Claire, Wis. The ruling that a key portion of the country's milk pricing policy is illegal eliminates federal orders to all but a few geographic areas in the Southeast.

In the eight year-old lawsuit by the Minnesota Milk Producers Association, Doty ruled that the milk price system makes no sense. Farmers from the Upper Midwest have complained for years that the system was outdated and discriminated against them.

Actually, the judge ruled that the current Class I differentials in surplus and balanced federal order markets do not conform to the requirements described in the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act and are therefore illegal. This act is the enabling legislation for federal marketing orders, originally passed in 1937. The current Class I differentials may be legal in deficit markets that depend directly or indirectly on the Upper Midwest for alternative supplies. These markets are not named in the ruling.

To us, it seems totally irresponsible to change a national milk marketing system overnight, especially since the system has been in place for 60 years. Because of the immediate uncertainty the ruling rendered, some milk handlers were already refusing to pay established farmer prices in certain areas of the country.

Because we are concerned about the immediate effect the surprise ruling has on the dairy industry, we hope the dairy and government officials, including the national secretary of agriculture, will prevail in their appeal of the decision. The last thing we need is a disruption in the milk marketing field at this time when so many dairy farmers are already on the brink of giving up their farms.



FARM CALENDAR

Saturday, November 22
Susquehanna County Farm-City Feast, Mt. View H.S., 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 23
Pa. Sheep and Wool Growers Association meeting, Grange Hall, Centre Hall, 10 a.m.
Hunterdon County, N.J. Board of Agriculture Annual Dinner Meeting, Quakertown Firehouse, Quakertown, N.J., 7 p.m.

Monday, November 24
Milk Marketing Inc. Cooperative Annual Meeting, Doubletree Hotel, Pittsburgh, thru Nov. 25.

Tuesday, November 25
Agri-Industry Banquet, Lancaster Holiday Inn Host, 5:30 p.m.
Farm Production Management Workshop, York County extension office, repeats Dec. 10, Dec. 12, Jan. 14, and Jan. 30.

Wednesday, November 26
Northwest Pa. Show, Sale, and Election Meeting, Howard Johnson's, Mercer, 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, November 27
Happy Thanksgiving!
Lancaster Farming office closed.

Friday, November 28
Saturday, November 29
4-H Hoedown, Berks County 4-H Center, 8 p.m.-11 p.m.

Sunday, November 30
Monday, December 1
York County Holstein Association fall tour of New Bolton Center, meet at extension office at 7:45 a.m.

Tuesday, December 2
Nutrient Management Workshop, Tranquility Methodist Church, Andover, N.J., 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Somerset County extension office, Bridgewater, N.J., 6 p.m.-10 p.m.

Wednesday, December 3
Nutrient Management Workshop, Columbus Grange Hall, Columbus, N.J., 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Nutrient Management Workshop, Salem County extension office, Woodstown, N.J., 6 p.m.-10 p.m.

Thursday, December 4
Environmental Commission Regional Public Roundtable, National Institute For Environmental Renewal, Mayfield, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. and 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

Passing On the Farm Workshop, Schoonovers Restaurant, Middlebury.

Friday, December 5
Northeast Lamb Pool, Troy Sales Barn, Troy, grading 9 a.m.-noon, sale 3 p.m.

Saturday, December 6
Sunday, December 7
Maryland Farm Bureau meeting, Sheraton Fontainebleau, Ocean City, Md., thru Dec. 10.

Monday, December 8
Lancaster County Tobacco Auction Season opens.

Tuesday, December 9
Ephrata Area Young Farmers Meeting, Corestates Bank, Ephrata High School, 7:30 p.m.
12th Regional Meeting on Practical Biosecurity For Poultry, University of Delaware, Newark, Del.

Ag Service School for Pa., Williamsport.
ADADC Dist. 21 meeting, Timber Wolf Restaurant, Darien, N.Y., noon.

Wednesday, December 10
Pa. Dairy Futures Conference,



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Study Environmental Issues

The Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced plans to aggressively reduce non point source of pollution in the nations streams and rivers. Agriculture has been identified as a major contributor to non point pollution. Many best management practices (BMPs) have been identified and implemented by farmers that have reduced water pollution. These include storm water runoff, stream bank fencing, cover crops, nutrient management, crop rotation, diversion

Days Inn Penn State, thru Dec. 11.

Regional Vegetable Meeting, Butler Days Inn, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Ag Service School for Pa., Carlisle.

Thursday, December 11
FSA Borrowers Training, Farm Financial Management Workshops, Lancaster, also Dec. 11, 13, 18 and Jan. 22 and Feb. 19 and 26.

Managing Your Dairy Business For A Successful Future, Rhodes Grove Camp Conference Center, Chambersburg, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Managing Your Dairy Business For A Successful Future, Hoss's Restaurant, West York, 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Ag Service School For Pa., Lancaster.

Friday, December 12
Environmental Commission Regional Public Roundtable, Days Inn and Conference Center, Allentown, 9 a.m.-noon.

Ag Service School for Pa., Reading.

Managing Your Dairy Business For A Successful Future, Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Risk Management/Commodity Marketing Workshop, Antrim House Restaurant, Greencastle, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., also Dec. 19.

Saturday, December 13
Holiday Crafts Workshop, Fair Hill Nature Center, Cecil County, Md., 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sunday, December 14
Monday, December 15

Tuesday, December 16
Ephrata Area Young Farmers Christmas Event, Ephrata Middle School, 7:30 p.m.
New England Vegetable and Berry Growers Conference and Trade Show, Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center, Sturbridge, Mass., thru Dec. 18.

Pork Production Forum, Country Table Restaurant, Mount Joy, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

terraces, etc. Farmers need to be concerned about water quality and look for ways to prevent water pollution. If you have not already developed and implemented a soil conservation plan and nutrient management plan you should do so now. Farmers have a small window of opportunity to implement BMPs to reduce pollution before they are fined. Now is the time to start identifying and implementing these BMPs before it is too late.

To Make Your Rations Work

To often the ration you have on paper is not the ration you are feeding, states Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County Extension Dairy Agent. There are several things you can do to help improve ration formulation, ration quality, dry matter intake and overall performance of the herd. 1. Test ration ingredients for variations in moisture content. Then adjust feeding rates accordingly to maintain dry matter intake and nutrient intake. 2. Check the accuracy of scales and measure ingredients

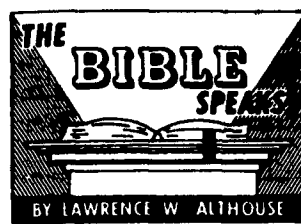
by weight, not by volume. 3. If you are using TMR, be sure the ration is mixed thoroughly. Do not over mix and destroy particle length. and 4. Push feed up to the cows several times a day to entice feeding activity and making it easier for cows to reach.

To Encourage Cows to Eat

Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County Extension Dairy Agent, offers the following ideas to ensure proper feed intake for cows. 1. Be sure cows have easy access to lots of good quality water. Is there adequate drinking space? 2. Keep the feed fresh. Feed often. Match silo size to herd size and feeding rates. Maintain a smooth face on the bunk. Clean up spilled silage. Protect silage from birds. 3. Remove stale feed and keep feed bunks and waterers clean. and 4. Group and feed heifers separately so they are not intimidated by older cows

Feather Prof.'s Footnote:

"Every obstacle is a stepping stone to your success



YOUR PART OF THE GAME

November 23, 1997

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Background Scripture:

Nehemiah 4

Devotional Reading:

Nehemiah 9:6-15

Those who know me, I believe, characterize me as a person who perseveres. (Some have stated it less delicately than that!)

I don't think I was born with perseverance. I think, rather, that early in my early life I decided that perseverance was absolutely necessary in life.

I remember when I was a Boy Scout reading an article in *Boys Life*, the official scouting magazine. I still remember the title of the article. It was called, "A Guy As Game As That," and it was a story about a young man who went to Notre Dame and wanted to play football there, although he was not a natural athlete and was relegated to "the scrubs." Then, along came World War I and he joined the army. During the war he was badly wounded. But, when he later returned to Notre Dame, he didn't let that stop him from making the team and earning his letter.

What called that influential article to my mind was coming across a quotation from a writer named Hulbert from his book *Forty-Niners*: "The finding of gold is luck; you will not be held blamable if you are unlucky. But making the journey, overcoming obstacles, fighting your way through, that is a matter of grit, not luck. Do that, get there, and you are absolved, you have mastered the part of the game that depended upon you." (Quoted by Irving Stone in *Men To Match My Mountains*.)

YOUR PART

"A Guy As Game As That" whom I so much admitted as a boy did exactly that: he mastered the part of the game that depended

upon him. He couldn't control the circumstances of his life, the degree of his athlete ability was determined by his genes, but he took charge of the one thing that was in his control: he persevered.

Perseverance is also a Christian virtue. We are called to persevere, not for the sake of perseverance alone, but because we are in God's hands. We cannot persevere without trusting the providence of God.

Perseverance is what the story of Nehemiah is all about. Nehemiah persevered despite the obstacles that confronted him. He got the people to persevere even when the task seemed almost impossible. Their enemies laughed and jeered and that's enough right there to make lots of people quit. But Nehemiah met every one of these obstacles and stuck to his commitment.

IN THEIR MINDS

Their perseverance was to be found, not in their genes, but in their minds. "So, we built the wall; and all the wall was joined together to half its height. For the people had a mind to work" (4:6). Sticking to it began in the commitment they made. They mastered the part of the game that depended upon them: persevering — and God would do the rest.

But that was not the end of the matter. Their enemies, they learned, were plotting to stage a surprise attack upon them. Their enemies reasoned that the Jews could not both build the wall and guard against attack. The Jews themselves realized that, but Nehemiah set in motion a plan whereby half the people would work at building and the other half would stand guard. Would it work? They didn't know, but they stuck to it. They did their part and God did his.

That is really all that God asks of us — to do our part, to persevere, regardless of the obstacles. If we do, God will do his part.

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