



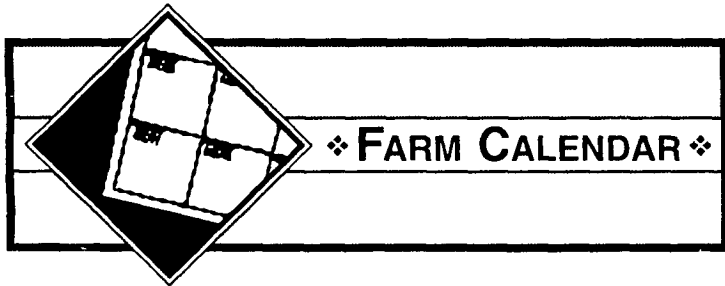
OPINION

Thanks For Helping

We came across this little piece on the Internet about the ten commandments for farm wives that may make you smile. Evidently someone who subscribes to Dairy-L had them hanging on the kitchen wall. They are:

- Thou shalt not sort cattle with your hands in your pockets (husbands and cows don't like that.)
- Thou shalt cook meals which can be served thirty minutes early or two hours late.
- Thou shalt learn to keep farm records...(when did we turn out that bull?).
- Thou shalt love the smell of new mown hay, freshly plowed earth, sweet smelling silage, and ammonia in the barn.
- Thou shalt be inspired to see the sun rise and relieved to see it set.
- Thou shalt learn to open gates, close gates, and guard gates.
- Thou shalt thrill at the birth of a new calf and at the sight of a new tractor.
- Thou shalt live closer to God with faith to exceed many city dwellers.
- Thou shalt cherish meals together, long nights for the vet to arrive, and decisions of plowing up the winter wheat.
- Thou shalt be exalted at the brotherly hand on your shoulder, the tender kiss on your forehead, and those three precious words "Thanks for helping!"

Maybe in no other business is the husband/wife team more important. In fact, if the whole family is pulling together, the success of the farming operation is more secure. We think in the above list, the words "Thanks for helping" should not be considered commandments but rather come from spontaneous appreciation for all; each family member contributes to the family farm. Happy Valentine's Day everyone!



❖ FARM CALENDAR ❖

Monday, February 16

- 5th Annual Southeast Pa. Grazing Conference, Lancaster Host Expo Center, Lancaster, thru Feb. 17.
- Elk Creek Watershed Association Forum and Open House, Elk Township Building, Lewisville, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
- Potter/McKean Crops Day, Coudersport Elementary, Coudersport, 9:45 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Cost Discovery For Beef Producers and Beef Management, Montoursville Presbyterian Church, 7:30 p.m.
- Young Farmers/FFA Awards Dinner, West Fallowfield Christian School, 6:45 p.m.
- Tobacco Management Meeting, Summit Valley Elementary School, New Holland, 1 p.m.
- Bradford County Fairy Days, S.R.U. School, East Smithfield, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Adams County Fruit Growers' Meeting, Biglerville High School, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 17

- Franklin County Financial Management Forum, The Lighthouse Restaurant, Chambersburg, 9:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Pa./Mid-Atlantic Direct Marketing Conference and Trade Show, Willow Valley Resort and Trade Show, Willow Valley Resort and Conference Center, Lancaster, thru Feb. 20.
- Franklin County Fruit Growers Meeting, Savoy Restaurant, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Southeast Region Council Young Cooperators Conference, Willow Valley Resort, thru Feb. 18.

- New York State Dairy Princess Pageant and ADADC Annual Meeting, Four Points Hotel Sheraton, Liverpool, N.Y., 6 p.m., annual meeting through Feb. 18.
- Dairy Farm Financial Analysis, Howard Johnsons, Millington, Md., 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Equine Mini Series-Pasture Management, Holiday Inn, Carlisle, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
- Human Resource Management Workshop, Erie County Extension office, Erie, also Feb. 24.
- Greenhouse Dairy Barns and Bare-Bone Parlors, Karen and Russell Tomlinson Farm, Wellsboro, 1 p.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Specialty Hybrid Corn Program, Clarion County Extension Office, 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Dairy-MAP Human Resource Management Workshop, Erie County Extension office, also Feb. 24.
- Bucks County Conservation and Pest Meeting Update, Neshaminy Manor Center, Doylestown, also Feb. 24.
- Tobacco Management Meeting, Penn Manor High School, voag classroom, 7 p.m.
- Soil Fertility School, Lebanon and Dauphin Ag Centers, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Also Feb. 18.
- Milking School, Berks County Ag Center.
- Franklin County Fruit Growers' Day, Savoy Restaurant, Waynesboro, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- PA/Mid-Atlantic Direct Marketing Conference and Trade Show, Willow Valley Restort, Lancaster Feb. 17-20.



Now Is The Time
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Prepare Cows for Calving

How well a cow does in her lactation depends greatly upon the care she receives in the weeks preceding calving, according to Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County Extension Dairy Agent. Preparation for calving and a new lactation begins not a few days before calving, but months before calving.

Proper nutrition is very important for a healthy, vigorous calf, good milk production, good conception rates and for the long term health of the cow.

The dry period is a good time to do corrective foot trimming and to administer necessary vaccinations for such things as IBR, PI-3, BVD and BRSV. Other vaccines that may be necessary are a 5 strain leptovaccine and J-5 vaccine for coliform mastitis.

Consult your veterinarian for specific recommendations. Continue to protect dry cows from infections and injuries by housing or confining them in clean, dry and comfortable areas.

To Feed Dry Cows Properly

When profit margins are tight and good quality forages are scarce and expensive, it may be tempting to skimp on the feeding of dry cows and heifers. Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County Extension Dairy Agent, reminds us, that could be a big mistake that you will pay dearly in the months that lie ahead.

Test your forages and TMRs and work closely with a trained nutritionist to make sure your rations are properly balanced. This is important for building up the cow's energy and nutrient reserves.

Boscov's Gardening Meeting, Boscov's Auditorium, Johnstown, Galleria Mall.

Wednesday, February 18

- Passing On The Farm Workshop, Clinton County Cooperative Extension.
- Delmarva Corn/Soybean and Broiler Conference, Wicomico Youth and Civic Center, Salisbury.
- Christmas Tree Short Course, Penn State Conference Center, University Park, thru Feb. 20.
- New York ADADC Annual Meeting, Four Points Sheraton, Liverpool, 8 a.m.
- Maryland Dairy Industry Association Pastures Along The Information Superhighway, Harford County Extension office, Forest Hill, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
- South Jersey Fruit Meeting, Masso's Crystal Manor, Glassboro, N.J.
- Northwest Pa. Livestock and Grazing Management Workshop Series, Wesley Grange, Barkeyville, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

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prior to calving.

Aim to have cows dry off with a uniform body condition score of approximately 3.5. Feed them a bulky, good quality forage based ration. Supplement it with a few pounds of a dry cow grain mix with the necessary vitamins and minerals. Two to three weeks before calving, start adding a few pounds of the lactating ration to the dry cow mix.

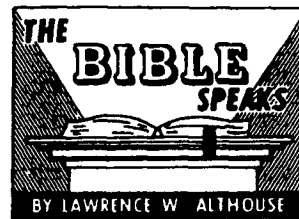
To Look Up - Power Lines Are Hot

Coming in contact with overhead power lines can be deadly. Today's farm machinery is bigger and taller, making the danger of working around electric lines greater than ever. Remember, utility lines are uninsulated.

Do not let your body become a direct link to the ground or the result can be fatal. Know the clearance height of all farm equipment. To be safe, keep all objects at least 10 feet away from overhead lines.

Never attempt to raise or move a power line. If you are operating a piece of equipment that touches a line, stay where you are and have someone call the utility company. If you must leave the equipment that is touching the line, jump as far as you can so that no part of your body touches the equipment and the ground at the same time.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "You cannot put a price tag on love, but you can on all its accessories."



WHAT TO DO WHILE WAITING
February 15, 1998

Background Scripture:
II Peter 3
Devotional Reading:
Jeremiah 17:5-10

Fifty years ago I read a book by the late Methodist Bishop Gerald Kennedy that was to have a profound affect upon my life and faith, both then and now. The name of the book was *The Lion and The Lamb: Paradoxes of the Christian Faith* (Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1950).

Actually, it saved my faith because it introduced me to the paradoxical nature of the Christian faith, for me a brand new idea. A paradox is the holding together in creative tension of two ideas which seem quite contradictory. Before reading this book, I was struggling with some of the more obvious contradictions in the Christian teachings. Despite the creeds and doctrines, I was finding that lots of Christian teachings did not fit together nicely. Addicted to logic, I thought contradiction was indicative of error.

Then I read Kennedy's book and I was impressed that, instead of denying the contradictory nature of some Christian teachings, he acknowledged it. In fact, he exalted it, presenting paradox as an asset to belief, rather than a liability. For life itself is paradoxical, full of seeming contradictions. "Christianity dares to go beyond logic," Kennedy wrote, "because life does . . . It is not afraid to state its truth in paradoxes, because life does."

APOCALYPTIC

In my mind — and I doubt that I am alone in this — there is no Christian teaching more seemingly contradictory and paradoxical than the apocalyptic writings we find in the Bible, particularly in the Book of Revelation, I Thessalonians 4:13 to 5:2, Jude v. 9, Mark 13, and II Peter. Apocalyptic literature was a specialized type that arose in the Near East in about 150 BC and flourished for another 300 to 400 years. Some scholars believe the Jews were introduced to the apocalyptic during their exile in Persia.

It is a style of thinking and writing that focused on cosmic dualism (the universal forces of good vs. evil), superhuman beings (angels and demons), dream-like visions, the destruction of the world, a heavy code-like dependence

upon symbols, and a pessimistic, fatalistic view of the present age. If you read II Peter 3, you get a glimpse of this apocalyptic concept. The writer is certain that the present age could not be redeemed or improved and therefore it must be brought to a calamitous end by divine intervention.

Now, the paradoxical aspect of the apocalyptic is that it appears to be quite contrary to the teachings of Jesus concerning the kingdom of God. These teachings, by contrast, seem optimistic or hopeful of what God can accomplish in the world. God has not given the earth up to Satan and the kingdom will come as we open ourselves up to it. Some Christians base their faith on the apocalyptic, while others base theirs on the kingdom of God.

CREATIVE TENSION

This is for me another Christian paradox. The ultimate truth is to be found in neither polarity, but in the creative tension between these two truths that to the limitation of human knowledge appear to be contradictory. There is value in both concepts, even if we don't know how to fit them together in one complete and harmonious picture.

So, whether you believe Jesus will return to destroy the world or look to his return in glory with the fulfillment of the kingdom, II Peter 3 has some good advice for all of us. Whether you believe that Jesus will come at the end of time or that his second coming is something we experience after we leave this earthly life, we can appreciate that what appears to be God's delay is merely the difference between time in God's sight and our own (3:8). Furthermore, "The Lord is . . . forbearing toward you, not wishing that any should perish, that all should reach repentance" (3:9).

In the meantime, we are not to spend our time speculating on when and how the kingdom will come. This is in God's hands and "the day of the Lord will come like a thief. . ." (3:10). Regardless how we view the destiny of the world, we can all "live lives of holiness and godliness" (3:11). We do not just impatiently "tread water" until that day. Instead, while we wait, we are to "grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

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