



## OPINION

### Acceptance Speech

At the annual meeting of the Mid-American Dairymen's Association in Kansas City, Missouri, this week, our editor was presented with their Salute Award "in recognition of outstanding service to dairy farmers." Here is his acceptance speech given to 1,200 dairy farmers in attendance at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center Hotel.

"Many of you do not know me, but we all have a common friend, your own corporate board member, Joyce Bupp, whom we at *Lancaster Farming* also claim, as well. Joyce not only acts as a regular correspondent, she writes the most widely read column in our newspaper entitled "On Being A Farm Wife." Her warm personality and great wit make her an excellent advocate for agriculture.

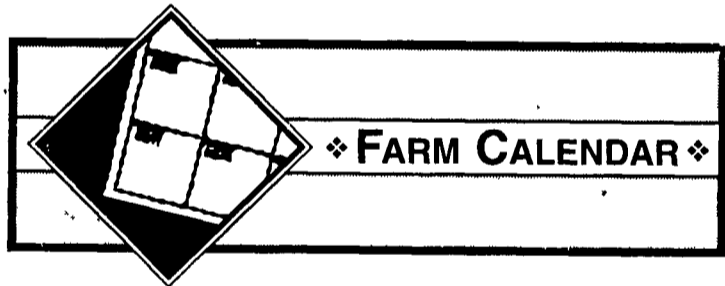
"I would like to congratulate you on the mergers that have been made to seed this new Dairy Farmers of America. Your 'vision of unity' will surely serve all dairy farmers across America, and yes, in all the world. And you will also serve the national economy and everyone who eats.

"We live in an exciting time. When I was young, corn borers ate corn stalks and leaves. Now we have corn plants that eat corn borers. BT corn may be the most advanced biotechnology in agriculture. But we now have calves born in petri dishes. We have genetically made cows that give milk with medicinal value.

"Already, BST is antiquated because now you can clone your 40,000lb. cow and get a whole milking string of her identical self. I can see the day when you will keep spare cow parts at your local biogenetic laboratory. When your good cow needs a new udder, you will just call your genetic engineer and order a new one.

"Seriously, you have truly paid me the greatest national honor with your Salute Award. This is especially rewarding because it comes from the dairy farmers of America. You have been so kind to also bring my wife Ellen and me out from Pennsylvania as your guests.

"We, along with all truly good agribusiness people, are aware that everything we do and can accomplish starts with the dairy farmer who gets up at five o'clock every morning to milk the cows. I really do appreciate this honor. Thank you very much!"



### ◆ FARM CALENDAR ◆

#### Saturday, March 28

Pond Management For Irrigation, Livestock and Recreational Uses, Cambria County extension, Ebsburg, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Public Auction for Pocono Old-Tyme Farm Equipment Association, West End Fairgrounds, Gilbert, 10 a.m.

Ag Innovation and Safety Expo, North Harford High School, Pylesville, Md., 9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Meat Goat Symposium, extension building, St. Mary's County Fairgrounds, Leonardtown, Md., 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
First On The Scene For Farm Families, Heritage House, Brookville.

Fruit Pruning Clinic, Grassy Ridge Orchard, Noxen, 9 a.m.-noon.  
Holstein Club tour, Roger Brown farm near Leona, 11 a.m., Ron Kline farm 12:30 p.m.

#### Sunday, March 29

National 4-H Conference, thru April 4.

#### Monday, March 30

Forest Buffer Workshops, Bethlehem Township, North Jersey, Municipal Building, 7:30 p.m., also at Mansfield Township municipal building on March 31 at 7:30 p.m.

#### Tuesday, March 31

Northwest Grazing Conference, Clarion Days Inn, Clarion, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Feeder Calf Marketing Meeting, First Baptist Church, Port Allegany.

Delaware County extension annual meeting and dinner, Redwood Community Playhouse, Upland.

Cedar Crest Young Farmers Awards Banquet, Schaefferstown Fire Hall, 7 p.m.

#### Wednesday, April 1

Greenhouse Vegetable Grower Meeting, Cashtown Fire House and Twin Springs Orchard, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Backyard Poultry Production, Berks County Ag Center, Leesport.

Keystone Farm Credit meeting, Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland, dinner 7 p.m.

Farm to Consumer Workshop, Luzerne County Community College Conference Center, Nanticoke, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

#### Thursday, April 2

Gardening For Wildlife: Emphasis on Butterfly Gardening, Carroll County Ag Center, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Buying Your First Computer For the Farm, Firth Learning Center, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Nutrition On Pasture, Lebanon County extension office, 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

Dauphin County Conservation District Awards Banquet, Dau-



## Now Is The Time

### By John Schwartz

Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent

#### To Learn From Poland

This month I had the opportunity to spend 11 days in Poland as part of a Penn State team conducting a seminar on extension methods and farming. We had the opportunity to visit several farms and agri-businesses. I was impressed with the progress the Polish farmers have made in the past eight years. Their extension service is dedicated to solving rural problems. They have been working with farmers to learn how to produce commodities for the market.

Their goals are 1. not the most production but the most profitable production and 2. improve quality before production. These are two important goals we need to be using here. The Polish farmers are learning these goals very fast. If we are to compete in a global economy we need to know what our competition is doing. Quality is becoming more important in today's market place. What are you doing to improve the quality

Dauphin County Ag and Natural Resources Center, 6:30 p.m.  
Keystone Farm Credit Meeting, Holiday Inn and Conference Center, Fogelsville, dinner 7 p.m.

Child Care Provider Training "Using Arts Materials," Extension Office, Towanda, 7 p.m.  
Parents' Support Group, Living Room Behavioral Science RPH, Sayre, 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.  
4-H Leaders' Banquet, North Orwell Community Hall, 7:45 p.m.

#### Friday, April 3

Capitol Region 4-H Pre-Teen Retreat, Doubling Gap Center, Cumberland County, thru April 5.

Pa. 4-H Leaders' Forum, Days Inn, State College, thru April 4.  
Information Hearing On Northeast Dairy Compact, Professional Development Center, Pa. College of Technology, Williamsport, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Financial Success Workshop Series, Carroll County Cooperative Extension Service, also April 7 and 14, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Penn State 4-H Leaders' Forum, thru April 4.

#### Saturday, April 4

Spring Conference and Meeting Pa. Dairy Goat Association, Logan Grange Hall, Pleasant Gap, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

9th Annual Forest Stewardship Workshop, Allen Hall, Mansfield University, 9 a.m.

#### Sunday, April 5

Palm Sunday  
Daylight Saving Time Begins  
Natural Resources Income Opportunities On Private Lands Con-

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of your farm's products?

#### To Know Electric Use

The deregulation or restructuring of the electric utility industry will have a major impact on how we purchase and use electricity, according to Dennis Buffington, Penn State Agricultural Engineer. In the deregulated environment, electricity pricing will change. There will be many pricing options and the decisions will be more complex.

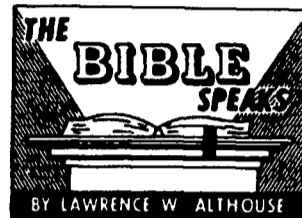
To be a wise electric shopper in the future, it will be helpful to start accumulating a record of your electricity usage patterns. Document how much electricity you use and when you use it. Then identify what appliances, equipment or operations are the big users of electricity. Start thinking about how you could modify your load profile so that you are more

attractive to electric suppliers. Look for steps you may take to reduce your costs. Also, keep informed of changes as they develop.

#### To Look At World Food Expenditures

According to the Oregon Department of Agriculture, no other country in the world has enabled its citizens to obtain such a wide variety of food at such a moderate price as the United States has. The average citizen in India spends 52.6 per cent of their income on food, China 47.8 per cent, Mexico 31.9 per cent, Russia 28 per cent, Japan 18 per cent and France 16.4 per cent. In the United States we spend 10.3 per cent, the lowest in the world.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Yesterday is but a dream. Tomorrow is a vision of hope."



#### WAS JESUS A 'WINNER'?

March 29, 1998

Background Scripture:  
Mark 8:27 through 9:13  
Devotional Reading:  
Isaiah 43:10-21

We all want to be winners, don't we? If we cannot win personally — the lottery, the CEO's chair, the best salary — then we want to identify with one — a winning politician, a championship sports team, a celebrity personality.

The problem is the term "winning." How can you know when you have really "won?"

A few years ago, on the basis of Super Bowl victories, the Dallas Cowboys were regarded as the pro football "class of the '90s." The last two pro seasons have been a sad reminder to us that many victories are of very short duration. Yesterday's athletic "Super Power" may be next year's "over-the-hill gang." Political, business, and social victories are often just as fleeting.

So, if we are going to answer the questions as to whether Jesus was a "winner" or a "loser," we have to decide first of all what it means to really "win" or "lose." And, if it's not over until it's over, how do we know when it's over? Winning on the battlefield, the playing field, the management ladder or the polls may turn all too quickly into eventual defeat. Similarly, to "lose" in any of these situations could quite possibly eventuate in victory.

#### SUFFERING & LOSING

I call this to your attention simply because what Jesus told his disciples at Caesarea Philippi smacks of "losing" in the popular understanding of today. "And he began to teach them that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed" (8:31). Apparently Peter thought so too, for he turned to Jesus and "began to rebuke him."

I can appreciate how Peter felt. All of his life he had had to eke out a meager living as a fisherman. Capernaum was a backwater town. He was uneducated. He belonged to a socioeconomic class that had no share in the political process. If, in responding to Jesus' call he had thought he was thrown-

ing in his lot with a winner, these words of Jesus certainly have been a letdown. Besides, until now, Jesus' role was increasingly that of the strong, Son of God, a powerful man of divine authority. How could a man who could cast out demons become so powerless?

Peter's reaction was an understandable human reaction not at all unlike our own desire to in some way "be a winner." Nevertheless, it was not in harmony with God's will and Jesus' rebuke to Peter is among the sharpest retorts of Jesus ever recorded: "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not on the side of God, but of men" (8:33).

#### LINGERING DOUBTS

Why did Jesus react so angrily? First, although Jesus spoke with certainty of the passion that lay before him, it doesn't mean that he came to that conviction without vigorous soul-researching and inner deliberation. So, Peter's words to him were particularly unsettling in that his disciple voiced some of the very arguments which Jesus himself had had to resolve.

Secondly, I believe he addressed Peter as "Satan" because he was really responding to Satan, not Peter. The words were Peter's, but Jesus knew this was simply the voice of the tempter whom he had initially vanquished in the 40 days and nights in the wilderness.

Not only would Jesus take on the roll of a suffering servant, that was what he expected of his followers as well: "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it" (8:34,35). Is that what it means to follow Jesus as the Christ: to take on a roll that the world interprets as that of a loser?

So, if it's not over until it's over, when is it over? According to Jesus, "For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels" (8:38, my italics).

Then, and only then, is it over.

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