



OPINION

Successful FFA Golf Tournament

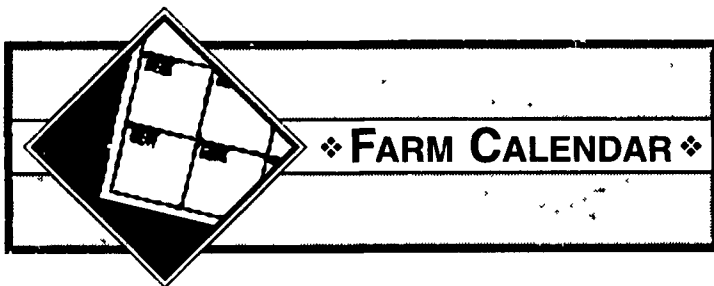
The annual Hoss'Fore FFA Golf Tournament and dinner/auction was held this week with great results for the fund-raising effort of the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation. The total exceeded the goal of \$25,000 because many people got involved.

The event has grown so much that two golf courses are needed to accommodate the crowd. Between Fox Chase and Hawk Valley more than 240 players registered for the event. In addition, the auction brought in more than anyone expected.

The event depends on the generosity of so many people. Agribusinesses donate money and prizes. Donations of items for the auction get larger every year.

To mention one individual donor or bidder at the auction would detract from the total effort put forth by so many people. Of course, the event would never happen if Bill and Nancy Campbell did not sponsor the event under the banner of the Hoss's Fore FFA Golf Tournament. Not only do they serve the golfers and guests with a delicious lunch and dinner, they often buy one of the more costly items at the auction.

To everyone who had a part in this successful event Monday evening—thanks. Through your generosity, the FFA youth of the state are better served.



FARM CALENDAR

- Saturday, July 25**
 Lebanon Area Fair, Lebanon Valley Expo Center, thru Aug. 1.
 Carroll County 4-H/FFA Fair, Carroll County Ag Center, Westminster, thru Aug. 1.
 Cecil County Old Time Farm Days, Fairgrounds, Fair Hill, thru July 26.
 Animal Science Day Camp, Cambria County Fairgrounds, 1 p.m.-6 p.m.
- Sunday, July 26**
 Pa. Holstein Association State Picnic, Keith and Debbie Decker Farm, Knox, noon.
 Potter County Fair, Millport, thru Aug. 1.
 Troy Draft Horse Show, Fairgrounds, Troy, 10 a.m.
- Monday, July 27**
 Troy Fair, Troy, thru Aug. 1.
 Juniata County Youth Fair, Port Royal Fairgrounds, thru July 30.
 Goshen Country Fair, West Chester, thru Aug. 1.
- Tuesday, July 28**
 Ag Horizons Conference, Wildwood Conference Center, Harrisburg HACC.
 Ag Showcase Day, Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
 4-H Dairy Roundup, York Fairgrounds, 9:30 a.m.
 DEP CAFO Proposal Meeting/Hearings, DEP NCRO, Williamsport, 7 p.m.
 Electric Deregulation Informational Meeting, Franklin County Administration Building, Chambersburg, 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m.
- Field meeting, Vernon Crum Farm, Milanville, 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 29**
 Chincoteague Pony Swim and Auction, Chincoteague, Va., thru July 30.
 Horticulture Field Day, Rockspring Research Farm, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

- Lancaster County Soil Conservation District Annual Expo, Cedar Meadow Farm (Steve Groff), Holtwood, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Upper Marlboro Research Farm Field Day, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
 York County Holstein Show, York Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.
 Caroline County Fair, Caroline County 4-H Park, Denton, thru Aug. 2.
 Muhlenberg Community Days, Muhlenberg High School, 6 p.m.
 Farmers'-Businessmen's Picnic, DuBrow's Nurseries, Pitts-town, N.J., tours 4:30 p.m., picnic supper 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, July 30**
 Summer Vineyard Walk-Around, begins at Stone Barn Restaurant, Urionville, 9 a.m.
 Western Maryland Research and Education Center Field Day, Keedysville, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Harford County Farm Fair, Harford County Equestrian Center, Bel Air, thru Aug. 2.
 South Central Dairy Show, Shippenburg Fairgrounds.
 Fayette County Fair, Dunbar, thru Aug. 8.
- Friday, July 31**
 Dorchester County 4-H Fair, Thendora 4-H Center, Hurlock, thru Aug. 1.
 Lebanon County Holstein Show, Lebanon Fairgrounds, Lebanon, 9 a.m.
 Eastern Arabian Horse Show, Quentin Riding Club, Quentin. Also Aug. 1-2.
- Saturday, August 1**
 20th Annual Pa. Performance-Tested Ram Sale and Sheep Producers Field Day, Penn State Ag Arena, State College, Va. Charolais Association Field Day, Buzzy Coleman's Farm, Bedford, Va.
 51st All-American Angus Breeders Futurity, Kentucky Fair and Expo Center, Louisville, Ky.,



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Keep SCC Counts Low

Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County Extension Dairy Agent, reminds us that keeping somatic cell counts (SCC) low in hot weather is a challenge. Infectious bacteria thrive in warm filthy areas.

If cows are not protected from these areas, the risk of these organisms invading cows' udders, hoof tissues and reproductive tracts are greatly increased. When cows are stressed by hot conditions, depressed appetite, hoof infections and other ailments, their immune status is jeopardized and they are less able to fight off invading organisms.

Thus, strategies for maintaining low SCC levels in summer include efforts to bolster the cow's immune system by reducing heat stress, improving cow comfort, maintaining a sanitary environment for cows, adhering to strict protocols and sanitary procedures at milking time and maintaining good nutrition and herd health.

To Monitor SCC Counts

Bacteria do not take the summer off while you are in the field, according to Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County Extension Dairy Agent. It is very important to monitor your DHIA somatic cell count (SCC) code levels closely

- thru Aug. 2.
 Washington County Ag Expo, Washington County Ag and Ed Center, Hagerstown, thru Aug. 7.
 Pa. Holstein Southwest Championship Show, Fayette Fairgrounds, Uniontown, 9:30 a.m.
 West Central 4-H/FFA Dairy Show, Grange Fair Fairgrounds, Centre Hall.
 Dauphin County Farm Bureau Picnic, Halifax Memorial Park, 6:30 p.m.
 Luzerne County Farm-City Day, Ray Hillman Building, Luzerne County Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

- Sunday, August 2**
 Schuylkill County Fair, Summit Station, thru Aug. 8.
 Union County West End Fair, Laurelton, thru Aug. 8.

- Monday, August 3**
 North Central Dairy Show, Troy Fairgrounds, Troy.
 Clearfield County Fair, Clearfield, thru Aug. 8.

- Tuesday, August 4**
 State 4-H Achievement Days, Penn State, University Park, thru Aug. 6.
 Vermont Bus Tour for EAYF, (Turn to Page A31)

Keep the percentage of cows in SCC code levels 7, 8 and 9 low. Treat and cull these cows as necessary.

These are the "hot" cows that really pump cells into the milk tank. These are the cows that pose the greatest risk to other cows in the herd. Just as important, keep the percentage of cows in SCC code categories of 4,5 and 6 from creeping up on you.

These are largely sub clinical cows that you may be content to live with. They will probably keep your herd average SCC counts in the 300,000 to 500,000 range. Being content to live with these SCC levels really makes your job of controlling mastitis flare-ups hard. These cows will become the "hot" cows of the future. Think of these cows as hot embers in a hay mow that must be dealt with immediately.

To Apply For Fuel Tax Refund

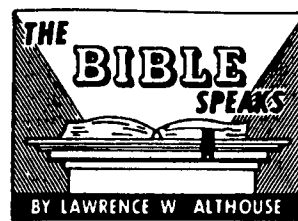
Pennsylvania liquid fuels tax

refund claims for the period July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998 may be filed with the Board of Finance and Revenue until September 30, 1998. State law allows for reimbursement of state tax paid by farmers for gas, diesel and other fuels.

Each claim must include copies of paid receipts or a statement from the fuel dealer that indicates the number of gallons purchased, purchased dates and verification the state excise tax was paid. Recent changes in the law has complicated filing for this year.

Make sure you fill out the correct forms. Claim forms are available from the Board of Finance and Revenue, 500C Finance Building, Harrisburg PA 17120. For more information, call 717-787-6534.

Feather Prof's Footnote
 "Develop your dreams and you create passion. Develop the dreams of others and you create heaven."



LIVING IN THE HOUSE YOU BUILT

July 26, 1998

Background Scripture:

Proverbs 28:1-13

Devotional Reading:

Matthew 7:15-27

William B. Silverman tells an old rabbinic story about Rabbi Zusya, who, before his death, wept as he said, "In the coming world God will not ask me: 'Why were you not as Moses?' because I am not Moses. God will not ask me 'Why were you not like Isaiah?' because I am not Isaiah." "Why then," asked one of his disciples, "do you weep?" Rabbi Zusya sighed as he answered: "It is because God will ask me: 'Why were you not Zusya? Have I lived up to the best in me? What shall I answer?'"

Some of us assume that we do not have much, if anything, to live up to. But each of us was created with a "best" in us that God expects us to live up to. Are you the best that you can be? It is really a matter of integrity for us to be true to that inner gift, the most precious thing that any of us can ever possess.

This can only occur when we value our integrity more than we value riches. Yet, despite what we may say, we often believe deep down that money, power and fame are the things that really count—and we live accordingly. The late Prof. W. E. Hocking believed that we cannot have a sound society unless we have a sufficient number of persons who cannot be bought. He called them "unpurchaseable men."

THE PRICE TAG

Do you believe that there are people like that today? I do, but I know that lots of people believe that "Everyone has his price." Much of our economic and political life seems founded on that principle. "It's just a matter of finding the right price," I've been told.

The sage of the Book of Proverbs tells us, "Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is perverse in his way" (28:6). If we

give lip service to our integrity but feel we can't possibly pass up the money, we have been bought. It seems reasonable "Think of your family's welfare" "Everybody does it; what makes you so special?" "Look at it as good business."

"A rich man," says the sage, "is wise in his own eyes..." (28:11). Greed tends to make us arrogant. When we badly want something other than our integrity, we persuade ourselves that we are above the rules. We become secretive—other people just wouldn't understand it as we do.

A WAY BACK

The sage says, "He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy" (29:13). Often we conceal our transgressions from ourselves first. Once we have been successful in that, we can conceal them from anyone else—except God. He sees both what we are and what we might have been. Fortunately, there is always a way back to God for the person who sells out; confession and repentance.

Another rabbinic story tells about a good man who wanted to do something good for someone, so, observing the miserable conditions in which a carpenter and his family were living, he called the man and commissioned him to build a beautiful house. "I want this to be an ideal cottage. Use only the best materials, employ the best workmen and spare no expense."

The carpenter saw this commission as a great opportunity; so he skimmed on the materials, the workmanship and cut corners wherever he could. When the good man returned and the carpenter handed him the keys, the good man handed them back, saying, "These keys are yours. I had you build this house for yourself. It is my gift to you and your family."

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