



OPINION

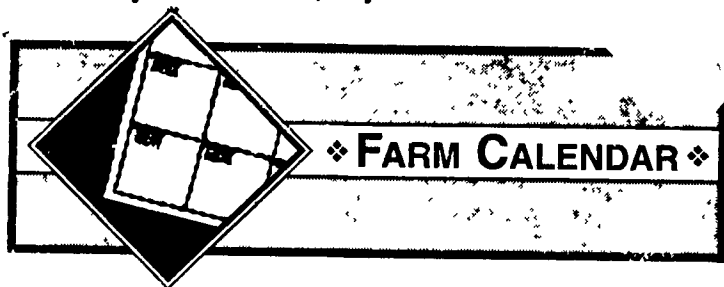
Feed The World Save Environment Too

While the world's population grew by more than 100 million in 1995 to 5.75 billion, which was the largest increase recorded in a single year, the percent of increase at 1.55 was the smallest percentage increase in at least two generations. Back in 1970, by contrast, world population was growing by 2.1 percent annually.

Global population growth is framed by this irony: while favorable trends toward slower growth and stabilization exist today, as compared with 30 years ago, the population continues to expand at a rapid pace. In the developing world, growth patterns remain highest and threaten to increase further over the next 50 years. In the developed world, population growth has stabilized and is not expected to expand appreciably in the long-term.

While the pressure of population expansion on global food needs are real, many of the worst predictions of impending disaster may be overstated, largely because world agricultural productivity has risen sharply, and real food prices have fallen by more than 50 percent. Such progress has resulted in some remarkable achievements. Today, according to a briefing paper entitled "The Challenges of Feeding the World," published by Monsanto, more than 80 percent of the population of the developing world have access to adequate diets, compared with only 64 percent in the 1970's. The number of undernourished has also fallen.

This success is in large part due to the achievement of the global agricultural sector and the resulting relatively low prices for many essential foods and staples. However, this progress has come at a cost to the environment and has rendered inadequate the practices of the "green revolution." Thus, agriculture will need to be even more innovative to maintain and expand food production in light of global population and environmental realities. In the future we must disturb less land for production of food and fiber. We have only begun to see the technology that will allow us to do this. The most exciting innovations in plant production and animal husbandry are yet to come. Future farmers will not only feed the world, they will save the environment too.



Saturday, October 31
Halloween

Delmarva Driving Club Inc., Fall Harvest at Pepperbox, near Laurel, Del., 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
N.Y. Beef Producers Tele-Auction, Empire Livestock, Bath, 1 p.m.
Dynamic Duo Spotlight Sale, Frederick Fairgrounds, Frederick, Md., 7 p.m.
Lancaster County 4-H Therapeutic Riding Program, Friendly Horseman's Club, Denver, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sunday, November 1

International Mushroom Compost Workshop, Ramada Inn, Chadds Ford, thru Nov. 4.

Monday, November 2

ADADC Dist. 18 meeting, Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland, 7:30 p.m.

Md. and Va. Milk Producers Meeting, Greencastle Special Events Center, Greencastle, 7 p.m.

Northampton County Cooperative Extension meeting, Star Grange, Moorestown, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, November 3

Election Day

Wednesday, November 4

Northeast Heifer Contract Raising Symposium, Binghamton Regency Hotel, Binghamton, N.Y., thru Nov. 5.

Md. and Va. Milk Producers Meeting, Fulton Grange Hall, Wakefield, noon.

Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Industry Show, Plover, Wis., thru Nov. 5.

Thursday, November 5

Berks County 15th Annual Farm-City Banquet, Sheraton Berkshire, Wyomissing, 7 p.m.

Md. and Va. Milk Producers Meeting, New Midway Fire Hall, New Midway, 7 p.m.

Bradford County Extension annual meeting, Warren Township Community Building, 7:30 p.m.

Lehigh County Cooperative Extension annual meeting, Lehigh County Vo-Tech School, Schnecksville, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Mercer County Annual Extension meeting, 7 p.m.

Penn State Coop Extension Association of Huntingdon Annual Meeting, Bethel Church, Petersburg, 6:15 p.m.

85th Bradford County Extension Association Annual Meeting, Warren Township Community Building, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 6

Maryland Make It Yourself With Wool Contest, Montgomery County Ag Center, Gaithersburg.

Farm Steel Recycling Field Day, Loretto, Cambria County Dairy Farm, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

American Woodworker Show, Fort Washington Expo Center, thru Nov. 8.



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Understand Dairy Options

How would you like the opportunity to establish a floor BFP (Basic Formula Price) under the milk you sell? BFP options allows you the security of setting a floor price for your production while still being able to capitalize on any upward price movement in the cash market. This differs from forward contracts and futures.

If the market moves up after you lock in your price, you miss that extra income opportunity. With options, you still receive the same minimum price protection offered by a forward or futures contract. If the BFP price unexpectedly moves upward, you are able to capture that additional income. Many people consider options price insurance. You pay a premium for a certain amount of coverage or price protection. The better the coverage, the higher the premium. With options there is no risk of margin calls.

To Look For USDA

Mailing on Options

The Dairy Options Pilot Program (DOPP) is being tested in several states and in six counties in Pennsylvania (Berks, Bradford, Chester, Crawford, Franklin and Lancaster). Dairy producers in these counties should be receiving a letter in November from USDA announcing this program. Included in the mailing will be an application form to be returned if the farmer is interested in participating in the pilot program and four hour educational session in January.

A maximum of 100 farmers per county will be selected to participate in the program. The DOPP is designed to help farmers learn more about BFP options and how to use them as tools for protecting milk prices.

They will learn by actually trading BFP options at a very minimal cost. If you are interested in participating in DOPP, do not discard the USDA letter and application form. Be sure to return the application form on time so USDA knows you are interested in learning about options. The application is not binding. It is only an expression of your interest.

To Go Easy On The Grain

With a good harvest, good milk prices and low grain prices,

Saturday, November 7

MSBA 59th Annual Honey Show, MDA Headquarters, Annapolis.

Nittany Lion Fall Classic Sale, Ag Arena, State College, 11 a.m.
25th Annual North American International Livestock Expo, Kentucky Fair and Expo Cen-

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the stage is set for increased milk production, according to Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County Extension Dairy Agent. However, in the interest of producing more milk, do not forget that cows are ruminants and they need a lot of forage and effective fiber in their ration.

Right now, with high fat prices, forages and fiber may help boost fat tests and milk prices. You may want to feed for herd average fat tests of 3.5 per cent or greater for Holsteins. Tests below 3.2 per cent may indicate acidosis problems. These may lead to such costly problems as ketosis, depressed appetites, twisted stomachs, sore feet, poor body condition, reduced conception rates, lower milk production and increased culling rates.

To help prevent these problems, consider these guidelines:

1. Grain dry matter intakes should be kept below 60 per cent of total dry matter intake.

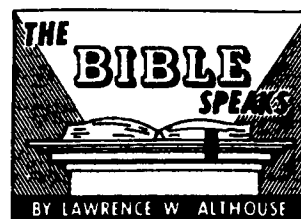
2. Acid detergent fiber (ADF) content should generally be 18 per cent of total ration dry matter or greater

3. Forage neutral detergent fiber (FNDF) content generally should not drop below 21 per cent of total ration dry matter.

4. Total neutral detergent fiber (NDF) content generally should not drop below 28 per cent of total ration dry matter. Lower producing cows, consuming less than 50 pounds of dry matter, will need higher levels in their ration. and

5. Non structural carbohydrates (NSC) should be 30 to 40 per cent of total ration dry matter. If a lot of starch (corn, hominy) is being fed, the levels should be closer to 30 per cent. If the concentrate consists of a lot of by products (soyhulls, cottonseed) the levels should be closer to 40 per cent.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "Peak performance carries its own reward."



ONE WAY TO BE #1!
November 1, 1998

Background Scripture:

Amos 6 through 7

Devotional Reading:

Acts 4:13-22

Recently, watching the Stanley Cup play-offs in the National Hockey League, I was appalled at the assumption that gratuitous violence was simply part of being a champion team, no matter who was hurt and maimed. Being number one has become an obsession in our country today in virtually every department of life.

I have no problem with people striving for excellence. But I do with the belief that being "king of the hill" is the only thing important and, that to achieve it and keep it, anything goes...

Well, for those of use who cannot live without being number one in at least something, Amos has found a way that is guaranteed to put your name at the very top of the pile: "Therefore they shall now be first of those who go into exile..." (6:7). This is a guarantee made, not by Amos himself, but by the God of Israel.

AT EASE IN ZION

So, to be first on the calamity list, all you have to do is follow Amos' prescription. And to whom will this top listing come?—"...those who are at ease in Zion... who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria... who lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat lambs from the flock..., who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp, and like David invent for themselves instruments of music; who drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph" (6:1-7).

He is not saying they will be first in line because of any of these activities in themselves. Lying on bed of ivory per se is not evil, nor is eating lambs from the flock. Rather, in these verses Amos has painted a picture of luxurious self-indulgence, an arrogance of the spirit that persuades people to feel

secure, not in the Lord, but in the multitude of their comforts, privileges and powers.

They are "at ease in Zion" but they ought to be uneasy. They "feel secure on the mountain of Samaria" (the focus of worship for the Northern Kingdom, as opposed to Jerusalem in the South) but they really have no security because they have turned their backs to the Lord. When he says that they are "not grieved over the ruin of Joseph," he is saying that they have turned a blind eye to the moral and spiritual decay of their kingdom. The result: terrible death and desolation and God will not intervene to prevent it this time.

THE WEIGHT OF WORDS

If someone should arise in your church on Sunday morning and make such a prophecy, I'm sure he or she would quickly be ostracized. It is hard to hear something so accusative when we are quite certain that we have every reason to be "at ease in Zion." So it is understandable that Amos' message did not earn him admiration and popularity. Amaziah, the priest of the sanctuary in Bethel, was convinced that "that land is not able to bear all his word."

Later, King Amaziah told him "in no uncertain terms to get out of the country. Go to Judah and ply your prophetic profession there! "...but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the King's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom" (7:10-12). The implication is that people of power shall control just how much or how little truth will be told to the people. Everyone loves prophets—somewhere else!

Amos replies that he is not a prophet by profession. God gave this herdsman and dresser of sycamore trees a message and he is simply carrying that message as God commanded: if you want to be number one on the list of those who will pay the price for their arrogance, just keep on doing what you are doing!

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