

# Lancaster Farming

## OPINION

### Not Too Much To Expect

After mandatory support of the Beef Checkoff for the past 10 years, many beef producers are questioning whether the \$1 billion they have thrown at promotion and research have done them any good. With the price of cattle at the farm gate this suspicion does not seem out of place. Of course, to raise this subject immediately puts us in the middle of two groups of beef producers.

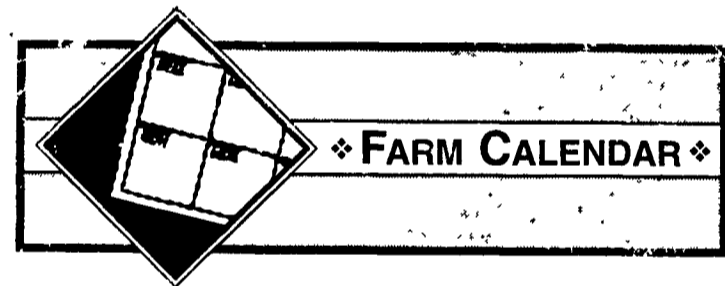
On one hand, beef producers on the National Cattlemen's Beef Research and Promotion Board and their supporters believe their work has been needed and is needed in the future to keep the industry from being in worse condition. But smaller producers with less than 100 cows often feel the cost/price squeeze and wonder if the money taken out at the farm level is worth the expense.

We have heard a lot of name calling and finger pointing on this issue which we refuse to do. We know in today's economy, a lot of money is spent to promote competing food products. We have seen the "What's For Dinner?" and "Where's the Beef?" advertising.

Nevertheless, in our free enterprise system, the people who pay the bills have a right to say if they are satisfied with the program. In addition, no properly run program should be without reviews and proper ownership checks to make sure the goal and reasons for the program have been achieved.

Most producers favored the check-off when it was initiated 10 years ago. Most of them may still favor it and be willing to continue to pay the \$1 per head out of pocket when they market their cattle. But we don't know this until we have a mid-term referendum to give everyone the opportunity to vote on the checkoff.

We don't think it's too much to expect a producer who is paying for the program to be allowed to say he likes it, does not like it. The most obvious way suspicion could be raised against the managers of the program would be if political and beef industry power brokers refuse to let it come to a vote.



**Saturday, November 14**  
Susquehanna County DHIA Banquet, Fairdale Grange, noon.  
Lackawanna DHIA Banquet, Green Grove Grange, 7:45 p.m.

**Sunday, November 15**  
Pa. Farm Bureau State Annual Meeting, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, Nov. 18.  
North American International Livestock Expo and 1999 National Angus Super Roll of Victory Show, Louisville, Ky., thru Nov. 17.

**Monday, November 16**  
Pa. Farm Bureau State Annual Meeting, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, Nov. 18.  
Annual Meeting of the Pa. Association of County Ag Agents, Tof-trees, State College, thru Nov. 17.  
Potter County Basic Computer Workshop, Potter County Education Council New Computer Lab, Galeton, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., also Nov. 23.  
Md. and Va. Milk Producers meeting, Morrison Cove Memorial Park, Martinsburg, noon.  
Md. and Va. Milk Producers meeting, The Lighthouse Restaurant, Chambersburg, 7 p.m.  
Somerset DHIA Banquet, Berlin Community Building, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 17**  
Dairy Feed Industry Seminar, Holiday Inn, Indiana, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Solanco Young Farmers meeting, Corn Grain Management, Solanco High School, 7:30 p.m.  
EAYF Adult CPR Training Class, Ephrata Hospital, 6:30 p.m.-10 p.m.  
Md. and Va. Milk Producers Meeting, New Midway Fire Hall Complex, 7 p.m.  
Quality Forage Conference, Holiday Inn and TGIF, Williamsport, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
Pa. Farm Bureau 48th Annual Banquet, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, 7 p.m.  
Organic Farmers Meeting, Farm Show Complex, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Live Sattelite Broadcast Workshop, Effective Wastewater Management, various county extension offices, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Lancaster County Holstein Banquet, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 7 p.m.  
Public Listening Session For USDA/EPA Unified Joint Strategy For Animal Feeding Operations, Sheraton Hotel, Harrisburg, 2 p.m.-5 p.m.

**Wednesday, November 18**  
Dairy Feed Industry Seminar, Lighthouse Restaurant, Chambersburg, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Westmoreland County Farm-City Dinner, Mountain View Inn, Greensburg, 7 p.m.  
Farm Business in Transition, Stop 35, Mifflintown, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
Pa. Tobacco Marketing Associa-

**Now Is The Time**  
By John Schwartz  
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

#### To Check Manure Hauling

Although transporting manure in a conventional manure spreader is normally uneventful, it is not without risk and problems, according to Chester Hughes, Lancaster County Extension Livestock Agent. Occasionally manure drips off equipment or tire onto the highway.

This is a situation that should never occur. Other less likely incidents include: 1. traffic accidents which could lead to a major manure discharge; 2. accidental valve opening; 3. valve failure; and 4. pipe failures.

Any of these problems requires quick corrective action by the farmer to minimize environmental impact and negative public action. You should have a plan, including phone numbers of key people, on how you will deal with a manure spillage.

Once the manure storage is emptied and manure hauling is completed for an extended period of time, clean the spreader. Clean equipment conveys a professional attitude and well run business. Rinsing the inside of equipment can also extend its useful life.

The critical limits for manure transportation, like those for storage, provides little room for error. Manure must be transported without leakage, discharge or spills.

#### To Check Manure Disposal Systems

Manure may also be transported in irrigation or recycle systems by pumping the manure through a hose or series of pipes, according to Chester Hughes, Lancaster County Extension Livestock Agent.

Above ground irrigation piping should be inspected before and during each use for dents, gouges and corrosion. These defects can cause sudden ruptures of the pipe-

tion meeting, Paradise Community Park Building, Paradise, 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, November 19**  
Dairy Feed Industry Seminar, Leola Family Restaurant, Leola, 7 a.m.-noon.  
Md. and Va. Milk Producers Meeting, Jarrettsville Fire Hall, Jarrettsville, Md., 7 p.m.  
Transitioning Your Business, Penn State Fruit Lab, Biglerville, 9:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m.  
Pa. DHIA Delegate Meeting, Arena Restaurant, Bedford, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Southeast Regional Cattlemen's Association Annual Dinner Meeting, Hoss's Steak House, Lionville, 6:30 p.m.  
York County DHIA Banquet, Thomasville Fire Company, 7 p.m.  
Lycoming County DHIA Banquet,

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lines during use.

Underground piping systems should have the risers and air release valves inspected before and during use. Air release valves are especially prone to leakage. Sometimes leakage is obvious. Other times watching for stains on vegetation or excessive growth will provide evidence of previous discharges or intermittent leakage.

Monitor spraying to avoid excessive applications of manure and run off.

#### To Control Rodents in Corn Crib

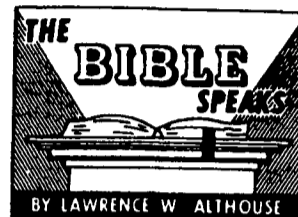
Mice and other rodents take a heavy toll on corn stored as ear corn in wooden and metal corn cribs. According to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent, the corn crib provides an ideal habitat for rodents. It provides sheltered nesting areas out of the cold winter weather along with an endless supply of food.

The control of mice and rodents under these conditions is very difficult. However, several things may be done to help keep rodent populations down. First, traps may be used monitor the extent of the problem. Trapping will do little to eliminate the problem.

Second, screening wherever possible to exclude rodents will also help keep numbers in control. However, when a severe problem exists, the commercial use of tracking powder has been the most effective means of control. Remember to always read and follow the directions when using any pesticide.

Remember, rodents are a major carrier of salmonella and other bacteria and disease organisms. Thus, rodent control is a very important first step in food safety.

*Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "We know what a person thinks not when he tells us what he thinks, but by his actions."*



**IF I WERE JEREMIAH**  
November 15, 1998

#### Background Scripture:

Jeremiah 19: 21:1-10

#### Devotional Reading:

Joshua 24:14-28

If I were Jeremiah, what would I have done when he came saying to me: "Go, buy a potter's earthen flask . . . and proclaim there the words that I tell you" (19:1,2)? I wonder.

Note that God did not tell Jeremiah he wanted him to preach a sermon. True, some sermons can be prophetic, but the sermons generally come from pastors, not prophets—and there is a real difference between the two. A pastor is regarded as the shepherd of his flock, while the popular image of the prophet is that of a danger to the flock.

Today, as in the time of Jeremiah, people fear prophecy because they instinctively think of it as bad news. Often in the Old Testament it was bad news, but that was only because the life of the people of Israel was also bad news.

So, if I were Jeremiah I would assume that God wanted me for an unpleasant task. Unfortunately, when God wants us, there is really no place to hide.

Some people think that the role of a prophet is enjoyable, but not I. Perhaps it is temporarily satisfying to pronounce judgement on others—maybe a boost to one's own ego—but most of us do not like to alienate ourselves from people if we can help it. No one listens to a true prophet and then runs up to him when he's finished and asks him for his autograph! Prophecy wins about as many friends as being a tax collector!

#### WORDS OF DOOM!

But God didn't say, "If you'd like to do me a favor . . ." No, God said "Go . . ." and the message he had for Jeremiah was as unpopular as it could be. Unlike some prophecies, this was not a call to change or else, but the pronouncement of a doom that seemed unalterable. Breaking the flask in the sight of those lis-

tening to him, Jeremiah was to say: "Thus says the Lord of Hosts: So will I break this people and this city, as one breaks a potters vessel, so that it can never be mended" (19:11).

The message was terrible but the situation that provoked the message was more terrible still. The people have been worshipping Baal and offering their own people as sacrifices. They probably still professed to believe and serve the God of their Hebrew forefathers, but the real questions were: from where were they taking their values? To whom were they turning for help? Whom did they aim to please?

Those same questions could be asked of us. Despite our protestations of loyalty to the Lord, where do we get our values? To whom or to what do we turn for help? And whom do we aim to please? Be assured, whatever our vocation, if we ask these questions today people will get upset with us just as they got upset with Jeremiah. Pashhur, the high priest in the temple, beat him and had him put in the stocks at the upper Benjamin Gate.

#### TIME TO QUIT?

Pashhur tried to intimidate Jeremiah and initially it seemed he succeeded for Jeremiah complained bitterly to God: "O Lord, thou has deceived me . . . thou art stronger than I, and thou hast prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me" (20:7). If I were Jeremiah I would want to quit at that point.

But Jeremiah couldn't quit: "If I say, 'I will not mention him, or speak anymore in his name,' there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary of holding it in, and I cannot" (20:9). So, the next time the Lord came saying, to Jeremiah, "Go . . ." Jeremiah went and did what God commanded.

The question is not really, "If I were Jeremiah," but if I am me, what do I say when God says "Go!"?

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