



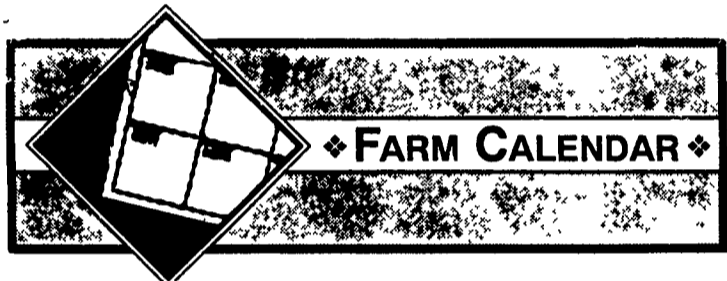
OPINION

Realistic Butter Prices

With butter back in the good graces of the medical/health food establishment, sales have been steadily increasing over the last few years. But based on the premise of charging what the market will bear, prices for butter have been reported up to nearly \$4.00 per pound. One report said prices in New Jersey had reached \$5.00 per pound.

Naturally, reports of good milk prices to farmers have been used to justify the increase in price to consumers. But according to Arden Tewksbury, Pro Ag manager, the price to farmers for milk to be manufactured into butter dropped from \$13.28 per cwt. in January 1998 to \$10.76 per cwt. in May. That is 25-35 cents per gallon. The wholesale price of butter in January was \$1.10 per pound. By mid-fall this price had reached over \$2.90 per pound in some markets. In the last few weeks, of course, the wholesale price of butter has taken some dramatic declines and is now back around \$1.20 per pound.

A recent survey indicates that consumers criticize the high butter prices, but most of them don't blame dairy farmers. More and more consumers are aware of the value of real butter. But if it is over-priced as we have seen in the past, sales drop. We can only hope the distribution system for dairy products will take a realistic profit but price butter according to the cost of the milk paid to farmers for manufacturing, not on what the market will bear.



Saturday, December 5

Sunday, December 6

Maryland Farm Bureau 83d Annual Meeting, Ramada Inn Convention Center, Hagerstown, Md., thru Dec. 9.

Monday, December 7

Basic Computer Workshop For Beginners, Huntingdon County extension office, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

New York Farm Bureau Citizenship Award Contest, New York Farm Bureau annual meeting, Radisson Plaza-The Hotel Syracuse, thru Dec. 10.

Dairy Options Pilot Program Meeting, Tulpehocken Junior/ Senior High School, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 8

Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School, Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel and Conference Center, Ocean City, Md., thru Dec. 10.

Dairy Feeding Systems Conference, Radisson Penn Harris Hotel and Convention Center, Camp Hill, thru Dec. 10.

Solanco Young Farmers meeting, Farm Safety, Solanco High School, 7:30 p.m.

Regional Greenhouse Meeting, Huntingdon County Cooperative Extension office, Huntingdon.

Practical Biosecurity for Poultry, 13th Regional Meeting, University of Delaware, Newark, Del., 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Western Pa. Regional Vegetable Conference, Days Inn, Butler.

Poultry Plentitude, University of Delaware, Newark, Del.

Berks County DHIA Banquet, Ag Services Center, noon.

Fulton County Agribusiness Breakfast, McConnellsburg American Legion Post 561, 8 a.m.

Wednesday, December 9

Dauphin County Agronomy Workshops, Elizabethville Public Library, Elizabethville, different morning and afternoon sessions, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Westmoreland County Cooperative Extension Association Annual Meeting, Donohoe Center, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Dairy Options Pilot Program Meeting, Berks County Ag Center, Leesport, 1:30 p.m.

Dairy Options Pilot Program Meeting, Kutztown High School, Kutztown, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 10

Core Pesticide Training, Mercer County Extension, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Adams County DHIA Banquet, York Springs Fire Hall, 7 p.m.

Dairy Options Pilot Program Meeting, Ag Classroom, Oley Valley High School, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, December 11

Clear Toy Candy Demonstration, Cake and Kandy Emporium, East Petersburg, 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m., also Dec. 13, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Methane Digestion Open House, AA Dairy, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 12

Sunday, December 13

Monday, December 14

Tuesday, December 15

Ephrata Area Young Farmers Christmas Event, Ephrata Middle School, 6:30 p.m.

Solanco Young Farmers meeting, Computer Education: Navigating Windows, Solanco High School, 7:30 p.m.

Passing On The Farm Workshop, Lighthouse Restaurant, Chambersburg, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 16

ACE Expo - Computer and Technology Show and Seminar,



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Return DOPP Sign up Form

If you have received information on the Dairy Options Pilot Program (DOPP), you must return your sign up form by December 11. DOPP is a program to help dairy farmers understand the value of risk management and acquire the tools to practice it.

The key concept is risk management. This program sets the tone for government programs for the 21st century. It will be important for farmers to understand options, hedging with options and valuing options.

DOPP lets you put words into action. DOPP will give you hands on learning experience in using PUT options to protect your milk price at a very small cost. Read Secretary Glickman's letter and consider signing up for the benefits of this program. Remember, this form is only a commitment of interest in the program.

You may withdraw at anytime without any cost or penalty. If you are in a DOPP county, you must return the sign up form by December 11, 1998 in order to be eligible to participate.

To Feed Your Ram

Rams should have a body condition score of 3.5 to 4 before the beginning of the breeding season, according to Chester Hughes, Lancaster County Extension Livestock Agent. A body condition score of 1 is thin and 5 is obese. Once turned in with the ewes for breeding, rams spend very little time eating. They can lose up to 12 per cent of their body weight during the 45 day breeding period. That equates to 30 pounds for a 250 pound ram.

Poor nutrition is a major cause of ram mortality. In many cases, storage alone is not adequate nutrition for placing rams in proper body condition for the breeding season. At the very least, rams should be evaluated for body condition six weeks before breeding.

Lancaster Host, Lancaster. Pork Forum, Bird In Hand Restaurant, Bird In Hand, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Crop Planning Workshop, Hugo's Restaurant, Brownsville, 9 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Thursday, December 17

Dairy Futures Conference, Penn State Conference Center, State College, thru Dec. 18.

Friday, December 18

Chemical Compliance School, Holiday Inn, Grantville.

Top Gun Corn Producer Conference, Mercer County extension office, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 19

Sunday, December 20

Monday, December 21

Thin rams should receive grain as a means to increase body weight and condition. It takes 50 days and approximately 2.5 pounds of corn per day in addition to a ram's normal diet to move him from a weight of 225 pounds to 250 pounds.

Mature rams, not in breeding, may be maintained on pasture or wintered on good quality hay. Six to eight pounds of mixed grass and clover hay is sufficient to meet the daily energy requirements of a 250 pound ram. A free choice source of water, salt and minerals should be available at all times.

To Caulk for Energy Savings

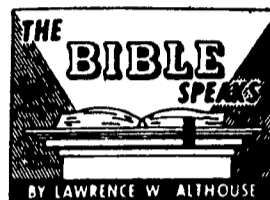
As much as 30 per cent of the home's heat may be lost through leaks and cracks, reports Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent. Doors, windows, chimneys and the foundation of the house offers oppor-

tunities for heat leakage. Good quality caulking will help prevent much of this heat loss resulting in a savings of heating dollars. Before starting the job, identify the main areas of heat loss through cracks.

Check spaces where pipes, wires, cables or water faucets enter the house or barn. Check around doors and window frames where the frames meet the wall. Look under window sills and between porches and the main portions of the house for openings.

After identifying where the leaks are, select the proper caulk for the job. Generally look for caulking materials with a high resistance to water and are easy to use.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "It takes courage to push yourself to places that you have never been before, to test your limits and to break through barriers."



BUT WHAT DO YOU SAY?
December 6, 1998

Background Scripture:

Hebrews 1:1-4;
Matthew 16:13-26

Devotional Reading:

Isaiah 11:1-10

When my father was still on this side of the gateway we call death, whenever I was visiting with my parents and answered the telephone, people on the other end of the line would invariably say, "Hello, Wilson." Often, when I replied, "No this is his son, Larry," the caller would pause, wondering if my father was playing some kind of joke on them. My voice sounded a great deal like his, even though neither of us particularly thought so.

Even face-to-face, some people would mistake me for him. Others would say, "You don't have to tell me whose son you are." The interesting thing about this is that we didn't really look alike. Yet, when they saw me, many people saw in my visage something that reminded them of my father. I can appreciate their reaction, for I'm often surprised when I look in the mirror and seem to see my father looking back at me.

I have known lots of sons and daughters who looked like and sounded even more like one or both of their parents. Family resemblances can range from slight to absolutely amazing! So, we can appreciate what the writer of Hebrews means when he says: "In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son..." (1:1).

MANY & VARIOUS WAYS

I have literally and figuratively traveled around the world and everywhere I have visited I have found some evidence of God's revelation. Buddhists, Hindus, Moslems, Jews and others, it has seemed to me, have not been denied divine revelation. God has spoken and still continues to speak "in many and various ways" to all his children.

While I deeply respect these other religions and their experience of the one God, I have been personally reinforced in my choice of Christianity, for I can-

not help but believe that the fullest understanding of this God whom we all worship comes through his reflection in Jesus Christ. So, when people ask me, "Why Jesus?" it is easy for me to answer: *In him is the most that a mortal can ever know of the immortal God.*

The writer of Hebrews puts it well: "He reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature..." (1:3). To know Jesus is to know as much of God as it is possible for us to know. This is one of the great themes of John's Gospel: "He that has seen me has seen the Father" (14:9). Not in a physical sense, of course, but there is an even greater resemblance between Jesus and the Father than there is between any parents and their offspring.

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

With people around the globe we share the conviction that there is a God, but when we consider what that God is like, what is his essential nature, it seems that there is no clearer picture, no fuller representation than the God we find revealed in Jesus.

When Jesus gathered his disciples about him at Caesarea Philippi, he asked, "Who do men say that the Son of man is?" Among the popular answers they repeated were, "John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the prophets" (Matt. 16:14). But his disciples know that he is more than a prophet, and when he asks, "But who do you say that I am," Peter probably answers for the group when he says, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Even these titles do not say it all. The term "Christ" is the English rendering for *Christos*, the Greek word for Messiah, "the anointed one." Messiahs ranked more highly than prophets. They were special "messengers" from God. "Son of God" implies the closest of filial relationships. But, of course, it doesn't matter what others call him. His question for us is the same that he asked Peter, "But who do YOU say that I am?"

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