



OPINION

Identification For Animals Only

The Livestock Conservation Institute has embarked on a plan to bring animal identification to the national front. At a symposium last month in St. Louis, officials worked in groups to plan for the cattle, swine, sheep, equine, and llama industries to begin work an national animal identification.

Richard Keene, president of the Holstein Association, USA, said that in order to address the issues of export market, genetic evaluation, health and food safety, value based marketing and inbreeding in stud genetics from a dairy standpoint, we need to have a strong ID system in place.

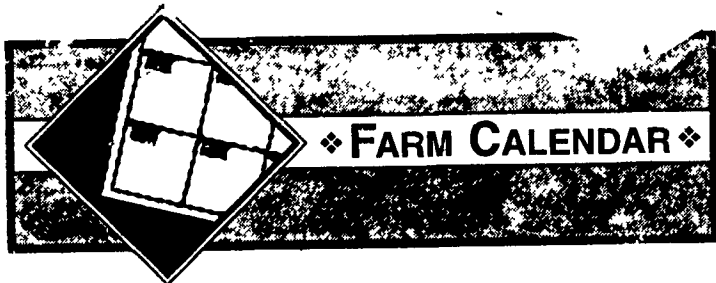
In the beef industry the focus is on measuring cattle yield, tenderness, grade, and performance in general.

Swine breeders want to focus on disease control, food chain feedback, as well as the normal genetic evaluations in the industry.

While other species may have additional reasons to keep close records on animal identification, all agree the need is present and believe the methodology is already available to make it happen.

Many officials believe the system should follow the "American ID" numbering system established by the Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding. There is also a need for a private entity to allocate numbers in blocks to maintain unique records across organizations. Numbers must be attached to the animal with official identification tags or radio frequency identification transponders may be used.

We believe the merits of a national animal identification program are undeniable. The technology is awesome but available. We can only hope the program is not setting the stage for people identification using the same technology. To implant identification chips under the skin to be read by an all-knowing computer in the sky is acceptable for the reasons given by leaders of the animal associations. But it is not acceptable should governments want to control human movement.



- Saturday, December 12
- Sunday, December 13
- Monday, December 14
 - Dairy Options Pilot Program Meeting, Warwick Township Building, Litz, 12:30 p.m.
 - Dairy Options Pilot Program Meeting, Leacock Township Building, Intercourse, 7:30 p.m.
- 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, 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 Stater Conference Center, State College, thru Dec. 18.
 - Dairy Options Pilot Program Meeting, Fulton Grange Hall,

- Wakefield, 7:30 p.m.
- 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
 - Act 6 Nutrient Management Certification and Plan Writing Seminar, Schuylkill County Ag Center, Pottsville, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 22
 - Act 6 Nutrient Management Certification and Plan Writing Seminar, Gratz Community Center, Gratz, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 23
- Thursday, December 24
- Friday, December 25
 - Merry Christmas!
 - Lancaster Farming office closed.
- Saturday, December 26
- Sunday, December 27
- Monday, December 28
- Tuesday, December 29
- Wednesday, December 30
- Thursday, December 31

Now Is The Time
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Attend ACE Conference

The Ag Computing and Electronics (ACE) Expo will be held Wednesday, December 16 at the Lancaster Host Resort located on Route 30 east of Lancaster. Registrations will be taken at the door. Registration and trade show begins at 8:30 A.M. The Expo features computers, hardware, software and electronics that relate to agriculture.

The program is loaded with expert speakers, farmer panelists, seminars, hands on workshops and trade show exhibits. Topics to be discussed include farm finances, labor, pesticide and nutrient management records, using the internet, developing a home page and horticultural applications.

If a computer is on your shopping list or you want to learn more about use of computers in your operation, then plan on attending the ACE Expo.

To Winterize Pesticide Storage Areas

The proper storage of pesticides during winter is often overlooked, according to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent. Winter storage requires special considerations. While almost all pesticides will maintain their effectiveness for more than one year, they need to be properly stored.

Low temperatures, excessive heat and damp conditions while in storage may affect the quality of the pesticide. Storage areas should be a separate room, building or shed devoted exclusively to the storage of pesticides.

The area should be heated, dry and well ventilated. Direct sunlight should be excluded from the area. In addition, storage areas should exclude children with the use of locks. Pesticides should be kept in their original containers. Complete labels should be attached to the product and available at another location in case of an emergency like a fire.

If large amounts of pesticides are stored, an emergency management plan should be developed and filed with local emergency units like the fire company. Remember, pesticides need to be maintained, secured and properly supervised during the entire year.

To Select Charities Carefully

As the end of the year approaches, many households experience an increase in the number of requests they receive for contributions to charities, according to Dr. Robert Thee, Lancaster County Extension Financial Man-

agement Agent.

Charitable contributions are important, but not all charities are created equal. When you receive a request from an unfamiliar charity, seek more information before giving. Also, beware of sound like names.

Resist pressure to give immediately. If they need your donation this month, they will still welcome it next month. If you decide to contribute, write a check made out to the charity, not to a company or individual collecting the donations.

Do not pay cash or provide your credit card number in response to a request from a stranger. If you have concerns about a charitable request, contact the Bureau of Charitable Organization, Pennsylvania Department of State at 800-732-0999 or the Better Business Bureau.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "To love and be loved is to feel the sun from both sides."

Background Scripture

Luke 1:1-4;
I Corinthians 15:1-4;
I John 1:1-4

Devotional Reading:

Colossians 1:15-20

In the 25 years that he was Bishop in Dornikal, India, Bishop Azariah's diocese grew to almost a quarter million outcast Christians. In relating this to some visitors, he was asked how illiterate outcasts could possibly do Christian preaching.

"I will tell you," said Bishop Azariah. "A caste villager asked one of our outcasts, 'Have you seen God?' He answered: 'Sir, you knew me two years ago. I was a drunkard. You know me now. I do not think I should have all this change if I had not seen Jesus Christ.'" Concluded the Bishop, "Is there any better way of witnessing for God?"

I seriously question whether anyone can be a follower of Jesus Christ and not be a witness. What is a witness? In English it began with the word *wit*, which meant to "see." In Old English *witness* originally meant 'knowledge' or 'wisdom.' Derived from personally seeing something. In Middle English times it included a "person who gives testimony."

WHAT'S HE DONE FOR YOU?

Some of us who number ourselves among the followers of Christ concentrate almost exclusively on the first part of the meaning of witness. We identify with Jesus Christ because of what we have seen ourselves or want to see. We want to witness his blessings and benefits to our lives. When ill, we want to witness his healing. When troubled, we want to witness his peace. When confused, we want to witness his guidance. All of us have already witnessed some blessing, some help from Christ, haven't we?

But it doesn't stop with what we witness: we must go on to witness to that which we have witnessed. The outcast of India not only experienced Christ's healing of his alcoholism, he was able to share what he witnessed with someone

else. It was simply a matter of telling someone else what Jesus Christ had done for him.

This is what the New Testament is founded upon — witness, people sharing what Christ has done for and with them. Luke tells Theophilus and his readers of the good news that has been passed on to him by "eyewitnesses and ministers of the word" (Luke 1:2). In his first letter to the church at Corinth, Paul tells that he only shared with them "what I also received. . ." (I Corinthians 15:3). And John, writing his first epistle, testifies to "That which from the beginning which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life . . ." (I John 1:1,2).

TRANSMITTERS, NOT TERMINALS

None of these serves as a point of termination for the good news of Jesus Christ. Luke, Paul and John all are passing on to others what they have received as witnesses. John says, ". . . that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you . . ." (I John 1:3).

Nor are any of us to think of ourselves as terminals for the good news. Our task is to relay to others what we have experienced and received.

Luke passes on what he has witnessed and received so "that you may know the truth concerning the things of which you have been informed" (Luke 1:4). Paul shares what he as witnessed so that his readers may stand fast in their salvation. And John witnesses so "that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ."

William Borden was a deeply dedicated young man who gave his life to take the gospel to Egypt. Dr. Samuel M. Zwemmer summed up the missionary's life: "Borden kept the faith, but he did not keep it to himself."

Nor should we.

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