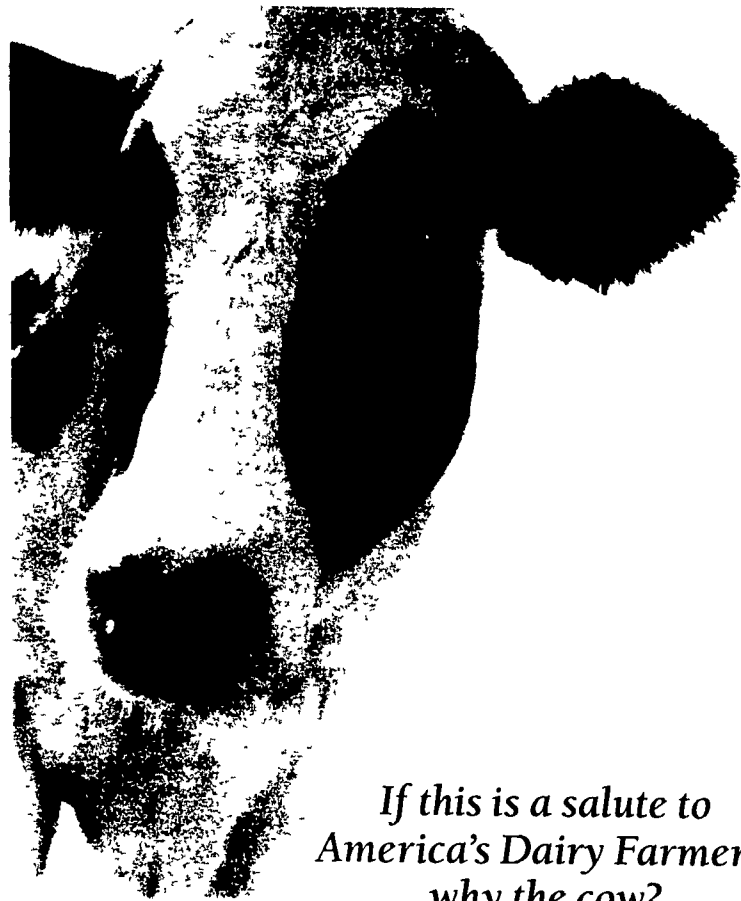


Lancaster Farming
OPINION



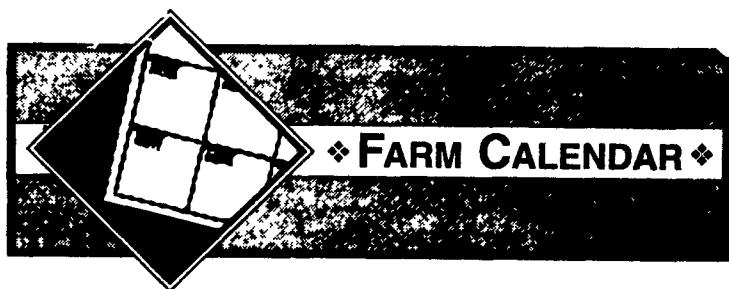
If this is a salute to America's Dairy Farmers, why the cow?

First of all, there just aren't many pictures of dairy farmers around. They're too busy working their farms to take time out for photo sessions. Second, it's June - and June is Dairy Month - so they're busier than ever right now. It is prime milk drinking season, you know.

But picture or no picture, we still wanted to tip our hats to the men and women responsible for the products that are part of our everyday lives. From milk to butter to cheese.

Now about the cow. Since dairy farmers are such a hardworking lot with little time to dillydally, they tend to speed through publications like this pretty quickly. So, to make sure they'd stop and read this, we chose a photo of the one thing that always gets their attention.

June is Dairy Month



FARM CALENDAR

Saturday, June 5
Bucks-Montgomery Wool Pool, Delaware Valley College.
Clarksville Field Day, Ellicott City, Md.
Antique Engine, Tractor, and Toy Club Annual Show, Kempton Community Center, thru June 6.
Centre County Dairy Princess Pageant, Pleasant Gap Grange Hall, Pleasant Gap, 7:30 p.m.
Lebanon County Dairy Princess Pageant, Lebanon County Vo-Tech Building, Lebanon.
Chester County Dairy Princess Pageant, Cochranville Community Center, Cochranville, 10:30 a.m.
Huntingdon County Dairy Princess Pageant, Huntingdon Area Middle School, Huntingdon.

Monday, June 7

Tuesday, June 8
Fundamentals of Marketing, Penn State Lancaster Greenfield Center, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., thru June 9.
Grazier Meeting, Allan Lynch

Farm, Turbotville, 7 p.m.
York County Beekeepers, York 4-H Center, in conjunction with York County 4-H Strawberry Roundup, judging begins 7 p.m.
Y2K Considerations in Mercer County, Mercer County Cooperative Extension, 2 p.m.-4 p.m., also at Penn State Shenango Complex, Sharon, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
Pasture Walk, Wilmer Stoltzfoos Farm, Gratz, 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Second Agriculture Research Symposium, Capitol East Wing, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Stock Dogs in Livestock Management meeting, Allan Lynch Farm, Turbotville.
Tulpehocken Young Farmer Safety Session, Bernville Fire Company, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 9

Lancaster County 4-H Strawberry Roundup, Farm and Home Center, 1 p.m.

Thursday, June 10

Forage Field Tour, Joel Steigman Farm, Halifax, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
Managing Your Well and Septic

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Now Is The Time
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

June Is Dairy Month

The time of year we honor our dairy farmers and the fine products made from milk. With more people in our country becoming two or three generations removed from farms, it becomes increasingly important for farmers to promote and educate people about the importance of their commodities, their farm businesses, the wholesomeness and nutritional value of the food they produce.

This requires farmers to be good neighbors. As our farming operations grow, farmers need to be more concerned about the image they present in the community. Thus, part of promotion includes landscaping, supporting community activities, being sensitive to the environment and knowing your neighbors.

For many people, the impression of the dairy industry is your farm. In addition to supporting general industry promotion programs, do not forget the many ways your farm is promoting dairy products. Wear your milk mustaches with pride!

To Be Safe

This spring has seen a rash of farm accidents. At least one farmer and one small child have been killed and one farmer seriously injured in tractor accidents in Lancaster County this year. Although some accidents are out of our control, most accidents can be prevented. They happen when we let our guard down or take unnecessary risks. Consider the following rules for your farm:

1. Never have small children on a tractor.
2. Keep children away from busy areas. We do not allow children to play on roads or highways. Jeffrey Stoltzfus, Eastern Lancaster County School District Adult Farmer Instructor, observes many farm driveways are busier than many roads.
3. Keep power take off (PTO) shields in place. Replace them after making repairs.
4. Make sure pesticides are stored away from children.
5. Talk about safety with your family at least once a week. Remember farm safety pays. How much would it cost you to hire someone skilled enough to make the decisions and do the work you do on the farm? If you could find such a person, you probably could not afford to hire him or her.

To Monitor Hay

According to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent,

baling hay too green may cause heating that could burn down the hay storage facility.

Every year a barn usually burns due to spontaneous combustion caused by storing hay too wet. Hay should not be stored until the moisture content reaches 20 per cent or less. At higher moisture levels, there is a greater risk of a fire.

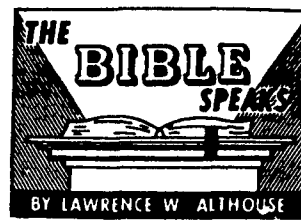
In addition, hay which is baled above 20 per cent has a higher risk of becoming moldy and dusty. To be safe from fires, inspect hay mows at least twice each week during the harvest

season.

Check for hot spots. Hot spots should be checked for their exact temperature using a thermometer. If hay temperatures reach 150 degrees, there is a danger of fire and a daily monitoring of hay temperatures is recommended. If temperatures reach 160 degrees, monitoring should be at four intervals.

Fire pockets can be expected if the temperature of the hay reaches 175 degrees. You should notify the local fire department to be on standby and be ready to move hay. If temperatures reach 185

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THE GOOD EARTH
June 6, 1999

Background Scripture: Genesis 1:1 through 2:4a
Devotional Reading: Psalms 104:24-35

Upon being told that God had created the heavens and the earth in six days, a little boy asked his teacher: "What business had God been in since?" Good question!

And there are a number of different answers with which people reply. Some believe that God has mostly been unemployed since he finished creation. Others would say that it is not so much unemployment as retirement. Still others believe that God has been only part-time since he got the world running like a good machine.

There are others who, like myself, believe that God is still in the same job he had millions of years ago, that the Creation was just the first phase of a long-term project. Jesus himself says: "My Father is working still..." (Jn 5:17) and many texts in the Bible portray a creator who is still creating, still nurturing his creation toward his purpose. I think God is still in the same business.

The Genesis story of creation convinces me of that. In the ancient world it was believed by many that the world was brought into being by accident. The story in Genesis 1, however, indicates a world created, not by accident, but by intention and action: "Let there be light," commands God, "and there was light."

Before the first fiat of creation, all was "without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep." On the very first day of creation, however, was begun a process of bring order out of the chaos. Every decree of creation follows a well-devised plan and suggest a goal. The God of Genesis—which means "beginning"—has a plan and a purpose.

TIME'S TREADMILL

Our whole modern idea of "progress" stems from Genesis. In antiquity, time was generally conceived as being cyclical. Just as there was an endless cycle of seasons, many people believed that time and existence are a closed loop, without beginning or ending. The God of Genesis, however, gave the Hebrews a different concept of time, a linear one with a beginning and an ending. They saw time moving on an incline between Creation

and the fulfillment of God's plan.

Even though that is no longer the novel idea that it once seemed, there are still lots of people who see the world as purposeless. That kind of view makes life seem meaningless and there are many who see the world as a hostile place and time as an enemy.

God's plan begins with light; "Let there be light." Just as the chaos was changed by God's order, so the darkness of the chaos was transformed by light. Light is one of the most enduring spiritual symbols in the world. Light contends with and is victorious over darkness. Touched by the Spirit of God, people are enlightened. In proclaiming the coming of the Messiah, Isaiah said, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light..." (9-2) and "Arise, shine, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you" (60:1) In Jn 1, we read, "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it" (1:5).

VERY GOOD!

Some people believe that the world is essentially an evil place. In contrast to this attitude is the one we find in Genesis. "And God saw that the light was good." After each act of creation, Genesis tells us, "And God saw that it was good." And following his last act of creation, human beings, both male and female, God is even more pleased with the world he has made; "And behold, it was very good."

That might come as a surprise to those who believe that the human race is "just no good." Notice that we are to be created in the divine image. While human nature may be plagued by demonic temptations, there is always a divine flame that burns within each of us. It is not human nature that is to blame but what we have done with it. The same is true of the natural world.

Note, too, that we are to have dominion over the earth, but not to abuse, conquer, or rape it in the name of its own self-fulfillment. Our dominion over the earth must be tempered by God's purpose in creating us: we are to tend it like tenant farmers. It belongs, not to us, but to God and we are at best, stewards of that Good Earth.

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