



# Lancaster Farming

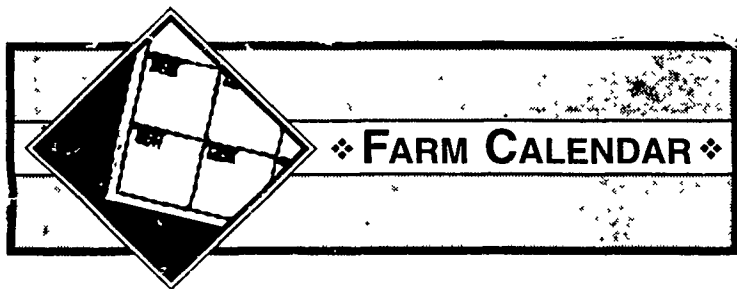
## OPINION

### Good-By Dairy Farmers

The basic formula price of milk has reached the lowest price since 1978. At \$9.79 per hundredweight we say this is a terribly sad day for dairy farmers. Not only is the shock of a 30 to 40 percent reduction in the dairymen's milk check from one month to the next unbelievable, the increase in production costs from the need to purchase hay because of the drought this summer adds a double blow to the ability to make a living, or even pay production costs.

A report released by the Pennsylvania Agriculture Statistics Service estimates that the average cost of production during the 12-month period ending September 1999 was \$13.17 per hundredweight. Pennsylvania Farm Bureau officials believe dairy farmers' costs of production can only increase as a result of the recent drought. At the current basic formula price level, dairy farmers will be falling far short of their cost of production.

We can only say that all the farmland preservation efforts and the milk promotion jingles are not worth a fly on a bull's tail if dairy farmers can't make a living milking cows. And a lot of agri-business activity will go down the manure gutter right along with the exit from the farm of intelligent people who simply have had enough of the stupid manipulation of the milk market in favor of those who control the food chain in America. Good-by dairy farmers, we're sorry to see you go. But we understand.



**Saturday, December 11**  
**Sunday, December 12**

Schadler Retirement Banquet,  
 Lebanon Valley Expo Center,  
 Lebanon, 2 p.m.-5 p.m.

**Monday, December 13**  
 Octorara Young Farmers Meeting,  
 Vo-Ag Dept., Octorara High  
 School, 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 14**  
 New England Vegetable and Berry  
 Conference and Trade Show,  
 Sturbridge Host Hotel, Stur-  
 bridge, Mass., thru Dec. 16.

Ephrata Area Young Farmers  
 Christmas Event, Ephrata  
 Middle School, 7:30 p.m.

LanChester Pork Producers Semi-  
 nar, Yoder's Restaurant, New  
 Holland, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

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

Agribusiness Economic Outlook  
 Conference, Cornell Universi-  
 ty, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 15**  
 Pa. Dairy Stakeholders Confer-  
 ence, Holiday Inn, Grantville,  
 thru Dec. 16.

Crop Planning Workshop and Pes-  
 ticide Update, Hugo's Restau-  
 rant, Brownsville, 9:30  
 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Pa. Seedsmen's Association  
 Annual Meeting, Comfort Inn,  
 Centerville, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Farm Computer Records Work-  
 shop, Walker Township Build-  
 ing, Hublersburg, 10 a.m.-2  
 p.m., also Dec. 22.

Hay Marketing and Handling Con-  
 ference, Carroll County Ag  
 Center, Westminster, Md., 9:30  
 a.m.-3 p.m.

Pa. Tobacco Marketing Associa-  
 tion Auction at Orlon Industrial  
 Park, New Holland, 9 a.m.

Lancaster County Safe Kids Coali-  
 tion End-Of-Year Meeting and  
 Holiday Luncheon, Farm and  
 Home Center, Lancaster, 11:30  
 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**Thursday, December 16**  
 Hay Marketing and Handling Con-  
 ference, Caroline County 4-H  
 Park, Denton, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Passing On The Farm Workshop,  
 Mifflin County Extension  
 Office, Lewistown, 9:30  
 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**Friday, December 17**  
 Chemical Applicator's School,  
 Holiday Inn, Grantville, 8:30  
 a.m.

**Saturday, December 18**  
**Sunday, December 19**

**Monday, December 20**  
 Capitol Region Crop Insect and  
 Disease Management School,  
 Landisville Research Center,  
 Landisville, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., thru  
 Dec. 21.

Octorara Young Farmer meeting,  
 Annual Dairy meeting with  
 Glenn Shirk, Vo-Ag Dept.,  
 Octorara High School, 7:30  
 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 21**  
**Wednesday, December 22**

**Thursday, December 23**  
**Friday, December 24**  
 Lancaster Farming office closed.

**Saturday, December 25**  
 Merry Christmas!

**Sunday, December 26**



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

#### To Check Alfalfa Fields for Weeds

Alfalfa growers should be checking their fields for the presence of weeds, reminds Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent. Over the past several years there has been an increase in the number of alfalfa fields with a heavy infestation of winter annual weeds.

This may be because the product most often used to control these weeds is no longer marketed for use on alfalfa. However, there are several good materials available for use. The Penn State Agronomy Guide lists them and the weed they control. Scout alfalfa fields now to determine what weed species and the intensity of infestation that is present.

If a field has a weed problem in the fall, that problem will become severe in the spring. Winter annual weeds in alfalfa will lower the feeding value, slow the drying process and increase the possibilities of not getting the crop dry before a rainstorm.

Under severe conditions, winter annual weeds will reduce the stand of alfalfa in the field. Remember, the smaller the weed when the herbicide is applied, the better the control. The period between Thanksgiving and Christmas is an excellent time to spray for winter annual weeds in alfalfa fields. Whenever using a pesticide, always read and follow all the directions on the label.

#### To Store Grain To Preserve Quality

Managing stored grain to preserve quality is always important and will pay a premium when the grain is used or sold, according to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent. The amount of time that corn and other grains are stored without impacting the quality of the grain decreases as the grain temperature and moisture increases.

Both the moisture content and the temperature must be controlled if quality grain is desired. Corn with low test weight will reduce the time that the grain maybe stored. The major factors which may cause grain deterioration while in storage are:

1. inadequate drying before going into storage,
2. improper cooling of grain after drying,
3. inadequate monitoring of grain in storage,
4. poor initial grain quality and
5. improper insect control while grain is in storage.

Grain must be checked often for signs of moisture migration.

Look for crusting, wet, slimy grain, ice or frost accumulation or heating.

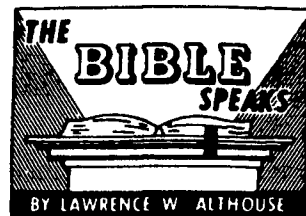
Finding frost accumulation on the under side of the bin roof on cool mornings before the sun warms the roof is a sign that moisture maybe a problem. If crusting or spoilage occurs, it must be removed before aeration is started.

#### To Control Temperature of Stored Grain

Most of the grain in storage which goes out of condition is caused by not controlling the temperature than any other reason, according to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent. Temperature differences in the grain bin will cause convection currents to create a slow movement of air through the bin. Typically the cooler air in the bin will settle to the bottom while the warmer air rises picking up moisture as it moves upward.

When the warm air reaches the cooler grain at the top of the bin, it cools and some of the moisture it is carrying is deposited on the grain. While this movement of air and moisture is very slow, over a course of two to three weeks, a considerable amount of moisture can collect at the top of the bin. This will cause mold growth and spoilage if not controlled. To reduce moisture migration due to temperatures, cool grain to between 35 and 40 degrees. Typically grain going into storage is between 50 and 80 degrees. Aerate grain on days that the outside daily temperature is 10 to 15 degrees cooler than the grain temperature. Check grain thoroughly to see that the entire bin has cooled before stopping fans.

*Feather Prof's Footnote. "In the confrontation between the stream and the rock, the stream always wins. Not through strength but through persistence."*



**IT'S OK TO  
 COMPROMISE, IF . . .**  
 December 12, 1999

**Background Scripture:**  
 Matthew 4:2-17.  
**Devotional Reading:**  
 Luke 4:14-21.

This is a practical era we live in. We can rationalize almost any kind of behavior. The soldiers who participated in the Holocaust were "only following orders." The business executive who authorized dishonesty and deceit believes he or she had "the best interests of the company" at heart. People justify hurtful deeds saying that "you have to go along to get along." I was amazed in the aftermath of the Columbine High School tragedy in Littleton, Colorado how people debated the answer of the young girl (and I'm sorry I can't recall her name) who refused to deny that she believed in God and was shot and killed as a result.

I believe that compromise is important in our society, particularly when we are talking of means, but not when we speak of goals. I have no problem with the debate between how best to help the poor and homeless. Some say the welfare program is essential; others believe that welfare makes the problem worse. But, if we are against helping the poor and needy because we believe they bring it upon themselves, then I cannot compromise on that because Jesus didn't. So long as we pursue moral goals, we may disagree on the means and compromise for the sake of the goal.

#### Live Dog vs., Dead Hero

I have forgotten which of the British Archbishops advised a comrade with the admonition that it is "better to be a live dog, than a dead hero." Do you believe that? I heard someone say that the German Christian martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer was foolish to end up on Nazi gallows in the closing days of the war. "He should have said he was wrong in his opposition to Hitler and had seen the light. He would have survived and probably still be alive today." Lots of people would buy that. Would you?

Jesus faced the same kind of dilemma. He believed he was called

of God for a messianic task. So, to prepare for his mission, he went out into the desert where he fasted for 40 days and nights. Why did he do that? One reason was that the people of Israel had wandered in the wilderness for 40 years before they entered the Promised Land. He felt a need to share in the desert experience. Secondly, fasting in a deserted place was a time-honored means of purification and renewal. Freed of things the spirit can emerge into the consciousness.

#### Are You Sure?

Just as the people of Israel were tested in the wilderness, so was Jesus. The Israelites' first test concerned hunger and God fed them in the wilderness with manna. So, the tempter comes to Jesus in the wilderness and says, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread" (4:3). Note how the tempter plays on Jesus' ego and certainty: "If you are the Son of God . . ." Jesus' response is an echo of Deuteronomy 8:3, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (4:4).

The second test is also a taunt to prove that he really is whom he believes he is: taking him to the high pinnacle of the temple, he challenges him: "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down." If you really are the Messiah then God will surely save your life. But Jesus replied with another allusion to Deuteronomy, this time 6:16: "You shall not tempt the Lord your God" (4:7).

The third temptation is perhaps the most insidious of all: taking him to a high mountain and showing Jesus all the kingdoms of the world, the tempter says, "All these I will give you if you fall down and worship me" (4:9). And Jesus replies with another Deuteronomy quotation: "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve" (4:10).

It's OK to compromise — when what you gain in the compromise does not run contrary to your loyalty to God and His kingdom.

### Lancaster Farming

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—by—

### Lancaster Farming, Inc.

A Steinman Enterprise

William J. Burgess General Manager  
 Everett R. Newswanger Managing Editor

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