



# Lancaster Farming

## OPINION

### Biosecurity For Profitability

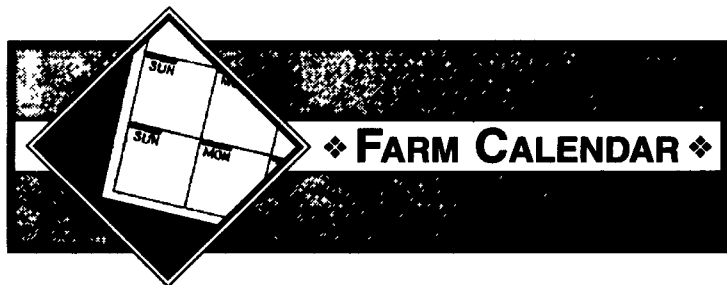
Biosecurity on dairy farms in the past was not considered very important. Unlike the confinement practices of other species, cows were not as concentrated, they were large animals often free to run in the pasture, and considered to have no great susceptibility to diseases from other farms. The Registered dairy cow business was enhanced by having truckers from a by-gone era such as the Hostetter brothers of Lancaster, transport purebred animals in disinfected trucks. But beyond this, trucks and visitors to a dairy farm were not considered a threat to herd health.

But today, this idea has been updated along with most other good management practices. Many technological advances in the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of disease have contributed significantly to the increase in dairy farm production and productivity. In order for disease to occur on a farm, the host animal, the disease organism, and the environment must interact favorably. The aim of biosecurity is to intervene strategically, thus preventing this interaction.

According to Maurice Clarke, D.V.M., field veterinarian, Maryland Department of Agriculture, if the dairy farm is to be successful, the importance of biosecurity must be emphasized. The objective is to prevent disease from being introduced on the farm and to prevent infectious disease from moving among animal groups on the farm. Clarke says young calves and older and weak animals are very susceptible to infectious organisms and should be kept in separate groups away from the general dairy herd. Use the proper antibiotics to treat sick animals and make every effort to insure that the animal environment on the farm is clean. Sanitation is critical for a successful disease control program.

Visitors to the farm should not be allowed unrestricted movement on the farm. They should observe the same protocol as farm workers which includes disinfecting boots and changing clothing before moving to a different group of animals on the farm. Many dairy farmers will consider this impractical—until they have a major outbreak of animal sickness that leads to a large bill from their veterinarian. Then they will begin to take seriously the need for biosecurity.

To us, it would make more sense to start biosecurity before you have a costly disease problem on your dairy farm.



Saturday, June 3

Breeders Fair, Cecil County Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Centre County Dairy Princess Pageant, Logan Grange Hall, Pleasant Gap, 7:30 p.m.  
Chester County Dairy Princess Pageant, Cochranville Strawberry Festival.

Lebanon County Dairy Princess Pageant, Lebanon Vo-Tech School, Lebanon, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 4

John Deere Antique Tractor Show and Pulls, St. Peter's Church, near Shimersville, 9 a.m.

Schuylkill County Dairy Princess Pageant, Schuylkill County Ag Center, Pottsville, 12:30 p.m.

Monday, June 5

Tioga County Dairy Princess Pageant, Tioga County Fair, Whitneyville, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, June 6

Twilight Grape and Bramble Meeting, DeCou's Hilltop Orchards, Shiloh, N.J., 6:15 p.m.

Pa. Rural Health Conference, Nittany Lion Inn, thru June 9.

York County Beekeeper's Meeting, 4-H Center, York, 6:30 p.m.

Delmarva Farmland Protection Training Workshop, U. of Md., Eastern Shore.

Wednesday, June 7

Ag Research Symposium, Capitol East Wing, Harrisburg, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Delmarva Farmland Protection Training Workshop, Caroline College Center, Chesapeake College, Wye Mills, Md.

Thursday, June 8

World Pork Expo, Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis, Ind., thru June 10.

Central Susquehanna Grain Marketing Club, Watson Inn, Watsontown, 7 a.m.

Friday, June 9

Franklin County Dairy Princess Pageant, Lighthouse Restaurant, Chambersburg, 7 p.m.

Saturday, June 10

Dairy Cattle Field Day, Clarksville Facility of the Central Maryland Research and Education Center, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Lancaster County Dairy Princess Pageant, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 7 p.m.

Lycoming County Dairy Princess Pageant, Nesbitt Fire Hall, Nesbitt, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 11

Butler County Dairy Princess Pageant, Clearview Mall, Butler, 2 p.m.

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### Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

#### To Look For Poisonous Plants — I

Pennsylvania has about 100 toxic plants. Many of these may cause deaths of numerous domestic livestock every year, according to Chester Hughes, Lancaster County extension livestock agent.

Factors contributing to plant poisoning are starvation, accidental eating, and browsing habits of animals.

With houses springing up everywhere, the rural/urban interface is dramatically increasing and many farm neighbors are unfamiliar with the plants that are toxic.

Following are some common plants that are poisonous to livestock and should not be tossed over the fence to grazing animals.

Garden iris will produce gastroenteritis when ingested in sufficient amounts. Holly berries are not very palatable but they have caused poisoning in animals.

Hogs, sheep, cattle, and goats are especially susceptible to poisoning from overdose of Morning Glory's hallucinogenic seeds.

#### To Look For Poisonous Plants — II

Chester Hughes, Lancaster County extension livestock agent, reports farmers need to make sure livestock do not come in contact with poisonous plants.

Ruminants may experience difficult breathing, elevated temperatures, monogastrics, and show anorexia and incoordination after eating bracken fern. Rhubarb toxicity symptoms include staggers, excessive salivation, convulsions, and death.

Death may occur within a few hours following ingestion of wilted leaves of wild cherry. The entire yew plant contains poisonous alkaloids and survival of livestock after eating is rare.

All species of livestock have exhibited toxicosis from English ivy.

With the increasing number of new houses in rural areas, it is important all livestock farmers check their fields for these plants and explain to their neighbors the importance of not throwing

yard and plant material in pastures and plant shrubs near fence lines.

#### To Check Tobacco Plants For Blue Mold

Weather conditions have been favorable for the movement of blue mold spores up the East Coast, according to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County extension agronomy agent.

Blue mold was first discovered in Florida March 22. Weather conditions during most of early April were favorable for the movement of blue mold northward.

Blue mold has been reported in Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. Many recent storm fronts had the potential of moving blue mold spores from infected areas to Pennsylvania.

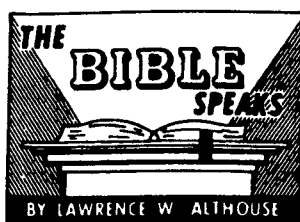
Several times the weather conditions in Pennsylvania were also favorable for blue mold development.

Overcast and rainy weather between May 19 and May 23 and Memorial Day weekend were ideal for the transportation and survival of blue mold spores, especially in plant beds and greenhouses.

Tobacco plants should be checked very carefully for the next several weeks for any sign of blue mold.

*Feather Prof's Footnote: "If there is a better solution, then find it."*

— Thomas Edison



### LETTING THE GLORY OUT!

Background Scripture: Philippians 1:12-30.  
Devotional Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9.

We all like to win, don't we? If we can't do it personally, then we want to identify with a winner or winning team. I think there is too much emphasis upon winning today. I don't think that winning is the only thing.

Actually, real life is about both winning and losing. From the world's standpoint, the Apostle Paul was a winner and a loser. Paul is languishing in Roman imprisonment and we do not know whether he ever gained his freedom. Nevertheless, his letter tells us that Paul was not the loser in this episode. Even if he was put to death here, Paul was the winner because of his remarkable attitude.

For one thing, Paul saw his imprisonment as an opportunity: "I want you to know brethren that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel . . ." (12,13). According to stress research, being imprisoned is one of the most stressful of experiences because for most people it spells defeat and repudiation.

But Paul was elated in his imprisonment because he chose to look at his experience differently: his imprisonment was actually

serving to make known the name and power of Jesus Christ.

You can't defeat a person who insists upon seeing the opportunities instead of the obstacles of life.

#### It Doesn't Matter

In what would have discouraged most others, Paul chose to see the bright instead of the dark side: ". . . most of the brethren have been made confident in the Lord . . . and are much more bold to speak the word of God without fear. Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will."

Wouldn't that make you angry and resentful? But Paul cannot be defeated: "What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in that I rejoice" (1:14-18). Paul may be facing execution. Wouldn't that pitch most of us into despair? But you can't defeat Paul with the "facts" because he knows there is something more than the facts. "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If it is to be life in the flesh that means fruitful labor for me. Yet, which I choose I cannot tell" (1:21). If he lives he will win and if he dies he will win also, for he regards it as an opportunity: "Christ will be honored in my body by life or death" (1:20). How can you defeat a guy like that? He wins regardless of what you do.

It is not, however, because Paul is a winner in himself, but because he ties his life to God in Christ. If he were evaluating this on the basis of his own personal status, Paul would be a big loser. But Paul does not use personal gain as a yardstick. Only the gospel of Jesus Christ. That is why

he cannot be defeated — because God cannot be defeated.

#### In A Better Way

In Josephus Daniels' biography of Woodrow Wilson, he says: "Wilson never knew defeat, for defeat never comes to any man until he admits it."

"Do not trouble about things we have fought for," Wilson told a friend. "They are sure to prevail. They are only delayed. And I will make this concession to Providence — it may come in a better way than we suppose." For the Christian, defeat is only label for the short run. We do not have to have the victory, because ultimately God will have it and share it.

Edwin Markham wrote a poem, "Victory in Defeat," in which he says: "Defeat may serve as well as victory, To shake the soul and let the glory out."

Note: In the Steps of Paul to Rome & Greece, an 18-day tour conducted by Larry and Valere Althouse, is scheduled for April 2001. If interested, please contact us at 4412 Shenandoah Ave., Dallas TX 75205/e-mail: althouses@aol.com; fax: (214) 52109312.

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