

# Lancaster Farming

## OPINION

### Accountability Is Key

Agricultural commodity producers want some kind of accountability most of the time.

While many large producer organizations are somewhat divided over whether the current commodity checkoffs should continue or not, one thing is certain: producers deserve accountability.

They want proof that the dollars deducted from the sale of the items either at auction or at private sale are going to move that product in the marketplace.

How can anyone blame them?

Since there was some controversy over the way USDA handled the pork checkoff referendum, some groups, such as the Livestock Marketing Association (LMA), do not believe the USDA should be so heavy handed.

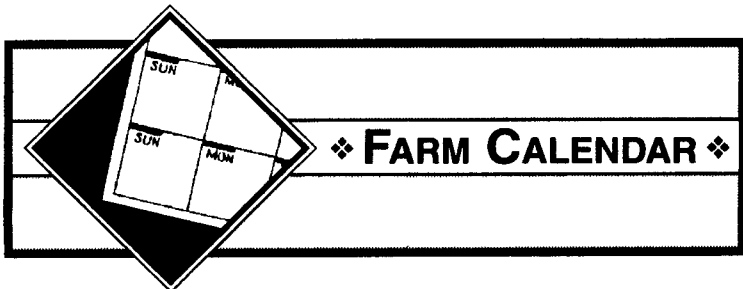
"It's time to start treating American beef producers like citizens, and not suspects," said John Willis, LMA president.

Willis and the LMA were recently questioning why there would be so many delays for the go-ahead beef checkoff vote in the time when primaries, two conventions, and a Presidential election will have passed. The question: do beef producers have the right to decide whether to keep spending their own money on the checkoff?

LMA already has its own petitions, submitted to the USDA in November 1999.

As for the pork checkoff referendum, ballots won't be counted until Nov. 29, according to Kathy Heil of the Lancaster Farm Service Agency.

In the meantime, rather than trying to decide whether checkoffs are necessary, what about real efforts about accountability? Are there methods to prove where the money is going, and why?



**Saturday, October 7**  
South Jersey Flower Growers Association 12th Annual Fall Trade Show, Salem County Fairgrounds, Woodstown, N.J.

Hereford Breeders Classic Sale, Gettysburg.

Commercial Scale Chestnut Production Field Day, Delmarvelous Chestnuts, Nancy and Gary Pettitt Orchard, Townsend, Del., 3 p.m.-dusk.  
National Apple Harvest Festival, South Mountain Fairgrounds, Arendtsville, also Oct. 8 and 14-15.

**Sunday, October 8**

**Monday, October 9**  
Poultry Health and Management Seminar, Kreider Restaurant, Manheim, noon.

Manheim Community Farm Show, thru Oct. 13.

**Tuesday, October 10**  
Dairy Lea Cooperative Annual Meeting, Holiday Inn, Liverpool, N.Y., thru Oct. 11.

Atlantic Coast Veterinary Conference, Taj Mahal, Atlantic City, N.J., thru Oct. 12.

Lycoming County Beekeepers Association meeting, Montoursville Borough Building, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 11**  
Grazing Series For Ag Lenders, Bankers, and Accountants, Hotel Saxonburg, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Thursday, October 12**  
55th Annual Pa. National Horse Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Oct. 21.

Unionville Community Fair, thru Oct. 14.

Grazing Series For Ag Lenders, Bankers, and Accountants, New Franklin Volunteer Fire Company, New Franklin, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Schuylkill County Annual Extension Meeting, Sacramento

Fire Company, Sacramento, 6:30 p.m.

Forest Management and Stewardship Program Series, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Flemington, N.J., 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Dairy Science 101, Frederick County Office of Maryland Cooperative Extension, Frederick, 10 a.m.-noon, Thursdays thru Nov. 16.

Dairy Farmers Meeting, Ronks Fire Hall, Ronks, 7:30 p.m.

**Friday, October 13**

Statewide Growing Greener Conference, Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, State College, thru Oct. 14.

Uniontown Poultry and Farm Show, thru Oct. 15.

**Saturday, October 14**

Ohio Beef and Forage Day, EORDC, Caldwell, Ohio.

Backyard Composting Workshop, 4-H Building, Troy Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.-noon.

**Sunday, October 15**

Lehigh County Open Gate Farm Tour, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

**Monday, October 16**

National Poultry Waste Symposium, Ocean City, Md., thru Oct. 18.

**Tuesday, October 17**

Ephrata Area Young Farmers Mentoring Meeting, Ephrata High School, 7:30 p.m.

Dillsburg Community Fair, thru Oct. 21.

Field Walk Meeting, Jeff Werner Farm, 10 a.m.-noon.

Pa. Breast Cancer Coalition, Whitaker Center for Science and Arts, thru Oct. 18.

Lancaster County 4-H Recognition Night, Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland, 6:30 p.m.

Lycoming County Extension annual meeting, Eldred Township Fire Hall, Warrensville, 7 p.m.

Solanco Young Farmers meeting, Silage Corn Manage-



**Now Is  
The Time**  
By John Schwartz

Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent

#### To Build Manure Pit Barriers

Dr. Dennis Murphy, Penn State professor of agricultural and biological engineering, recently reported of a recent farm fatality that was the result of a tractor with a blade sliding into a manure pit while scraping manure.

The following safety precautions concerning tractors and loaders and manure pits may save lives and prevent this tragedy from occurring on your farm.

A tractor or loader scraping or dumping at a push off ramp could slide over the edge of the ramp. This might happen because of operator error, mechani-

cal failure, or simply a too slick surface.

A machine that goes over the edge into a pit or storage can result in a fatal crushing, entrapment, or drowning of the operator. Install a guardrail or safety bar at the push-off point to prevent the tractor or skid loader from sliding over the edge.

An additional safety measure, especially if small children are on the farm, would be to install a chainlink gate in front of the guardrail or safety bar. This gate may also be topped with barbed wire to discourage older children from exploring the dangerous manure pit.

#### To Understand Types Of Immunity

Many vaccines are available in killed and modified live form.

According to Chester Hughes, Lancaster County extension livestock agent, we must understand how the different types of vaccines work before we decide which form to use.

There are two separate and distinct parts of the immune system. The first is the humoral (antibody) system and the second is the cellular (cell-mediated) system. As a general statement, when protecting against bacterial pathogens (Clostridium and Pasturella), we want to stimulate humoral immunity. When we are protecting against viral pathogens (IBR and BVD), we want to stimulate cellular immunity.

So, when thinking about the viral respiratory diseases such as IBR, BVD P13 and BRSV, cellular immunity is most important.

The best option is to schedule a meeting with your herd health veterinarian so that person may advise you on a vaccination program specific for your herd.

#### To Understand Vaccines

Chester Hughes, Lancaster County extension livestock agent, reminds farmers to understand the differences between modified live and killed vaccines.

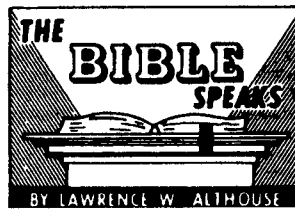
Killed vaccines do not stimulate local immunity (example: nasal cavity) at all and do not stimulate or poorly stimulate cellular immunity. Killed vaccines are very effective in stimulating humoral (antibody) immunity. Killed vaccines generally require multiple doses (2-4 weeks apart) to immunize.

One dose has no benefit at all. The immunity stimulated by killed vaccines is short-lived, requiring boosters every few months to one year for maintenance.

Modified live vaccines provide cellular and humoral immunity that persists for years to life and are the first choice for successful immunization of young animals.

Modified live vaccines may cause abortion in unprotected pregnant animals. Modified live vaccines are less expensive per dose than killed products and require fewer doses to adequately immunize the animal.

*Feather Prof's Footnote:* "Many times the difference between failure and success is doing something nearly right or doing it exactly right."



#### WHAT'S WRONG WITH GOD'S EYES?

**Background Scripture:**  
1 Samuel 15:10 through 16:13.  
**Devotional Reading:**  
Isaiah 55:6-11.

To celebrate my 70th birthday, earlier this year I committed myself to reading the massive masterpiece by my seminary professor, Reinhold Niebuhr, called "The Nature and Destiny of Man."

In one of the numerous lists inspired by the turn of the millennium, it was voted one of the most important of the 20th century.

One of its great themes is the arrogance of human nature, not in that we sin, but that we presume that we are righteous. "The whole burden of the prophetic message," Niebuhr writes, "is that there is only one God... and that the sin of man consists in the vanity by which he imagines himself, his nations, his cultures, his civilizations to be divine."

On another occasion he said that "not much evil is done by evil men; most of the evil is done by good people who do not know that they are not good."

Is there any greater human arrogance than for us to assume that God sees things pretty much as we see them? This is the seat of Saul's failure — he presumes that God agrees with him! Of course, he didn't say it that way, but that's the way he acted.

Note the breezy confidence with which he greets the angry Samuel: "Blessed be you to the Lord; I have performed the commandment of the Lord" (15:13). He has blatantly disobeyed God's command, but he pretends that what he did was just the oppo-

site.

#### 'In Your Own Eyes'

In the midst of this great sales pitch, Samuel shouts: "Stop! I will tell you what the Lord said to me this night" (15:16). Although God has called Saul, and despite his promises to be with him, Saul has continued to see himself as the wrong man for the job.

Samuel says: "Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel?"

Saul's failure was his willful refusal to accept what God saw in him. To cling doggedly to such a diminished view of ourselves, despite God's assurances, is a sin, not humility.

Another example of the difference between what Saul and God saw is the king's steadfast dependence, not upon doing God's will, but in practicing rituals. His perception of what God wanted of him was radically different. Samuel challenges him: "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice."

That was not the first nor last time in history when people have chosen ritual instead of obedience. Is it not still one of our problems?

Saul becomes a pathetic character here. Although he acknowledges his failure, "I have sinned," he goes on to make a convenient and transparent excuse: "I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord... because I feared the people and obeyed their voice" (15:26). In other words, it is really their fault. The leader has been misled by his followers! And now he expects that his easy repentance will negate the consequences.

#### Whose Voice?

Saul has made an all too common and human error: he has failed to see that *Vox populi non vox Dei* — "The voice of the people is not the voice of God." In his exposition of this passage in

"The Interpreter's Bible," John C. Schroeder says something that jarred me: "The will of the majority is not the divine oracle. To operate a society by the will of the majority has proven to be a satisfactory way of government in a democracy. But in history, the majority is seldom right — some minority is. This the reason why democracies, if they are to survive, must always protect the minorities. Some of them may be the voice of God."

Saul placed his confidence in a poll of public opinion.

God then instructs Samuel to go to Bethlehem where the prophet is to anoint God's choice as Saul's successor. When he comes to Jesse's family, as instructed, he is amazed that God does not seem to choose any of Jesse's sons. "Surely," says Samuel, "the Lord's anointed is before him," but God tells him, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (16:7).

Learning that there is one son, the youngest, David, who is not present, Samuel sends for him. And, when the young David arrives, the Lord says to Samuel, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he." God has seen in David what Samuel and others — and even we — would not be likely to see. There's nothing wrong in not being able to have God's 20/20 vision; what is wrong is to pretend that our vision is 20/20, like his."

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