

# Lancaster Farming

## OPINION

### 'Hands-On' Dairying

Throughout the course of the summer, many dairy farms in the Mid-Atlantic open their doors, so to speak, to outside visitors, farm and nonfarm alike, to see how a dairy operates.

It can be fun. It can also be a great challenge not only to educate the public about how dairies work, but dealing with the public itself.

Hats off, then, to Oregon Dairy, who every year conduct the annual Oregon Dairy Family Farm Days. The open house event is scheduled June 12-14 this year, from 11 a.m.-7 p.m., at the farm off Rt. 272 and 222 north of Lancaster.

Last year the event drew more than 8,000 people. Those visitors enjoyed a variety of dairy and agriculture activities in celebration of June Dairy Month. It's almost a "hands-on" event for the public.

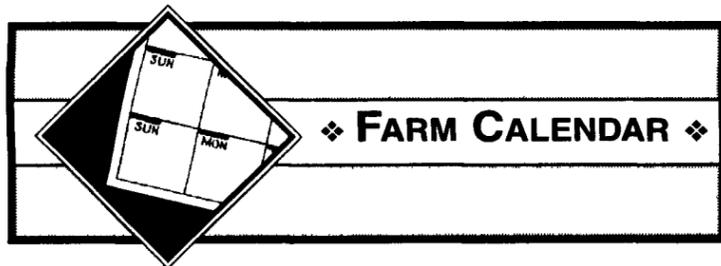
Farm managers and volunteers take the general public on a short hay wagon tour, where exhibits from a variety of milk industry companies and agencies provide a great deal of information about the state's dairy industry.

And of course there are the free ice cream sundaes. This year they will have the chicken barbecue dinner, also, for a small fee.

Point is, in light of the recent scares about foot and mouth disease, and with a prolonged legislative concern about protecting the public from harms that can be stopped by the simple suggestion of washing your hands after you touch animals and before you eat — isn't it nice to know that the nonfarm public is welcome to the farm?

Let's hope others take these examples to heart. For others who are considering something similar to what Oregon Dairy does: please, don't keep the public away from knowing where their food comes from.

And happy June Dairy Month from all of us here at *Lancaster Farming!*



**Saturday, June 2**  
Maryland Walnut Council Workshop, Western Maryland Research and Education Center, Keedysville, Md., (301) 695-6659.  
51st Annual West Virginia Purebred Sheep Breeders Stud Ram and Ewe Club Lamb Sale, Tri-County Fairgrounds, Petersburg, W.Va., (302) 257-4372.  
Lebanon County Dairy Princess Pageant, Lebanon County Career and Technology Center, Lebanon, 7:30 p.m.  
Wyoming-Lackawanna County Dairy Princess Pageant, Factoryville Fire Hall, Factoryville, 7:30 p.m.  
Franklin County Dairy Princess Pageant, Lighthouse Restaurant, Chambersburg, 7 p.m.  
Centre County Dairy Princess Pageant, Logan Grange, Pleasant Gap, 7:30 p.m.  
Wayne County Dairy Princess Pageant, Mt. Pleasant Fire Hall, Mt. Pleasant, 7:45 p.m.  
Huntingdon County Dairy Princess Pageant, Standing Stone Elementary School, Huntingdon, 7 p.m.  
Bradford County Tree Identification, Hills Creek State Park, 10 a.m., (570) 836-4731.

**Sunday, June 3**  
Bedford County Dairy Princess Pageant, Arena Restaurant, Bedford, 1 p.m.  
Butler County Dairy Princess Pageant, Clearview Mall, Butler, 2 p.m.

**Monday, June 4**  
Pa. Rural Health Conference, Penn State Conference Center Hotel, State College, thru June 5.  
Grief Through A Child's Eye, Berks County Ag Center, 7

p.m.-9 p.m.  
Water Forum, Quality Inn and Suites, Lancaster, 6 p.m., (717) 705-4904.

**Tuesday, June 5**  
Dauphin County Extension Awareness Day, Dauphin County Ag and Natural Resources Center, Dauphin, (717) 921-8803.  
Southeast Pa. Fruit Growers Twilight Tour, Shanesville Orchard, Berks County, 6:30 p.m., (610) 378-1327.

**Wednesday, June 6**  
Wildlife Course sponsored by Sustainable Forestry Initiatives of Pa., Wayne County, (814) 867-9299.  
4-H Strawberry Roundup, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 9:30 a.m., (717) 394-6851.

**Thursday, June 7**  
**Friday, June 8**  
Cumberland County Dairy Princess Pageant, Monroe Township Municipal Hall, Mechanicsburg, 8 p.m.  
Indiana County Dairy Princess Pageant, Marion Center Presbyterian Church, 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, June 9**  
Farm and Rural Safety Day, Leesport Farmers Market, Leesport, (610) 562-8230 or (610) 683-5344.  
Empire State Meat Goat Show, Whitney Point, N.Y., (607) 656-8826.  
Lancaster County Dairy Princess Pageant, Farm and Home Center, 6 p.m.  
Luzerne County Dairy Princess Pageant, Wall Mart, New Castle, 7:30 p.m.  
Lycoming County Dairy Princess Pageant, Nisbet Volunteer Fire Hall, 7:30 p.m.

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### Now Is The Time

By Leon Ressler

Lancaster County Extension Director

#### To Evaluate Uneven Corn Fields For Yield Impact

Dr. Greg Roth, Penn State corn management specialist, provides the following guidelines for evaluating corn fields with uneven emergence.

Many corn fields have good stands despite the earlier period of dry weather, but some fields have late emerging plants and uneven stands. This is most common in tilled soils in areas with clay knobs, poor soil structure, or cloddy soils which cause poor seed-to-soil contact. Since the recent rains, many of these gaps are filling in with late-emerging plants and the result is a mixture of larger and smaller plants. An important question to ask is how much will this variation impact yield?

A study conducted at the University of Wisconsin and University of Illinois several years ago addressed this question. This study showed that when one fourth of the plants emerged within the row about three weeks later than the others, yields were reduced about

10 percent relative to a uniform stand. When one half to three fourth plants emerged three weeks later, the yield loss was about 20 to 22 percent relative to a uniform stand.

The later plants in the mixed stands will have higher moisture content at harvest. They will also be subject to more silk clippings by rootworm beetles. If the original stand were destroyed and replanted three weeks later, yields were reduced by 12 percent relative to the original early planting.

As a result, replanting a mixed stand might result in a 10 percent yield benefit if more than half of the stand was delayed in emergence. There are costs and risks involved with replanting, however. Since most fields have much less delayed emergence than 50 percent, replanting is probably not justified in most cases.

#### To Prepare For Monitoring Worm Pests Of Sweet Corn

Dr. Shelby Fleischer and others in the Department of Entomology report that using pheromone lures to monitor for the three "worm" pests of sweet corn — European corn borer, corn earworm, and the fall armyworm — has been very effective.

Proper monitoring allows growers to increase spray frequency when populations are high and decrease spray frequency when populations are low. Using trap counts to adjust spray frequency results in fewer total sprays, offering a benefit in terms of both dollar savings on pesticide and time saved by not spraying.

A pheromone trap is designed to attract only males of the desired species using chemicals that resemble insect sex pheromones (sexual attractants). However, insect pheromones are very complicated blends of volatile chemicals and similar species are often attracted to similar blends.

If a lure does not have the exact chemicals in the correct proportions, it may attract insects other

than the insect you want to trap. It is these unwanted (although often very similar) insect species that are called "nontarget captures." Nontarget captures artificially inflate the trap count, giving the appearance that there is more pest insects than is truly the case. When an error from nontarget captures is not corrected, it can result in recommendations to spray when sprays are not needed.

For both the European corn borer and the corn earworm, pheromone traps have been effective in accurately representing the population by mostly capturing the desired species.

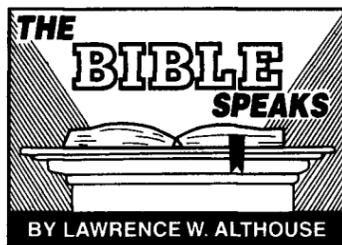
Unfortunately, the current pheromone lure for the fall armyworm attracts a few species besides fall armyworm. In the past, the most common nontarget capture in fall armyworm pheromone traps was an insect called *Leucania phragmatidicola*, a moth without a common name. *L. phragmatidicola* feeds on grass and is not known to be a pest of sweet corn. When a fall armyworm pheromone trap erroneously captures high numbers of *L. phragmatidicola*, it gives the appearance that the fall armyworm population is greater than its true size. This case of mistaken identity can result in unnecessary spray applications.

Users of blacklight traps must be just as careful in their identification because the blacklight traps will capture most nocturnal insects and therefore almost certainly have look-alike species to the fall armyworm.

The Penn State Entomology Department staff has developed a Webpage with pictures highlighting some of the characters that can be used to identify the fall armyworm and distinguish it from *L. phragmatidicola*. You can find this Website at <http://www.ento.psu.edu/vegetable/armyworm/armyworm.html>.

**Quote of the Week:**  
"It is not the employer who pays wages — he only handles the money. It is the product that pays wages."

— Henry Ford



### THE COST OF 'TOUGH' TALK

**Background Scripture:**  
1 Kings 12; 2 Chronicles 10:1 through 11:12.

**Devotional Reading:**  
Matthew 11:27-30.

In our society, especially in the media, our leaders are usually judged on the basis of how "tough" they talk.

"Tough" is good, a sign of strength. Less than "tough" is not good, a sure indication of weakness. This is true even of people who regard themselves as followers of Jesus Christ, even though, according to the gospels, Jesus rarely if ever talked "tough" per se.

Jesus spoke some hard truths, but he did not seek to intimidate his hearers. That's what "tough" talk is all about — coping by intimidation.

Until our own era, "tough" talk was pretty much the private property of the male sex. Men were, and are, expected to talk "tough." Women were not. Today, lots of women are sounding a lot like men

with their own "tough" talk. What God wants from all of us, I believe, is wise, not necessarily "tough" talk.

#### Appeal To Reason

In 1 Kings 12, we see King Solomon's heir apparent, Rehoboam, confronted with a great opportunity to perpetuate the kingdom that his father Solomon and his grandfather David so carefully put together. This is a pivotal moment — the nation can just as easily break apart as continue unified.

Truthfully but respectfully, Rehoboam, the unofficial leader of the northern tribes (don't confuse him with Rehoboam), says to the heir apparent, "Your father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke upon us, and we will serve you" (1 Ki. 12:4).

It sounds like a strong plea for compromise. To his credit, Rehoboam, instead of replying immediately, asks for three days to reply. Then he consults with his advisers. Unfortunately, the advisers seem to form two distinct groups: the older ones who had served his father and the younger ones with whom he grew up. Old vs. new is not necessarily the best way to categorize counsel. Truth and wisdom are not the special province of either group.

The old advisers tell him: "If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them and speak good words to them... then they will be your servants forever" (v. 7). They are not advising him to grovel before the northern tribes, but to speak to them with good will and reason. But, because they were older men, he disregarded their wisdom. His superfragile ego

demanding that he make the northerners grovel before him.

#### 'In Your Face!'

Instead, he turned to the young advisers. Because they were close to the heir apparent, they were not very likely to give him advice he didn't want — and they did not: "Thus shall you speak to this people... 'My little finger is thicker than my father's loins'" (12:10).

Men seem to win points when they talk "tough," but if they use crude language, they score even more highly. They have appealed to his masculinity, implying that he will be less a real man than his father if he does not intimidate the northerners. How much of our behavior today is still based upon allusions to male genitalia?

So, instead of good will and a spirit of compromise, Rehoboam responds with the "tough" talk: "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions" (12:14). In today's vernacular, he is saying "In your face!" One can almost hear his youthful advisers chorusing, "That's telling them, Rehoboam. Right on!"

Rehoboam pumped up his ego, but lost a golden opportunity. The northern tribes left the kingdom, never to return. What his father and grandfather had nurtured now lay in ruins.

That is the price of talking "tough" when we ought to be talking "wise."

### Lancaster Farming

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