

Lancaster Farming

OPINION

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pus is relegating Cooperative Extension to second-class status. University leaders apparently view Extension as a "state service agency." I would argue, however, that Extension is in reality an educational program in its pure form, providing practical, research-based education and information to diverse audiences across Maryland.

Meeting the Extension budget reductions proposed by the university will require draconian measures that would make it difficult if not impossible to provide the practical education that so many have become accustomed to. For example, these measures could include switching from a county-based to a regional Extension presence and eliminating state support for the Master Gardener program, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, and the Home & Garden Information Center.

Such drastic actions would lead to a direct loss of county funds, a significant decline in grant funds, and downsizing in terms of both people and facilities. The ultimate result, I believe, would be an inability to meet our mandated obligation to serve the residents of Maryland.

The University of Maryland is fast becoming recognized as a first-class research institution, which is as it should be. But there's no reason it can't also continue to be respected as a land-grant university that supports America's historic tripartite mission of research, instruction, and outreach.

The bottom line is that Extension is perfectly willing to shoulder its share of the university's budget cuts; however, we do not think it appropriate to take cuts that are higher than other academic and research units. If some action is not taken to correct the imbalance imposed by the proposed university budget, we might as well declare Extension dead, close the doors, turn out the lights, and go home.

There seems to be two ways to tackle our current pricing situation. One is CWT, which attacks our supply and demand imbalance to increase milk prices. The other is to wait for enough dairy farmers to go out of business to bring markets into alignment so milk prices will increase for a short period of time.

As a dairy farmer involved in an 80-cow herd, I know how difficult it is to invest \$0.179 per hundredweight right now. However, I also recognize that CWT will increase milk prices very quickly. Additionally, I know that the \$.179 per hundredweight investment in CWT will be for 12 months and 12 months only, and the investment rate will not increase. The assignment form that cooperatives or independent farmers sign will clearly state this.

CWT sets out to reduce the milk supply by offering farmers incentives to reduce milk production — as opposed to forcing all farms to cut back on production. Although it cannot restrict imports, CWT does attack international trade by going on the offensive as it will significantly increase the amount of butter and cheese this country exports. There has been much work done to try and get the federal government to help create fairer trade for dairy farmers. That work will continue and will be accomplished if farmers find ways to work together. However, the expectation that imports will be cut to zero is not even remotely possible and those that suggest it is possible are doing a disservice to our dairy industry.

We dairy farmers are at an historic point in time in the dairy industry. Right now, CWT is supported by farmers producing

75-80 percent of the milk in the country. NMPF is very close to having the support it needs to go forward with CWT. As dairy farmers, our greatest opportunity for success is to work together under one program. CWT will provide us with that opportunity. I urge you to support and invest in the CWT program — like I am doing. Thank you for your time.

— Clyde E. Rutherford,
President
Dairyalea Cooperative Inc.
Syracuse, N.Y.

Editor:

The June 7 letter by Legg of Parkesburg to me is a typical New Age type of stupidity. The township ran through two new beer joints locally in the last several years with no respect whatsoever to local opposition. It's the same in Harrisburg, where the Casino lobby is aggressively pursuing their interests.

Money talks, you know. Forget the moral side.

Judgement could follow as it did after Hurricane Agnes in 1972 when the New Agers approved horserace gambling. The next letter reminded me of mushroom farming in Chester County and the imports which forever changed life around here. Two personal friends sold out — one a bankruptcy.

— Earl Elam Mast
Parkesburg

IPM Course Offered For Teachers

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — The three Rs and the ABCs long have been staples of the public school curriculum. Now, Pennsylvania students are required to learn their IPM. For teachers, this means switching roles and going back to school.

In response to the new academic standards that call for integrated pest management, or IPM, to be taught as part of units on the environment and ecology, the Pennsylvania Integrated Pest Management Program is offering a course to help teachers incorporate IPM into their curriculum.

IPM aims to control pests — such as insects, diseases, weeds and animals — by combining physical, biological and chemical tactics that are safe and environmentally compatible.

"IPM for Teachers: Meeting New Academic Standards for Environment and Ecology," will be conducted June 24-27 at Penn State's University Park Campus. "The course will provide the basis for teaching IPM concepts in the classroom, as well as indoor and outdoor activities to demonstrate real-world pest management decision-making skills," says Lyn Garling, education specialist at Penn State.

For more information on the course content, contact Lyn Garling by e-mail at ljj5@psu.edu or by phone at (814) 863-8884, or visit the Web at <http://paipm.cas.psu.edu/schools/ipmcourse.html>. To register, contact the office of Conferences and Short Courses at (814) 865-8301.



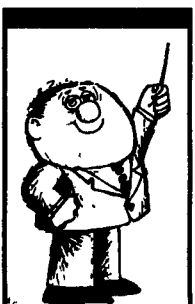
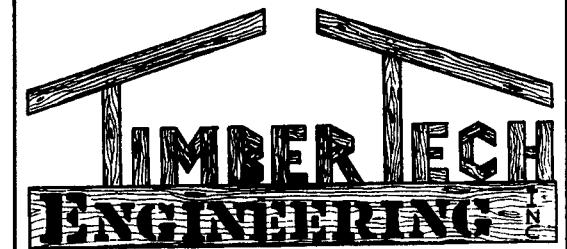
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