



# Lancaster Farming

## OPINION

### State Of CWT

Is the strange and loopy program to thwart drastically low milk prices losing ground with producers?

To make the producer self-help program Cooperatives Working Together (CWT) succeed, the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) strongly noted that dairy farmers would have to not only cut back production voluntarily, but pay 17.9 cents per each hundredweight of milk sold to make it work.

Last week, the self-help program was cut to less than a third, at 5 cents per hundredweight.

This comes at a time when milk futures are starting to look a lot better, as reported by Penn State. Ken Bailey, professor, noted last week that Class III futures were topping \$13 per hundredweight.

Penn State and USDA economists fail to take one thing into consideration: when they were studying Economics 101, there were no Costcos and Wal-Marts.

The market was a lot more diversified then, with a lot more parity in food retailing. Now, large multinational corporations (most didn't exist even 10 years ago) claim a drastically large segment of the consuming public retail dollar.

When will the economists realize their formulas aren't working?

We read in the National Farmers Union (NFU) News this month about "parity." Parity is the price farmers would receive for a product if farm prices had increased at the same rate as expenses. NFU uses 1910-1914 as a base period.

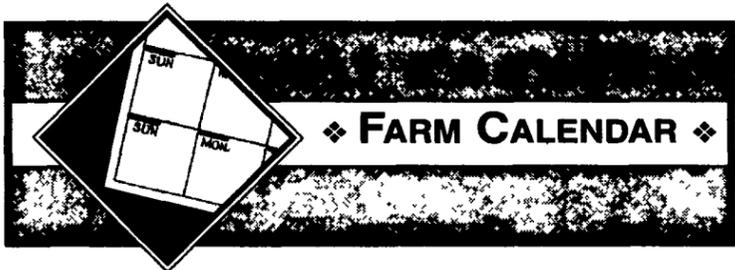
Did you know that, if using parity, milk producers today should be getting about \$33 per hundredweight (all categories) rather than \$11.10?

It's alarming how much a dairy farmer has to endure.

This brings us to an amusing, sometimes maddening, yet true story.

A few years ago, a Twin Valley FFA member and young farmer spoke to a group of Conrad Weiser elementary school kids. The FFA'er spoke about how a dairy farmer worked 16-hour days, seven days a week. Following the presentation, one of the kids, not from a farm, raised his hand. He had a question: Why would anyone do that?

The teacher, adviser, and kids had to chuckle. We can smile for a while, but you have to appreciate the gutsy stick-to-it-ness that is part and parcel of a dairy farmer in these trying times.



Saturday, July 12

- Ohio Florists' Association Short Course, Columbus, Ohio, thru July 16, (614) 487-1117.
- Westmoreland County Cattle-men's and Mason Dixon Red Angus Field Day, Swank Farm, Lower Burrell, (724) 837-1402.
- Bedford County Jackpot Show, Bedford County Fairgrounds.
- Fair Winds Farm and Wil-Den Farm Field Day, Jackson Center, Mercer County, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Pa. Ayrshire Field Day, Don and Pam Gable Farm, Conebella, Elverson, 10 a.m., (610) 286-2967.
- Md. Jersey Field Day, American Auctions, (301) 639-8871.
- Berks Wool Pool, Reading Fairgrounds, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., (610) 488-9726.

#### How To Reach Us

To address a letter to the editor:

- By fax: (717) 733-6058
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- By e-mail:  
farming@lancasterfarming.com

Please note: Include your full name, return address, and phone number on the letter. Lancaster Farming reserves the right to edit the letter to fit and is not responsible for returning unsolicited mail.

Sunday, July 13

- Cumberland Co 4-H Open Horse Show, Long Acres, Carlisle, (717) 486-7427.
- Pa. Holstein Association Summer Picnic, Blair County Ballpark, Altoona, 4 p.m.
- Jefferson County Fair, thru July 19, (814) 265-0640.
- Pa. Ag in the Classroom Workshop, Penn State Main Campus, thru July 18, (742) 458-6108.
- "Work to Ride Program," Chamounix Equestrian Center Stables, (215) 877-4419.

Monday, July 14

- Hatfield Fore FFA Golf Tournament, Foxchase Golf Course, Stevens, (814) 867-9230.
- Dairy Pricing and Supply Meeting, Salem First United Methodist Church, Salem, Ohio, 8 p.m., (330) 424-7291.
- Adams County 4-H and FFA Livestock Show and Sale, South Mountain Fairgrounds, Arendtsville, 8 a.m.
- Eastern Shore Championship Holstein Show, QA's 4-H Park, Centreville, Md.
- Beef Quality Assurance Chute-side Training Session, Beef Barn, Large Show Arena, Wayne County Fairgrounds, Honesdale, (570) 253-5970, ext. 239.

Tuesday, July 15

- Nutrient Management Plan Writing Workshop, 118 ASI Build-

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Now Is  
The Time  
By Leon Ressler  
Lancaster County  
Extension Director

#### To File Your Crop Insurance Acreage Report

Producers are reminded that they are required to file acreage reports by July 15 for most spring-planted crops. Reports must be filed with both the county office of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the crop insurance agent of the producer. It is critical that producers file their reports with each organization by the deadline. Otherwise, you might be without protection this year.

The very wet spring has created an environment that is resulting in crop stress on much of the spring-planted acreage. Therefore, it is important that you follow all of the required steps to make sure that the insured crop acreage is accurately reported on each farm. Be sure to get a copy of your signed acreage report from your agent for your records.

After the normal planting deadlines (6/10 for corn and 6/15 for soybeans), remember that your choices are to file a prevented planting claim or continue planting for up to an additional 25 days, knowing that the protection declines 1 percent per day.

Make sure that such acreage is reported for each date that you planted; otherwise the insurance guarantee will be understated, based on the last date that you completed planting.

Acreage of the crop(s) that you were prevented from planting because of adverse weather also needs to be reported separately by farm and by crop, in order to preserve eligibility to file a prevented planting claim.

If you are in this situation, discuss with your agent the requirements to remain eligible for a prevented planting claim and obtain a copy of a notice of damage/loss (for your records) for a prevented planting claim. Find out how soon you can expect an adjuster to visit your farm if you are eligible to file a claim. Make sure that commitment is kept.

#### To Renovate Strawberry Fields

Conventional strawberry fields can be productive for several years if one renovates them properly. Renovation should begin as soon as possible after harvest is finished.

The first step is to apply 2,4-D (Formula 40) for broadleaf control, if necessary. Wait four to seven days for the weeds to absorb the herbicide. Then mow off the strawberries as close to the ground as possible without damaging the crowns. Next, narrow the rows to 6-12 inches wide with a rototiller or cultivator. Allow one inch of soil to cover the crowns. Fertilize with 40-50 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre and apply phosphorus and potash according to soil test requirements.

A strawberry grower should also apply herbicides for summer weed control as suggested in Penn State's "Commercial Berry Production Pest Management Guide." This guide is available from your county extension office and has a wealth of information for the commercial berry producer.

Sinbar or Devrinol are two pre-emergent herbicides commonly used for summer weed control. Irrigate to incorporate the fertilizer and herbi-

cide. Late in August, the strawberries will form buds for next years fruit crop. Fertilize again at this time with 20 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre.

#### To Use Penn State's New Agribusiness Website

Agribusinesses and others with a stake in the food and fiber system have a new place to turn for information on issues affecting the industry, new research, professional development opportunities, and other topics.

"Partners in Progress," which can be found at <http://collegerelations.cas.psu.edu>, is a Website developed by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences to provide informational and educational resources for the diverse agribusiness community in Pennsylvania and beyond.

"The site was designed specifically with our business and industry colleagues in mind," said Mary Wirth, director of college relations. "It contains links to pertinent college information and programs and organizes them in a user-friendly format."

Visitors to the site will find links to technical information and programs, fee-based services, research, continuing and extension education, publications, events, international programs, and other offerings.

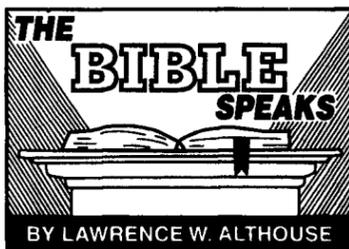
"Information on biosecurity, drought, food safety, pesticides, and other important topics are just a click away," Wirth said. "Several of the resources found on the site, such as AgMap, offer businesses the opportunity to list their goods and services in searchable databases, linking supply with demand."

For more information on College of Agricultural Sciences programs for business and industry, contact Mary Wirth by phone at (814) 863-9646 or by e-mail at [mfw10@psu.edu](mailto:mfw10@psu.edu).

#### Quote Of The Week:

"Excellence demands competition. Without a race, there can be no champion, no records broken, no excellence in education or any other walk of life."

— Ronald Reagan



BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

#### I CANNOT COME DOWN

Background Scripture:  
Nehemiah 6.  
Devotional Reading:  
Isaiah 49:13-18.

Bennett Cerf tells of a lad named Tommy Noonan who, during his vacation months, carried on a successful lawn-mowing business. One afternoon his mother noticed that Tommy seemed to be taking his own good time in getting started. When she questioned him, he replied, "I'm waiting for them to start themselves. I get most of my work from people who are halfway through."

"Halfway through" is the sad epitaph of many good works. If it is difficult to inspire and challenge people to begin a good work, it is even harder to keep them going until the project is finished. It was this ageless human experience that led Sir Francis Drake to pray: "Lord God, when thou givest to thy servants to endeavor any great matter, grant us also to know that it is not the beginning but the continuing of the same until it be thoroughly finished which yielded the true glory."

Why is it so hard to finish good works? The people of Jerusalem

began with a vow, "Let us rise up and build" and we are told "they strengthened their hands for the good work" (2:18b). Later, in Nehemiah 4, we find that their commitment to the task has not diminished, despite the opposition and threats of their neighbors.

"So we built the wall; and all of the wall was joined together to half its height. For the people had a mind to work" (4:6). "A mind to work" is essential to any commitment.

#### Enemies Within And Without

Another reason that good works are not finished is that there are fears that distract us from the work. The Jerusalem Jews under Nehemiah had their fill of threats and intimidation. Jerusalem and Judah were surrounded by enemies.

Sanballat was the leader of the Horites who lived in Samaria where once the people of Israel had ruled. Tobiah, on the other hand, was a governor of the Ammonites and he allied himself with Sanballat in opposing the work of Nehemiah. Again and again they tried to trick Nehemiah in meeting them in a place where they could lay an ambush for him.

Their reasons for meeting with Nehemiah sounded reasonable enough, but Nehemiah rebuffed them with these words: "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?" (4:6:3).

One of the greatest sermons I have ever heard was preached by Bishop Gerald Kennedy on that text: "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down." That was not only a good retort for Nehemiah to give his enemies, but a principle for us to steer by.

We may not think we can identify with what the Jews felt because their obstacles were living, breathing, scheming enemies without. But there

were also, as with us, inner enemies as well. The enemies without — Ammonites, Horites, and others — caused them to experience enemies within — fear, uncertainty, and anxiety. There were probably some people who tried to reason with them to persuade them to give up on this monumental project. They sowed the seeds of doubt.

#### Your Own 'Great Work'

Make a list of your own enemies, both within and without, who attempt to keep you from finishing your good works. Consider some of the following: poor self-esteem, bad work habits, an unrealistic perfectionism, procrastination, self-indulgence, juvenile rebellion or resistance, super sensitivity to criticism, distraction, resistance to self-discipline — the list goes on and on. Each time any of these appeal to you to give up or slow up or wise up, give them Nehemiah's classic response: "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down."

Yes, rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem was a great work, but not necessarily greater than being a good husband, wife, father, or mother. Just think: When you are tempted to put something else before your commitment to family members, this is a great work and you cannot come down. Maybe it is working with a local boy scout troop, or raising funds for someone in the community whose house has burned down or who is facing surgery for which he or she cannot pay. Lots of voices will ask you to "come down" — but remember, you are doing a great work and you cannot come down.

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#### Lancaster Farming

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