



# Lancaster Farming

## OPINION

### Milk Imports Up 331 Percent Guess Where? From Canada

These figures just in from Ken Bailey (see his full report starting page A16 this week).

- The U.S. imported 7.3 million liters of milk and cream (1-6 percent butterfat) in all of 2002. But imports just through May of 2003 were 4.8 billion liters, up 331 percent relative to the same months a year ago. Guess where most of this liquid milk is coming from? Ninety-eight percent is from Canada.

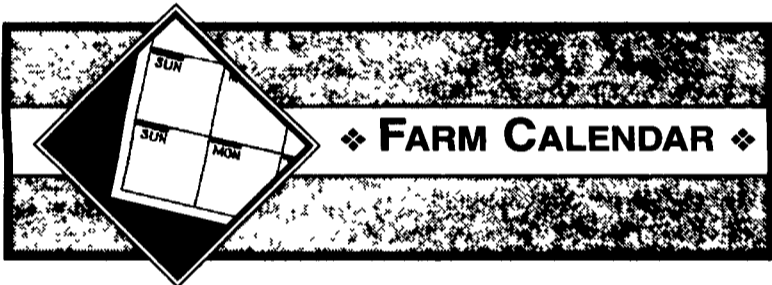
- Most cheese that enters the U.S. is under a broad category called "cheese, except fresh." This is everything that isn't fresh, grated, processed, or "blue-vein." Most cheese is carefully regulated by the TRQ (tariff rate quota). During the first five months of 2003, we imported cheese in this category from 45 countries. The most surprising countries of origin were Columbia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Egypt, El Salvador, Jamaica, Jordan, Nicaragua, Philippines, Russian Federation, Syria, and Turkey. "I'm sure it's all of the very highest quality," Bailey noted. Imports of food preparations (fat blends) were up 31.4 percent (over quota). Why? How could this happen?

- Chapter 4 MPC (milk protein concentrates) imports are up just 42 percent so far this year (18,620 metric tons). Imports from New Zealand alone are up 85 percent (14,717 metric tons in 2003). Imports from Poland, a very small player, are up 758 percent (472 metric tons in 2003).

- Chapter 35 MPC imports are up 137 percent so far this year to 4,474 metric tons. Imports are way up from Australia. In fact, they account for nearly half our import levels. So far this year we've seen MPC imports from interesting places such as Belarus, China, and Latvia.

Bailey noted we import a lot of casein from around the world. Total casein imports in 2002 were 57,519 metric tons. So far this year, we've imported 29,209 metric tons, up 30 percent from the same five months

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Saturday, July 26

Lebanon Area Fair, Fairgrounds, thru Aug. 2.  
S.W. Pa. Holstein Championship Show, Uniontown Fairgrounds, Uniontown, 10 a.m.  
Carroll County 4-H Fair, Fairgrounds, thru Aug. 2, (717) 273-3795.  
National Farm Transition Network meeting and conference, Inn at Essex, Essex, Vt., thru July 30, (802) 656-0233.  
Frederick Montgomery Holstein

Field Day, Frederick County Fairgrounds.  
Master Gardener Field Day and Advanced Training, Southeast Research and Extension Center, Landisville, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m., (717) 921-8803.  
Northwest Pa. Cattleman's Picnic Beef, Forage, Grazing Field Day, McKean Angus Farm, Mercer, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., (724) 662-3141.

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Editor:

In light of recent action by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), NSIA, Inc., of Palmyra emphasizes the impor-

tance to all farmers and growers of keeping accurate and up-to-date records of pesticide purchases, storage locations and inventories, field applications, and worker protection notifications.

It has been reported that on June 3 the EPA Agency proposed its largest Worker Protection Safety misuse penalty in its history, as it issued administrative complaints against five Colorado growers. It argued that the growers had violated the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Acts (FIFRA) and the Worker Protection Standards (WPS). "The EPA appears to be prioritizing environmental penalties" said Marty Campfield, NSIA, Inc. president. "What was once a 'slap on the wrist' can now

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**Now Is  
The Time**  
By Leon Ressler  
Lancaster County  
Extension Director

#### To Put Ag Progress Days On Your Schedule

Ag Progress Days, Pennsylvania's largest outdoor agricultural exposition, will be held this year Aug. 19-21. This educational and fun event is a great opportunity for a family trip before school begins.

Sponsored by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, the event is conducted at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center in Rockspring, nine miles southwest of State College on Rt. 45.

Special exhibits, with the theme "Seeing the Forest for the Trees," will showcase research and educational programs to develop and maintain healthy tree species, promote better woodlot management, and support a vigorous forest products industry. Majors and careers in forest resources also will be highlighted.

"We strive to plan an event that reflects the diversity of the college's programs," said Bob Oberheim, Ag Progress Days manager. "Our themed exhibits, combined with many of the traditional activities that we offer each year, ensure that virtu-

ally anyone can find something of interest at Ag Progress Days."

More than 350 commercial exhibitors will display the latest goods and services. Interactive displays, guided tours, and workshops will show how research and educational programs are addressing important issues, safeguarding our food supply and the environment, and helping to improve the efficiency and profitability of agriculture and related industries.

Faculty and extension staff from the college will be on hand to answer questions and provide information on crops and soils; dairy, livestock, and equine production; conservation practices; integrated pest management; woodlot management; farm safety; and home gardening and lawn care.

Other activities planned for this year's event include a skid steer rodeo and several new tours, including a tour of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's new Animal Evaluation Laboratory, which recently was completed near the Ag Progress Days site. Field demonstrations will feature hay mowing, hay rakes and tedders, baling, bale handling, conservation tillage, and manure application to reduce odor and preserve residue cover.

Also planned are family living exhibits and demonstrations; a corn maze; cut flower beds and exhibits; storytelling; an equine program, including special American Quarter Horse Association exhibitions; live animal displays; a tree-climbing adventure; a museum of antique farm and home implements; and a wide variety of food booths.

Ag Progress Days hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 19, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Aug. 20, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 21. Admission and parking are free. For more information, call (800) PSU-1010 toll-free from July 14 to Aug. 21 or visit the Ag Progress Days Website at <http://apd.cas.psu.edu>.

**To Consult A  
New Website For  
Beef Production Information**  
Beef producers can consult a new interactive Website developed by Penn State's College of Agricultural

Sciences for help in scheduling routine management activities for their herds, guidance in keeping thorough records, timely business tips, and information about beef-related events.

The calendar is a joint effort of Penn State, Purdue University, and the University of Kentucky, developed from a print-version management calendar that is produced annually by the University of Kentucky. State advisory committees worked under the direction of a state coordinator to develop the calendar components appropriate for each specific location. Penn State beef specialist John Comerford served as coordinator for Pennsylvania.

By asking producers a series of questions about desired calving dates, breeding methods and weaning ages, the Website utilizes standard gestation periods to recommend a custom schedule for management of the beef herd. "We ask producers for information such as their name, state, and e-mail address so they can establish an account with password protection, which allows them to visit time after time and use their information confidentially," said Karen Vines, distance education coordinator in the dairy and animal science department.

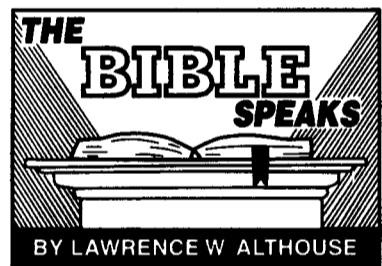
"The calendar is being revised to include a feature that will allow us to send monthly e-mail reminders to users reminding them of the management activities, beef-related activities schedule, and their personal dates for that month," she said.

Long-term goals for future development of the Website include the addition of performance and quality assurance records. The site also may grow to assist producers in meeting the requirements of proposed COOL (Country of Origin Labeling) legislation. In the future, the interactive beef calendar also may serve as a reminder to producers to record treatment records and provide a convenient site for future reference and analysis of herd performance.

Quote Of The Week:

"The highest compliment leaders can receive is the one that is given by the people who work for them."

— Unknown



### WHEN EAGLES FLY

Background Scripture:  
Obadiah.  
Devotional Reading:  
Isaiah 43:1-7.

I'll have to admit that, the first time I read Obadiah, I found little if anything suggestive for either teaching or preaching. But, upon closer examination and study, I discovered that there is some strong medicine here for Christians of the 21st century.

Of all Israel's neighbors, Edom easily won the prize as "the most hated." Lying southeast of Israel, it was founded by Esau, Jacob's twin brother. Instead of that link making for amity between the two nations, it seemed to spawn hostility and hatred.

The situation between Israel and Edom is analogous to the one between Israel and Palestine today — both caught in an endless cycle of hate and retaliation. Obadiah may be 2600 years old and ancient, but the situation is all too contemporary.

Obadiah was referring not only to their longstanding animosity, but a most recent occurrence when, in 587 B.C., Edom not only gloated over Is-

rael's fall to Babylon, but acted as a Babylonian ally and then looted their defeated neighbors. Edom will suffer for being such a bad neighbor: "Though you soar aloft like the eagle, though your nest is set among the stars, thence I will bring you down, says the Lord." (v.4).

#### As You Have Done

This will happen because, contrary to what the Edomites believed, the Lord is God, not only of Israel, but of all nations. "For the day of the Lord is upon all nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you..." (v.15). As Israel paid dearly for its sins, so would Edom and all others. What goes around will eventually come around.

So what does this mean? For one thing, it reminds us that, contrary to what many Christians believe, we stand before God, not only as individuals, but as nations, too. Israel and Edom suffered, not only because of the sins of individuals, but because of the sins of both nations. Many of us were quick to hail what we perceived as God's judgment upon the nation of Iraq. Obadiah reminds us that God's judgment will fall upon us as well. And no one or no nation is quite so susceptible to the judgment of God than the one that believes that it has nothing for which to be judged.

Edom paid dearly for its perfidy. Sometime during the end of the sixth or beginning of the fifth century B.C., they were pushed from their homeland by Arab invaders who eventually founded the Nabataean kingdom, forcing the Edomites into the Negeb desert. In time, the Edomites became known as Idumaea. (Herod the Great, who was king of the Jews in the time of Jesus, was an Idumaeans.)

**The Moral Order**  
Alfred North Whitehead once wrote: "The fact of the instability of evil is the moral order of the world." Obadiah reminds us that this "moral order" is not some thing, but God himself.

We sometimes say that "history is on the side of..." this or that. The Lord is the God who rules history and it is he who opposes ruthless force and social injustice. When we are unbrotherly toward other nations, it is really God with whom we are dealing ultimately. No matter how smug we may be in our unrighteousness, God is not deceived and he is not disinterested.

Following the terrible tragedy of 9/11, several TV preachers suggested that this was God's judgment upon our nation. They were quickly censured. Yet, while I disagreed with their conclusions, I thought perhaps in their own way they were reminding us that our nation also stands under God's judgment — especially since we have held ourselves out to be a Christian nation.

To say that we may have deserved what happened is outrageous, but must we conclude that nothing in our society will attract God's negative judgment? Do love, peace, and justice reign in our land. Money and raw power?

As a boy, I loved Stephen Decatur's motto: "Our country!... may she always be in the right; but our country, right or wrong." Studying the scriptures, however, I have found that true patriotism is achieved when we give our first and full allegiance to God — and that means having the courage and faith to acknowledge when our country is wrong.

### Lancaster Farming

Established 1955  
Published Every Saturday  
Ephrata Review Building  
1 E. Main St.  
Ephrata, PA 17522

### Lancaster Farming, Inc.

A Steinman Enterprise  
William J. Burgess General Manager  
Andy Andrews, Editor

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### Lancaster Farming

An Award-Winning Farm Newspaper

- PDA Friend of Agriculture Award, 2003
- Keystone Awards 1993, 1995
- PACD Media Award 1996
- Recognized for photo excellence throughout the years by the Northeast Farm Communicators
- PennAg Industries 1992
- Berks Ag-Business Council 2000