



# Lancaster Farming

## OPINION

### Farming Door-To-Door

An agricultural leader in Susquehanna County once noted that, to sustain agriculture, you need a very strong bond between those who produce and those who consume.

Nicely said. There is so much of the "talk the talk." Now, are there examples of being able to "walk the walk"?

We hear from our friends at Cornell University about one such endeavor. And this is what many farms have to do in times when the consumer has more of a voice, almost by the moment, about how food is produced.

We have the following information courtesy the folks at Cornell:

"Locally produced" is not just a concept to Jim McDowell. It's the very foundation of his new business, The Small Street Co-op, Eaton, N.Y. When he isn't producing records or arranging music with his wife Dianne, Jim is taking to the roads of central New York to assemble a variety of naturally grown and organically produced foods. Once assembled, he delivers them door-to-door to his customers.

The Small Street Co-op, in its second year, provides this service every week during the spring, summer, and fall.

Jim and Dianne have supported alternative agriculture and the farmers who practice it for more than 25 years. They are among a growing number of consumers who want to know how and where their food is produced. Along with these questions, they have often wondered about the quality of the foods that are produced in massive quantities, and then reassembled, processed, and distributed by the large companies that dominate the food system in the U.S.

By listing only locally produced, organic products in the co-op's quarterly catalog, Small Street insures accountability, helping customers to know how and where each product is grown or raised. And by supporting smaller family farms, the co-op encourages good stewardship of the land and rewards the use of environmentally friendly practices.

While it might appear at first glance as if Jim has set himself up as the notorious "middleman," nothing could be further from the truth.

(Turn to Page A32)



◆ FARM CALENDAR ◆

Saturday, November 8

- Nittany Lion Holstein Fall Classic Sale, Penn State Ag Arena, State College, 11 a.m.
- 30th Annual North American International Livestock Expo, Louisville, Ky., (502) 367-5000.
- National Small Farm Trade Show and Conference, Boone County Fairgrounds, Columbia, Mo., (800) 633-2535.
- Lebanon Lancaster County Watershed Forum, Acorn Farms Reception and Conference Center, Manheim/Mount Joy exit of Rt. 283, (717) 272-3908, ext. 4.

- Susquehanna County Master Gardeners Classes on Composting, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., County Office Building, 278-1158.
- LMA-VACC Sale, Middleburg Livestock Auction, Middleburg, (570) 837-2222.
- Warren County Holstein Club Annual meeting, 4-H Center, Fair-

(Turn to Page A33)



◆ FARM FORUM ◆

Editor:

Plunging beef production is the primary reason why cattle prices soared to all-time highs during the later end of October. And mad cow disease is still a concern

#### How To Reach Us

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for many countries including Japan.

Consequently the import ban on Canadian cattle by the United States is likely to be extended beyond the end of 2003. The further restriction is likely to exacerbate a decline in beef production here in the U.S., since many U.S. farmers rely on Canadian feeder calves in order to raise fed cattle for U.S. meat markets.

Higher beef prices and drought conditions in the Midwest also encouraged cattlemen to sell off their steers at lighter weights because of the economics of raising beef, namely the opportunity cost of holding them. Up until recently, a large portion of cattle being sold are at lighter weights, typically between 800 to 900 pounds.

Light steers are different than fed cattle, which are normally sold to meat markets. Light steers

(Turn to Page A32)



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

#### To Welcome Lancaster's New Dairy Agent

Dr. Ken Griswold joined the Lancaster County Extension office staff on Nov. 3 (see the story on page 1 this week).

Ken fills the position vacated by Glenn Shirk when he retired last year. Ken comes to us from the University of Southern Illinois, where he served as an assistant professor of ruminant nutrition and managed the dairy center. He earned his doctorate at the University of Southern Illinois in rumen microbiology/nutrition and his master's degree in ruminant nutrition at West Virginia University. Ken earned his bachelor's degree in animal science at Cornell University. Ken grew up on a New York dairy farm and is looking forward to the opportunity to work directly with farmers.

#### To Prepare Your Feed Bin System For Winter

Feed quality is something that is a partnership in the poultry and livestock industries.

Gregory Martin, capitol region poultry agent, points out feed mills do their best to deliver the highest quality feed to the farm. The rest is up to the farm manager to maintain that feed from point of delivery to the point of consumption. Winter does pose a special challenge to keep feed fresh, but with proper bin management the effects of winter can be diminished.

Bins should be set up in gangs of two or more bins and rotated in use. This allows feed to fully be used before the next load is started. Dumping new feed on top of old is not recommended. This is due in part to the dead spots that occur as the bin is used, leaving some feed behind until the bin is just about empty. By rotation, you are assured of keeping the feed fresh and in proper formulation. Rotating the bins also allows all augers to be lubricated by feed to help reduce rust buildup on the auger.

Periodically (at least twice a year), a full inspection of the bin should be made. Hang a drop light into the bin and inspect the bin at night for any holes or open seams. Especially check near bolts and ring splice points on the bin. Replace bolts and caulk any seams that are leaking light from the bin. In addition, be sure that the ladder and support legs are in sound condition and that the bin lid or fill door seats correctly at the top in the closed position. Replace any ropes or chains that are showing undue wear, because this does become a problem for the delivery driver onsite.

The bin boot should be inspected as well for undue wear. Be sure that all equipment associated with the boot is in proper order. Auger tubes should not be worn through and patches in this area of the feed system are not recommended. Be sure to look at the boot seals when light-inspecting a bin to help prevent water contamination of the boot via rain leakage.

Lastly, clean your bins before the onset of winter. Because of the higher humidity that will be pres-

ent in the air, any moldy feed left in the bin may seed mold in any feed placed within it. Brushing or air-blasting any feed that is sticking to the inside of a bin is recommended to help prevent the propagation of mold in the bin. Be sure to include the outside of the bin and the floor below the bin to complete the cleaning. By doing so, you are preventing the spread of mycotoxins and other contaminants of feed from reaching your birds or livestock.

#### To Be Aware Of A New Fungicide Available For Berry Production

Kathy Demchak in Penn State's Horticulture Department reports Pristine fungicide from BASF has been approved for use in berry crops including blueberries, currants, gooseberries, huckleberries, blackberries, raspberries, and strawberries.

Pristine is a mixture of two active ingredients. One is boscalid, which is also found in Endura, recently labeled for grapes and other crops, and the other is pyraclostrobin, the active ingredient also found in Cabrio.

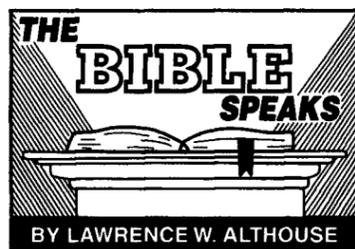
Pristine can be used for a number of diseases, including gray mold, anthracnose, common leaf spot, and powdery mildew on strawberries, mummy berry and phomopsis on blueberries, and anthracnose and various rusts on canberries. Please see the label for a listing of other diseases for which it can be used.

In trials at Penn State, Pristine provided very good control against gray mold (at least as good as Ronilan or better) and common leaf spot on strawberries. Additionally, Pristine provided very good control against gray mold, Septoria leaf spot, and various other diseases on raspberries.

Quote Of The Week:

"I won't know why we lost the game until my barber tells me on Monday."

— Knute Rockne



BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

#### GOD'S ADDRESS

Background Scripture:

1 John 3:11 through 4:21.

Devotional Reading:

1 Corinthians 13:1-13.

In a cartoon, a little boy asks his father, "Do we know God's e-mail address?"

Actually, it is not all that hard to find God's address. 1 John makes it easy for us: "... if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us" (4:12b). If you love your neighbor (as Jesus defined "neighbor"), and you live at 917 Grove Street, Any Town, then that is God's address. God lives where people love their neighbor.

That's the easy part. The hard part is pinpointing what is meant by loving "one another." It can mean many different and even conflicting things. It is much more than sentimentality.

In one of his novels, Herman Melville characterizes this love as "a volume bound in rose-leaves, clasped with violets, and by the beaks of hummingbirds printed with peach-juice on the leaves of lilies." That is not what we mean.

1 John is referring to love of the brothers and sisters of the church. But he is not limiting love's outreach, but rather focusing it upon

the church where there was a specific love deficit. When he says "For this is the message which we have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another...", I think he is referring to the command of Jesus to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Mk 12:31). As the good Samaritan demonstrated, one's neighbor is anyone who needs us.

#### Love In Deed

Actually, some of us don't do well with love either in the church or outside of it. We may employ the word frequently, but says 1 John, "Little children, let us not love in word of speech but in deed and in truth" (3:18). If love needs some kind of rule-of-thumb, he spells it out simply: "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?" In many of our churches, sacrificial benevolence for those in need is an optional and marginal activity. So how does God's love abide in us?

1 John tells us that Christian love is manifested in deeds, just as Jesus demonstrated his love for us: "By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (3:17). Jesus gave us neither a philosophy nor even a theology of love, but a command and example. "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him" (4:10).

If we are in doubt as to what this "love" is all about, we need only look to Jesus. Love may begin with a feeling and be expressed in words, but it usually also means sacrificial acts.

"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear" (4:18).

In both my personal and pastoral experience I have found that fear often robs us of the capacity to love. That person we hate is usually someone whom we perceive as threatening to our well-being.

Prejudices are most often engendered by fear. So, we conclude that we cannot love someone because that person threatens us. When fear comes first, love seldom is able to follow. But if love comes first, than fear does not have a chance.

#### Love As Resolve

This Christ-like love is not first a feeling, but a resolve to be like Jesus, to be and do the loving thing. As Christ was nailed to the cross, I'm sure that what he was feeling for his followers was not so much affection, but a resolve in spite of their disloyalty.

On the cross, Jesus was not waiting for his disciples to first demonstrate their love, for "We love, because he first loved us" (4:19). Neither can we wait to receive love before we give it. Nor can we wait for an affectionate feeling before we go to our own crosses.

Many are concerned that Christianity seems to be losing ground and that other faiths are growing. If Christians would lay aside their disputes, criticisms, and rancor, and focus upon Christ-like love of neighbors both inside and outside our churches, there would be nothing to fear. If we are not attracting neighbors to Christ, it may be because they do not see him in us or know where to find him.

So, does God abide at your address?

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