



LIFE on the farm

By Dieter Krieg, Editor

NOTE Life on the farm columns are written for urban as well as rural readers. They're meant to bring the joys, frustrations, sorrows, and rewards and importance of agriculture to all.

It was Sunday afternoon, usually the only part of a Sunday which a farm family can have to itself. Outside, a rain storm was making a mess of fields and pastures. This was the kind of day that wasn't good for much except staying inside — warm and dry.

Then someone noticed a group of our heifers running wildly from one end of the pasture to the other. Behind them were five horses, which had evidently been frightened by the storm and were now running through everything, including fences, because of their panic.

We hurried outside, our feet splashing in puddles, and slipping in mud. The poor traction and visibility made it difficult to keep up with the animals, a few of which had by now found the broken section of fence, and were heading for the woods.

The heifers and dry cows weren't too difficult to calm down. We found them at the far end of the woods, next to the bank of a stream. We were soaked from head to toe and splashed with mud up to our ears. The storm seemed to be subsiding, as we herded

them home. The heifers weren't the cause of our Sunday afternoon adventure. The trouble makers were our neighbor's horses, which frequently went spooky during a storm and then started jumping fences. Our two strands of electric fencing didn't help the situation any. The shocks from it spooked them that much more, and a section of fence, well over 100 feet long, was flattened by them at the upper side of the pasture.

Our work was far from over once the heifers were back home, and counted. Two of us guarded the opening in the fence, while the other two headed for the tool shed to get the materials for fixing it. Dark clouds loomed overhead, but no rain, and in the distance there was the rumble of thunder and brief flashes of lightning. Broken posts were pulled out, and new posts were driven in, and the strands or wire were quickly put back into place. If we were lucky we could turn the electric fence controller back on and find both lights flashing. Otherwise it would mean that something else needs fixing. Any short-circuits in the system will cause malfunctioning of the unit.

A nice, warm bath or shower is all we need yet. By the time we were dry it was milking time.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE
AUTONOMOUS SERVANTS
Lesson for September 26, 1976



NOW IS THE TIME ...

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Background Scripture:
Galatians 5:13 through 6:18
Devotional Reading:
1 Peter 2:9-17

Several years ago I saw a cartoon depicting a class of young children with their teacher in what was obviously a "modern education" setting. One of the children had raised his hand and was asking, "Teacher, do we have to do what we want to do again?" Anyone who has worked intensively with children and youth know that "student autonomy" can be carried to absurd lengths. As in everything else in life, there is a need for balance, a balance between autonomy and direction, between flexibility and structure. We may come to realize (as the child in the cartoon) that sometimes there is nothing quite so confining and tiring as always doing just what we want to do.

Through Love Be Servants

Often it seems that the ideal situation is one in which we are so free of obligations and restraints that we can devote all our time and effort toward satisfying our own needs. In time, however, life seems to teach us that nothing is so imprisoning than being so completely "stuck on one's self."

No one has ever quite grasped the true meaning of freedom as Jesus did. He realized that freedom does not consist of exemption from serving others, but the attitude with which we perform that service. For example, he taught that if someone were to compel us to carry a burden for one mile, we ought instead to carry it for two miles. In so

TO BEWARE OF FROSTED CROPS

Fall is here and we can be getting a killing frost at any time. Livestock producers should beware of the possibility of poisoning of animals from eating certain crops after frost. I refer to the sudan-sorghum hybrids that are used for temporary pasture or green-chopping. When these are frozen there is danger of the forming of prussic acid for the first 5 to 7 days after the frost; during this time the crop should not be consumed by any type of livestock. It may be made into hay or silage and allowed to cure or ferment for 30 days and then it will be safe to use. AFTER the crop has been frozen and died down in a dry form, then it may be consumed from the field. Also, there is danger of poisoning from new growth that may develop from the roots after a killing frost. Producers are urged to manage these crops very carefully this time of the year.

TO SEGREGATE LIVESTOCK

Newly purchased animals of any kind should not be put with acclimated animals because of the danger of

doing, Jesus, indicated you retain your freedom and the service you render is not under compulsion. In fact, you even signify to the oppressor that you are still in control of your own life. In "going the extra mile" you manifest your own autonomy.

Try it sometime and feel the difference: when someone is able to compel you to do something, "go the extra mile" and see how it feels inside. How much easier it is to serve someone else when we feel that we are still in control of our own lives! Thus, Paul wrote, "through love be servants of one another" (Galatians 5:13).

Sowing and Reaping
There is nothing more liberating than the freedom to choose to serve someone else in need. How good it feels to be freed of that compulsion to look after only ourselves. In helping others it is often ourselves who benefit most. All of us want to feel some sense of self-worth, yet often it is only in helping someone else that we can experience self-worth.

Both Jesus and Paul emphasized the relationship between "sowing" and "reaping." Thus, to the Galatians Paul says: "Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (6:7). We best serve ourselves when we generously serve others.

Nor are we more free than when we give ourselves in service to others. Therefore, to "Bear one another's burdens" is no loss of independence, for there is no one more autonomous than the willing servant who gives himself or herself in the love of Jesus Christ.

various infections. This time of the year some cattle feeders may be bold enough to buy replacement cattle, these should not eat or drink from the same bunks or troughs. Purebred animals purchased for breeding purposes should be kept separate for at least 30 days, and after all tests have been negative. Many producers are guilty of "buying trouble" when they bring in new animals. You can't be too careful in preventing infections.

TO EVALUATE PESTICIDE PROGRAMS

Now that the growing season is about over, it is a good time to take a hard look at the success in controlling weeds, insects, and diseases on garden and field crops. Did the pesticides do the control job intended? If not, what was wrong and what should be done differently next year? If certain weeds were not controlled, or if insects damaged the crop, then some changes should be made for next year. If recommendations were correctly followed, and the pesticide still did not give good results, then the company or dealer should be notified. The proper use of pesticides should give good control of the pest; if this is not the case, then some effort should be made to get good results.

TO PREPARE CORN STORAGE

The corn crop is ripening fast and many farmers will be pressed to find sufficient storage space. We urge growers to try and put the corn in rodent-proof place rather than pile it on the barn floor. Old cribs and bins should be cleaned and sprayed with an insecticide such as Malathion in order to prevent infestation of the new grain. The old grain should be removed from the storage before the new grain is put in. If the premises are already heavily infested with rats and mice, then an eradication program should precede corn harvest. Corn prices continue to be favorable and good storage facilities will help keep the crop in good market condition.

Cleaning Hints

Salt and cinnamon can be an oven refresher. Sprinkle salt and cinnamon mixture over spills while the oven is still hot. When dried, remove the salted spots with a stiff brush or cloth. The greasiest iron pan will wash easily if you put a little salt in and wipe with paper. A brisk scouring with table salt will remove the most stubborn tea stains from cups. You can clean your sink disposer unit with ice cubes and lemons. Cut up two lemons and place in disposer. Add two trays of ice cubes and operate the disposer until lemons and ice disappear. Flush with cold water.

Farm Calendar

Sunday, Sept. 26
Dairy Goat Workshop, Ag Center, Westminster, Md., 1-4 p.m. Talks and demonstrations will feature goat care, breeding, milking, milk products, and chevon.

Monday, Sept. 27
PFA directors meeting, Schuylkill County, Extension Office, 8 p.m.
Hunterdon County (N.J.) Farm Bureau resolution meeting and dinner, 7 p.m., Ringoes Grange Hall.
Fulton Grange 66 holds "Community Night;"

covered dish supper 7 p.m., program and entertainment follows. Public is invited.

Tuesday, Sept. 28
Housing Fair sponsored by the Delaware Cooperative Extension Service today and tomorrow, in Georgetown and Dover, respectively. Times for both days are noon to 4 and 6:30 to 9.
Good Use 4-H Community Club begins its Fall meetings, 7 p.m. at the South Christian Street Mennonite Church.
Elizabethtown Marketplace

Fair begins, lasts through Saturday.
Inter-State District 6 annual meeting, Blue Ball Fire Hall, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 29
4-H baby beef and pig round-ups at the New Holland Fair, Pigs should arrive today between 8:30 and 10 a.m.; steers are to arrive between 1 and 3 p.m.
Berks County Conservation District board of directors meet, Ag-Center, Leesport, 2 p.m.
New Holland Farmers' Fair begins, lasts through Saturday.

Thursday, Sept. 30
Pesticide training meeting, Hunterdon County, N.J., 8 p.m. at the County Extension Center; exam follows.

Maryland broiler industry's 20th annual Servicemen's Conference, Interstate Inn, along U.S. Route 1, College Park.
Tri-Valley Community Fair begins, at Hegins, Schuylkill County.
Sunday, Oct. 3
Bedding Plant Conference, lasts through Wednesday, Hershey Motor Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey.

RURAL ROUTE

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By Tom Armstrong