

EDITORIAL COMMENTS By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



Ag Progress - a good place to visit

This week farmers from throughout the state and even neighboring areas will have the opportunity to see the East's largest outdoor agricultural exhibition -- Ag Progress Days. It's an educational event for both farmers and consumers which is sponsored annually by The Pennsylvania State University's College of Agriculture in cooperation with farm equipment dealers and other agribusinesses supplying farm products, the Pennsylvania Grassland Council, state and federal agricultural agencies, and the state plowing contest committee.

A drive to picturesque Centre County takes about 2½ to three hours from most parts of southeastern Pennsylvania, which is a considerable chunk of time out of a busy farmer's schedule. But it will be worth it, considering the ideas and new knowledge that may be picked up at Ag Progress Days.

A visit to Ag Progress Days can be a one-stop shopping trip for ideas

and profits. It can also be just for fun, or serve as a good excuse to "get away from it all." For many that's just what it is.

Aside from Penn State research projects being opened and explained to the public, more than 200 agribusinesses will have exhibits on hand at the 1525 acre research farm, located along Route 45 west of Pine Grove Mills.

The Penn State people, who organize the big event, are making free buses and farm wagons available for tours to research fields and plots. Walking tours are also a part of it. Activities begin daily at 9 a.m. and continue through 5 p.m.

Located in one of Centre County's beautiful valleys, the research farms along Route 45 are a sight to see all in themselves. A mountain ridge, covered from top to bottom with majestic trees, borders the level and neatly cultivated farmland. Penn State uses the mountain ridge to collect rainwater, which is then impounded in several ponds which

the University constructed near the foot of the mountain. This water is then used for irrigation and doesn't cost a penny to pump it, because its all gravity flow at about 55 pounds of pressure.

There's a lot a visitor can learn here and there's a lot of beauty to be appreciated too. If you can take a day or two off to get to the research farms, Penn State and the scores of agribusiness exhibitors will certainly have the welcome mat out for you. The trip is recommended.

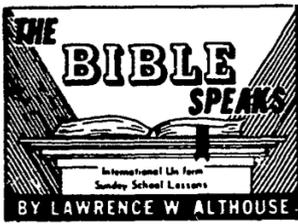
Since the Penn State research facilities have become the permanent site for the annual agricultural extravaganza, organizers at the University have taken steps to bring about fixed improvements. This year, for example, there'll be more emphasis than ever before on the comfort of visitors. There'll be more water fountains, toilets, and telephones. There'll also be plenty of food.

Whether you just go for fun, or to

see the latest in equipment and farming practices, a visit to Ag Progress should be enjoyable. There are a number of projects to be considered. A new one this year concerns conservation. Big earth moving equipment is being brought in to show visitors how to construct ditches, terraces, ponds, and waterways. Penn State has set aside about 100 acres of land for conservation demonstrations.

Farmers interested in checking out various kinds of tillage, haying and forage equipment will have their chance as a variety of implements will be demonstrated in the field. Nowhere can a farmer go to see so much all in one spot. That's why it's a trip he shouldn't pass up.

Farm wives and farm youths have their own special interests, and Ag Progress has kept them in mind as well with special activities, demonstrations, and educational shows for each. Virtually nothing is left out. Hope to see you there!



BECAUSE OF A DREAM

Lesson for August 20, 1978

Background Scripture:
Acts 27
Devotional Reading:
Psalms 107:23-32
Some time ago I was conducting a weekend

retreat for a church group. One of my presentations was upon the use of dreams as a means of revelation from God. The reaction of the audience was anything but positive. In fact, the mere suggestions that Christians can find God speaking through their dreams brought considerable hostility and the charge that the concept was unscriptural!

An Angel By Night
Whatever else the concept might be, it is definitely not unscriptural! Dreams are important channels of God's revelation from one end of the Bible to the other, spanning both Testaments.

The word "dream" or its equivalents appears more than one hundred times in the Bible and there are other occasions in which the word "vision" is used as a manner that suggests a dream.

A case in point is to be found in Acts 27 when we find Paul on a ship on his way to Rome for trial. Having set sail from Crete despite warning from Paul who foresaw danger, the centurian and ship's captain found themselves in extreme danger and privation. At last they are ready to listen to Paul and he tells them that during the night an angel had appeared to him and assured him that their lives

would be spared because God wanted Paul to go to Rome.

In ordinary times they probably would have ignored Paul and his angel by night, but, desperate, they could not afford to ignore him. "So, take heart, men," he assures them, "for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told" (27:25).

All Escaped
There is tremendous irony in this story. There is a sea captain who presumably has much experience on the high seas of the Mediterranean. There is a centurian who commands a hundred Roman soldiers. And there is

a prisoner, a suspected madman on his way to Rome to stand trial before the emperor, a man who tells of an angel who visits him in the night and assures him that everyone will be saved. Whose advice prevails? The prisoner named Paul.

Because of his dream or vision they will survive the terrible storm. Because of his angel by night the prisoners will not be executed as the soldiers had planned in the event of shipwreck. Why would all these men listen to a dreamer and prisoner in chains? Because they detected the voice of God

speaking through him. Somehow this man in chains was in contact with God and their very survival, it seemed, would depend upon taking the advice of a prisoner!

Why did this message come to a prisoner and not the captain or the centurian? It came to Paul because he was always willing to heed his dreams and be obedient to his visions. He was always ready to listen for and to the voice of God however he might reveal himself. Because of a dream and a dreamer who was obedient, lives were saved and God's plan was fulfilled. And so it can be, even today.

NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
Phone 394-6851



TO FRESHEN HOLSTEINS EARLY

The average Holstein heifer in the Pennsylvania DHIA testing program freshens at about 28 months of age. According to a recent study at Penn State University heifers freshening at this age produce about 2,500 pounds less milk during their lives than if they calved at 22 to 24 months of age.

According to Harvey Shaffer, dairy extension specialist, they just don't work as hard and takes them longer to produce less milk

at the older freshening age. The younger heifers seem to have an advantage in production efficiency. The importance of having heifers well grown and thrifty at two years of age continues.

TO TRAIN INEXPERIENCED HELP
Inexperienced workers face the highest risk of all employees. Farmers should take the time to train new workers before they begin to work.

Acquaint the new employee with the hazards of certain pieces of machinery, or in working with farm

animals, so they will be on the alert. Never take the employee's knowledge of farm work for granted. After an accident he might relate that he did not know this could happen. Protect your interests and the safety of the worker by taking time to do some job training.

TO APPLY LIME WITH SMALL GRAIN SEEDING

Small grain fields of wheat or barley that are to be seeded down to a grass-legume mixture next Spring

or Summer should have the lime applied this Fall.

We often hear of a clover or alfalfa producer that will wait until spring to have his lime applied on the field. This is not the way to get a good stand and to get the best use of lime. If a soil needs lime, it should be worked into the topsoil when the small grain seedbed is being prepared. This will give ample time for the lime to correct the acidity. Legume seedings are costly; be sure the soil is alkaline enough to allow the plant to survive.

TO PLAN FOR A WINTER COVER CROP

Now would be the time to give some thought to a Winter cover crop on land that has been tilled this past season. The seeding of ryegrass, bromegrass, or Winter grains following the harvesting of the main crop this fall, will help hold the soil.

In addition, a cover crop adds organic matter when it

is incorporated into the soil next spring. Cover crops are especially helpful on slopes and hillsides where water erosion is a problem. A word of caution - some herbicides used on corn (atrazine) may prevent the growth of any grain or cover crop this Fall.

Farm Calendar

Today, Aug. 19
Northeast Chianina Association Field Day at Lauxmont Farm, south of Wrightsville on Route 624.

Project Clearwater, a conservation demonstration receiving world-wide attention, near Knoxville, Md., Roelkey Farm.

New Jersey Brown Swiss Show, Harmony, 10 a.m.
York County 4-H Horse Round-up

Lancaster County Beekeepers Association picnic, Elmer Lapp farm, east of Intercourse, 3 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 20
Franklin County Fair begins, Chambersburg.

Tuesday, Aug. 22
Ag Progress Days begin at Penn State research farms, nine miles west of State College, along Route 45. Activities continue through Thursday. See details in this issue.

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RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong

