



# NOW IS THE TIME

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## TO SAVE CROPS BY IRRIGATION

Many areas are now getting very dry and crops are showing signs from the lack of moisture. Our Extension Engineers urge that farmers with a water supply use irrigation to help make the crop, rather than try to save it after it is hurt. In many cases the irrigation practice is started too late.

We urge that water be used to make the crop and not delay to the point of trying to salvage drouthy crops. I realize that too few farmers have a source of water to irrigate. However, those that do have the water should use it when crops first show signs of injury due to the lack of moisture.

## TO CONTROL ALFALFA INSECTS

Since the first cutting of alfalfa was severely damaged by poor weather conditions, we hope that every alfalfa grower will try

to get a real good crop for the remaining cuttings. The second cutting looks very good on most farms. The third cutting will need some insect control to prevent serious damage from leaf hoppers and leaf miners.

We urge the new growth to be sprayed when 2 to 4 inches high. If this is not done, then the insects will cause stunting and yellowing of the plants. Alfalfa is one of the very best forage crops. It has the ability to produce even with dry weather in many fields. Don't let the insects run the crop.

## TO EVALUATE HERBICIDE CONTROL

Weed control continues to be a major problem on many farms. For years farmers have been battling weeds in order to get maximum crop yields. The mechanical cultivator has been placed on a "slow burner" and herbicides are being expected to keep weeds under control. This does happen in some fields and on some farms. However, on others the control is not too good.

In order to improve the situation we suggest that farmers inspect their fields during the growing season to determine if the proper weed

killer is doing the job. Within the next month or two one can observe the amount of weed competition; weeds compete for moisture and for plant food. If the weeds are not being controlled, then another herbicide should be considered.

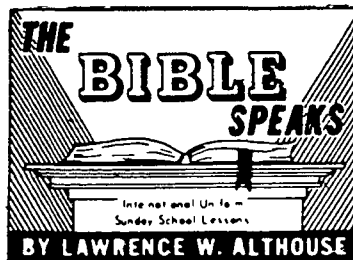
## TO PLAN FOR WINTER GRAINS

The winter grain crops are about harvested and growers should be making plans for their fall seedings. Seed grains should be ordered in order to get the variety and quality of seed desired. We continue to

promote certified seed and one of the best investments for maximum grain yields.

If home-grain seeds are to be used, we are concerned about germination, weed content, and diseases present. All of these can cut down yields. Growers who had trouble with scab in their current wheat crop should do a good cleaning job and a good seed treatment job. This condition can get worse next Summer.

Winter grains have a place in many crop rotations and deserve some good planning. Both the grain and the straw have a good market value and are in demand.



## THOSE WITH US

Lesson for July 22, 1979

**Background Scripture:**  
2 Kings 6:8-23.  
**Devotional Reading:**  
Romans 12:14-21.

Dr. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross is well known throughout the world today because of her pioneering work in thanatology, the psychology of dying. Her work has done a great deal to help us better understand what people experience as they face death and how we may more adequately respond to their needs.

Dr. Kubler-Ross has also become a controversial figure because of some of her conclusions about what happens after death occurs. Interviewing large numbers of patients as they are about to die and even some who have been pronounced

clinically dead and been resuscitated by medical means, the Swiss doctor has become convinced that there is a life after death. Another of her firm convictions drawn from her work is that the living are constantly surrounded by unseen, loving "guides" (often deceased loved ones and friends) who are sent to help us in our early lives.

### Unseen Presences

Although these convictions have earned her a great deal of derision and rejection, many of her observations sound very similar to various passages in the Bible that testify to the reality of

unseen and loving spiritual presences the surround us in our daily lives. Her words call to mind the affirmation in Hebrews 12:1 that "we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses..." and many of us repeat Sunday after Sunday our creedal belief in "the communion of the saints."

The story of Elijah and the unnamed kings of Israel and Syria in 2 Kings 6 gives us a similar testimony about a whole realm of spiritual reality that is unseen except by a very few. Disturbed to find that the Hebrew prophet Elisha has been picking up his inmost thoughts and

plans and warning his Israeli rival, the king of Syria surrounds the prophet's house and community with his great army "Alas, my master!" says Elisha's servant, "What shall we do?" (6:15).

### Chariots of Fire

"Fear not," answered the prophet, "for those who are with us are more than those who are with them" (6:16). This must have seemed a strange response to the servant for he could plainly see that he and his master were vastly outnumbered. But Elijah prayed that his servant would be enabled to see what he saw: "O Lord, I

pray thee, open his eyes that he may see" (6:17).

Elijah's prayer was answered and suddenly his servant could see what his master saw: a vast unseen host of beings whom God sent to protect and aid this prophet. Regardless of how things had seemed before Elijah's prayer, the servant now realized that they were surrounded with love and faith hidden from normal eyesight.

Elijah's counsel to his servant is still timely for us: "Fear not, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

# Wheat scab in Lancaster County is most severe

HARRISBURG - The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Plant Industry has detected head scab of wheat, or Fusarium Head Blight in the wheatfields of central and southeastern Pennsylvania, according to State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell.

Hallowell said that the severity of this disease is directly related to weather conditions. "Wet weather during and after flowering tend to promote increased disease severity," he said. "Our most recent reports showed that disease severity for head scab in the 1979 crop ranges from one per cent in Lycoming County to 75 per cent in Lancaster County."

He noted that the continual cool, wet weather this Spring and early Summer has directly contributed to the increase of head scab in this year's crop.

According to Lyle Forer, chief of the Division of Plant Pathology for the Agriculture Department, head scab is caused by the fungus Fusarium graminearum, a fungus which survives on crop residues of corn as well as

small grains. Forer said that the disease can usually be readily identified in the field because affected kernels or heads die prematurely, giving a bleached appearance.

At harvest time, black dots and a pink to orange color appear on affected heads. "Normally, the disease reduces kernel weight and size, or it may leave the head completely sterile," Forer said.

As the fungus grows in the wheat kernels, compounds known as mycotoxins can be produced. The mycotoxin F-2 or Zearalenone is most frequently associated with head scab.

"F-2 can cause vomiting and other affects when consumed by hogs, dogs and human beings," Forer said, adding that sheep, cattle and mature poultry are not affected by this mycotoxin.

Hallowell noted that pathogens are carried over on crop residues, and suggested that wheat farmers plow under straw and stalks and leave them below the soil surface to control the disease.

Because the kernels affected by head scab tend to

be very low in test weight, they may be eliminated during harvest by turning up the aspirator in the combine. But Hallowell stressed that without plowdown after harvest, the disease will have a good chance to reinfect the field.

Samples taken by the Bureau of Plant Industry to monitor the disease have detected many fields with scab in the southcentral and southeastern regions. Hallowell said the Department has begun chemically testing the scab samples for the presence of mycotoxins.

More information on the head scab can be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Plant Industry, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120 or by calling 717-787-4843.

In other news from the Department, the warmer weather of last week spurred crop growth and allowed accelerated farm field activities in the Commonwealth.

Though periodic showers were received, operators in all areas rated six days as suitable for fieldwork. Ac-

tivities included spraying, cultivating, making hay, combining small grains and baling straw. Tart cherries, early apples, peaches, tomatoes, sweet corn, potatoes and other vegetables were also harvested.

Diesel and LP gas supplies were reported at 38 per cent and 20 per cent tight, respectively. Gasoline supplies were reported at 47 per cent tight and seven per cent deficit, the Crop Reporting Service reports.

All areas now rate soil moisture at one-third short and the rest adequate. Many of the reporters voice the need for additional moisture, as evidenced by slow growth of soybeans and tobacco, plus leaf curl on corn.

Harvest is active on tart cherries, peaches and early apples, especially Lodi and Yellow Transparent. Tomatoes are turning with a few picked in the south. Early sweet corn is being picked as are snap beans, cabbage and green peas. Apples are sizing well with some drop still in progress. Grapes are sizing well also.

Corn growth last week was a bit slower than a year ago,

with the crop 31 inches high compared to 32 inches in 1978. The north reports 25 inches and central areas are at 31 with the south at 37 inches. Growth has slowed and some bird damage was reported. Some tasseling has been reported in the south.

At 65 per cent harvested and 30 per cent ripe, barley is a week ahead of 45 per cent harvested a year ago. Harvest is 34 per cent complete in the south.

Wheat harvest, at ten per cent complete, is the same as last year. The north has ten per cent combined and central counties report seven per cent, with the

south at 15 per cent. Another 50 per cent is ripe compared to 32 per cent last year. Yields are reported as lowered in some areas due to rust or blasting.

Oats are 25 per cent turning, compared to 22 per cent last year. Northern counties show ten per cent turning, the central area is at 30 per cent with the south at 35 per cent. Five per cent is ripe with a slight bit harvested, mostly in the south.

Potatoes are in bloom in most areas with condition and growth good. Early harvest has just begun in some southern localities.

## Farm Calendar

Today, July 21

Harford County Farm Bureau picnic and Farm Queen Contest, Rocks 4-H Camp Grounds, afternoon.

European farm tour slide program, open to all interested persons. Free admission, Fulton Bank, Main Street, Akron, 7 p.m.

Delaware State Fair, Harrington, through July 28.

Sunday, July 22, 1979

Shippensburg Community Fair, Shippensburg, through July 28.

Dairy goat forum at Lebanon County Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.

Thursday, July 26

Lancaster County 4-H Dairy Show, Solanco Fairgrounds.

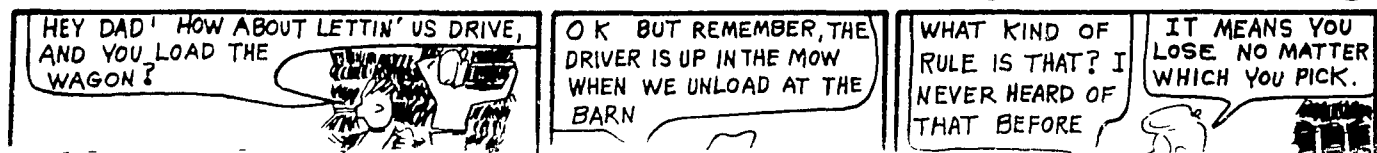
University of Maryland forage research and farm family day, near Clarksville, Howard County.

York County Holstein Field Day, Sinking Springs Farm, north of York, 10:30 a.m., lunch at noon.

Dairy Fitting and showmanship workshop for 4-H'ers in Adams County. At the John Hess Farm, White Oak Tree Road, east of Gettysburg, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Friday, July 27  
Ephrata Area Young Farmers Philba Baseball

## RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong

Vegetables and small fruits  
Call the Adams County Extension Service for details: 717-334-6271.

Pennsylvania Natural  
Susquehanna University,  
Selinsgrove, today and tomorrow, all day.