

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



# Lancaster Farming says...

## Farmers must plunge into Octorara studies

Another state study with possible far-reaching ramifications on area farmers is underway

The Department of Environmental Resources is beginning to take a look at the Octorara Creek to determine if it should be included in the Commonwealth's System of Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Let's have an effort to see that agriculture's interests are protected right from the start, along with good farming representation on advisory committees from lower Lancaster and Chester counties

For many years sportsmen, principally fishermen, and farmers have lived in harmony along the waters of the Octorara, its East and

West Branches and other tributaries Let's not tip the scales now in favor of one over the other.

The area of the Octorara presents many faces. There are rather wild areas, lots of rocks and white water There are numerous scenic areas, too But just as important are the miles of meadow lands adjoining the stream which are important to dairy and other farming interests

If the Octorara has a multiple character, why can't any designation that the DER determines be similarly multiple in scope?

In wild areas, call it a Wild River if you like, in a scenic river area call it a Scenic River if you like

In those areas where agriculture borders the stream and actually depends upon it, we'd like to see a Pastoral designation which recognizes farmland as an integral part of the area's ecology.

While keeping the area green and scenic such a designation would not interfere with day-to-day farming practices

After all, if a pretty stream needs the state's stamp of approval to be called scenic, then farmers should receive the same stamp of protection in a designation that will permit farming to continue as it has for centuries before bureaucratic studies ever started

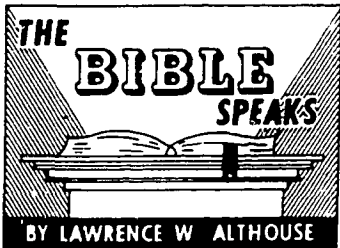
We hope that the state study will

keep condemnation proceedings to a minimum in their scenic easement recommendations

Starting now, farm groups in southern Lancaster and Chester counties should plan to see that agricultural property owners are adequately represented on advisory committees

It's better to get input from the start rather than try to change a bureaucratic recommendation later

It's time that farmers are recognized as the country's Number One Ecologists for their efforts year-round to not only be thoughtful stewards of their land but to protect the vegetation and wildlife that lives upon it



### BEYOND THE "AMEN"!

Lesson for August 17, 1980

Background Scripture: Nehemiah 1 through 6, 8 through 9.

Devotional Reading: Psalms 122.

There are usually two wrong ways to regard prayer. One is to expect too little of prayer, the other is to expect too much. To be sure, from God's side there are no limits to prayer. But from our side, there are definite limits which we may impose. One of these limits is the practice of asking God to do it all without our help.

In a sense, this may sound like a contradiction of much of what we have been saying these past few weeks, that Israel suffered because the nation did not trust fully enough in God But God's constant reminder through his prophets that his people

should depend upon him was not intended to mean "I'll do it all" God does answer prayer, but one of the greatest effects of prayer always is the changes it brings about in the one who does the praying.

#### Fasting and Praying

So, there are two basic elements to prayer. The communication that takes place before the "Amen" is pronounced and the changes in thought and deed that follow after it We see this demonstrated so well in the story of Nehemiah. Learning that the survivors in Jerusalem were in "great trouble and shame,"

Nehemiah was deeply moved: "When I heard these words I sat down and wept, and mourned for days; and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven" (Nehemiah 1.4) This man who held a high position to the Persian King poured out his concern for Jerusalem and its people, and we find his eloquent prayer at the very beginning of the book that bears his name (1:5-11).

But there was to be more than fasting and praying, and something would need to be done beyond saying "Amen" For his prayers not only communicated his

concern to God and expressed his trust in God's power to meet this need, they also did something to Nehemiah, so that in time he became part of the answer to his own prayer, getting the king to permit him to return to Jerusalem and take charge of the reconstruction

#### "Let Us Rise Up and Build!"

It was this same kind of attitude that enabled Nehemiah to successfully rebuild the walls of Jerusalem With his challenge ringing in their ears, the people in Jerusalem when they had

finished praying, said: "Let us rise up and build", and Nehemiah tells us that "they strengthened their hands for the good work." (2:17,18) Later, he reports, "So we built the wall...for the people had a mind to work" (3:6) And then confronted by jealous enemies who wanted to interfere with their work, Nehemiah and his people met this challenge in the same way: "And we prayed to our God, and set a guard as a protection against them day and night" (3:9).

And they were successful because they knew what went before and after the "Amen" prayer.



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith Lancaster County Agricultural Agent  
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### How to Harvest

#### Drought-Stricken Corn

Many corn fields are drying up due to prolonged dry periods The big question facing farmers is how to salvage this drought-stricken corn? Ensiling is one good way, especially if the ears are not well-formed However, if it is to be ensiled, it should be left standing as long as possible for several reasons: 1) As long as it has life, the stalk will continue to build carbohydrates (energy), and that means more nutrient yield and a better quality feed 2) Elevated levels of nitrates may be

present in the plant, especially when a prolonged dry spell is interrupted by a few showers.

Allowing the corn to stand as long as possible will give it more time to convert accumulated nitrates into plant protein, thus reducing the risk of nitrate toxicity and silo gas poisoning However, care should be taken to not let the corn get too dry for good fermentation Aim for 60-70% moisture Even though the leaves are dry, the stalk and ear may contain considerable moisture Thus, moisture is hard to gauge by simply looking at the plant

If the corn is too dry for good fermentation, consider adding water at the blower It takes a lot of water to do this For example, about 500

pounds of water (about 62 gallons) are required to raise the moisture content of one ton of 50% moist silage to 60% moisture When moisture is not in the desired range, it may be beneficial to use preservatives and additives that encourage lactic acid formation If the silage lacks sufficient grain or other carbohydrates for good fermentation, ground ear corn can be added at the rate of 200 pounds per ton

#### Be Particular About Seeding Alfalfa

Alfalfa is a very valuable, high-yielding, high-quality feed crop It is considered as a permanent crop and it is also expensive to establish Thus, it is usually beneficial to do everything possible to keep the crop as vigorous as possible for as long as possible so the cost of

establishment is spread over more years. A good alfalfa stand starts with good establishment, and late summer is one good time to seed new stands, providing there is sufficient moisture for seed germination. Select a well-drained, fertile field free of weed infestations and herbicide residues Generally this will be a field that had been planted to a row crop or a small grain crop Do not seed alfalfa into an old sod crop.

The field should have been limed 6 months to a year prior to seeding Work the ground early to form a good firm seed bed and work in necessary phosphorus and potash This forms the foundation for your new seeding Select a high-yielding, disease resistant variety Remember, alfalfa

seeds are small For good germination and rapid emergence, good seed placement is essential This can be accomplished by band seeding, placing the seed shallow and near to a band of starter fertilizer, and firming the seed into close contact with the soil by using press wheels or a cultipacker Avoid working wet and use herbicides if weed problems exist

Plan to Visit  
Ag Progress Days  
Penn State's Ag Progress

Days will be held August 19-21 at the Rock Springs Agricultural Research Center, Route 45 west of State College. Approximately 225 commercial companies will be exhibiting If you are thinking about purchasing some farm machinery, you may have the opportunity to observe it in action and compare it with other makes that will be demonstrated in the field In addition, there will be many educational exhibits, tours of research plots, crop variety plots, etc

## Farm Calendar

- Saturday, August 16**
- Pa. state plowing contest, Hershey Farms' farm 6B, Hershey, 10 a.m.
- Hereford Jr. Farm Fair, Hereford Senior High, Hereford, Md., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- EAYFA ice cream social, Woodcrest retreat, Ephrata Mtn., 6 p.m. recreation, 8 p.m. eat.
- Chester County 4-H horse show, Blue Rock Farms, West Chester, 8 a.m.
- Berks County 4-H horse roundup.
- Southcentral Pennsylvania Holstein championship, Carlisle fairground, Carlisle.
- PA Polled Hereford Summer show, Dayton Fairgrounds, Dayton
- Sunday, August 17**
- Franklin County Fair, Chambersburg, continues through August 23
- Fulton County Fair, McConnellsburg, continues through August 23
- Somerset County Fair, Meyersdale, continues through August 23
- Monday, August 18**
- Perry County Fair, fairgrounds, Newport, continues through August 23
- Montgomery County, Md. fair, off I-270, Gathersburg, continues through August 23
- Cameron County Fair Emporium, continues through August 24

(Turn to Page A14)

### RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong

