



# Off the Sounding Board

By Sheila Miller, Editor

## Score one run for farmers

"One run has been batted in during the farmland preservation world series. Scoring the first point in the legislative ball game are the Farmers.

"Most of the fans are on their feet and cheering. But, alas, there is some hesitancy in the enthusiasm which hints at a fear of striking out when the bases are loaded."

With the baseball season upon us, it's hard to get anybody's attention unless they think you're highlighting their favorite team's bout at the plate.

Well, in this case, the favorite team is made up by Pennsylvania farmers. If they hang in and win the 'game', they won't be adding another gold trophy to the shelf — they'll be safeguarding their farms for future generations

The first run came in on Tuesday when the House of Representatives almost unanimously voted in favor of HB 143, providing the authority for local government to establish ag areas

Setting up the big play took a concerted, long-term effort by many key individuals and organizations, who through lobbying efforts and letter writing campaigns, got their message through to legislators from town, city, and country, alike. However, much of the credit must go to the Lancaster County spokesmen who have witnessed first hand just how quickly prime farmland can be turned into prime

building lots and industrial parks.

Three of these hard-working, dedicated farmers come to mind in an instant — Lancaster's Representative Noah Wenger, who sponsored the Bill; Amos Funk, conservationist and vegetable farmer who has campaigned to save the prime land for years; and Aaron Stauffer, chairman of the Conservation District who spearheaded the deed restriction program in Ephrata Township where he farms.

It is encouraging to know legislators other than those from southeastern Pennsylvania (evidenced by the 192-1 vote) have heard the farmland preservation message and believe it is the key to our state's agricultural future.

After all the leg work that went before the Bill which finally led to its passage, it would be a blow to the Keystone state's farm family if the legislation were to die in the Senate or on the Governor's desk. But that chance still remains.

Even after the legislation would become law, what would happen if local officials fail to see the importance of preserving farmland. The legislation allows each individual county and township to make its own decision about whether preserving farmland is worth it

If the wrong decision is made, perhaps through misinformation, the only one that's going to lose the ball

game is the farmer, especially young farmers of tomorrow. Can today's farmers have the foresight to insure their sons and daughters will have a chance to follow in the farming profession?

It's a hard question, and one that farm owners will have to answer for themselves.

No one is denying the fact that through hard work, sweat and toil, farmers have earned the right for some leisure time after retirement. But will there be piece of mind as that farmer who has given a lifetime to the land watches a bull dozer carve streets through fertile fields he cultivated with TLC?

Perhaps it's true that wounds can be healed with stitches.

Creating a highly productive farm is an art — a masterpiece reflecting the "artist's" talent.

Remember how the world gasped when a misguided person welded a hammer and smashed Michaelangelo's priceless Pieta, a masterpiece carved out of stone, preserved in a museum. Should there be any less of an outcry for our fertile farmlands?

Losing our farmland, acre by acre, is an unforgivable waste of a precious resource. What's already lost must be forgotten, except as a reminder of what could eventually happen. The fate of what remains is up to us

HB 143 has crossed the plate, the Senate is at bat, and the Governor waits in the dugout. The crowd is waiting for the pitch.

## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent  
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### To Check Weevil in Alfalfa

We are right into the decision making period for alfalfa weevil control. The question comes up, should I spray or cut it? This depends on the degree of damage and just how far your alfalfa is along. If your stand is getting along in maturity, then it would pay you to cut it early. If you decide to spray, then it should be applied only when 60 to 70 percent of the plants show slight feeding damage at the tips. In most cases, spray application will not be necessary. The economic threshold line is based on a loss of 1/10 ton of alfalfa hay per acre. At \$80 per ton of hay, a loss of 1/10 ton equals \$8. If the cost of spraying is \$7.50-\$8.00 per acre, you are at the break even level.

The two major problems with spraying is the physical damage by running the tractor over the growing plants, and secondly, the tolerance time from the time of

application until the residue is "off" the plants. Be sure to read the label for the tolerance periods for the different chemicals.

If you would like a copy of the bulletin "An Insect Management Program For Alfalfa" just give us a call or drop us a card at 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, Pa. 17601.

### To Be Safe

Farm safety specialists tell us that once every four years the average farm laborer can expect to be injured so severely that medical attention is required. Farm workers are much more susceptible to accident and injury than industrial workers. The problem is, that the farm worker, unlike the industrial counterpart, usually operates with a minimum of supervision and may not be adequately trained for the job.

The accident rate of total recordable work injury or illness cases with days away from work for agricultural workers is 2 1/2

times greater than that of the all-industry averages.

We urge all farmers to develop good safety habits and take time to be safe.

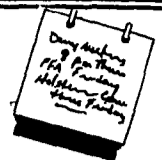
### To Use A Starter Solution for Transplants

Gardening is a way of life for farmers and most suburban people. And if you want to give your garden a real boost this spring...then use a fertilizer starter solution when you set out your plants. It's easy to make...just dissolve about 3 tablespoons or so of regular 10-10-10 fertilizer in a gallon of water. And, as you set out your plants, such as cabbage, tomatoes, or peppers, pour some of the starter solution in the hole...stir the soil...put in the plant...cover the roots with soil...and you've got that plant off to the best start ever.

A starter solution makes plant nutrients available to the young

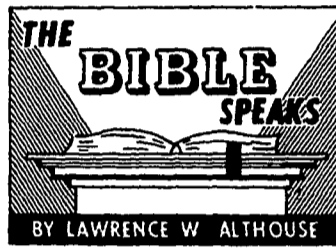
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## Farm Calendar



Today, May 16  
Grafting Demo., 9:30 a.m., Ellis Schmidt farm, Flint Hill Rd., Landenberg  
York County Sheep and Wool Producers field day, 9:30 a.m., 4-H Center  
Wind Energy seminar, 8:30 a.m., Keller Conference Center, University Park  
"Farmer's Spring celebration of sheep shearing and textile hand crafts, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Delaware Ag Museum, Dover  
Sunday, May 17  
York Co. Dairy Princess Tea, 2 p.m., Albert Neufeld farm  
Dairy goat management workshop, 9 a.m., Wolf's Crossroads Picnic Grove, between Sunbury and Augustaville  
Tuesday, May 19  
Ephrata Area Adult Farmers, Senior High Ag Department

York Co. Agri-Women, 10 a.m., home of Mrs. Harold Gross, Manchester  
Wednesday, May 20  
Ag preservation workshop, 7:30 p.m., Sixth Floor Mtg. Room, Lancaster Courthouse  
Friday, May 22  
Md. Angus Assn. spring sale, 7 p.m., Frederick County, Md. Fairgrounds, Frederick  
Saturday, May 23  
Lancaster Forest Fire Crew Highville Country Fair, starts 10 a.m. at Fort Holbrook Fire Base  
PA Chucken Cooking contest, Northern Lebanon Area High School, Fredericksburg  
Md. Pork Cookout Contest and Sugar Loaf Springs Crafts Festival, Md. State Fairgrounds, Timonium, Md. (cookout 1:30)



ARE YOU READY FOR SOLID FOOD?  
May 17, 1981

Background Scripture:  
Hebrews 4:14 through 7:28.  
Devotional Reading:  
John 14:15-24.

It is difficult for us to think of the youthful Jesus in terms short of perfection. We tend to visualize a fully mature Jesus in the body of a twelve-year old. But that isn't the way it was, if we believe Luke, for he concludes the incident when Jesus was taken up to the Temple at age 12 with these words: "And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man." (Luke 2:52).

What that brief sentence means is that Jesus at age 12 was not as wise as he was to be later. He did not understand so fully as a teenager as he did as a man of 33. It means too that at 15, Jesus still had some growing to do; he was not complete, finished or perfected. There was room for growth and Jesus grew, spiritually and personally as well as physically. Thus, in his own life, Jesus embodied the concept that to live is to grow. He was constantly living and growing himself.

### Again First Principles

If Jesus himself was not complete when he first stepped on the scene, neither am I. I still have growing to do. I still need to change and adjust in a world that will not

hold still. So do you. I can say that, not because I know anything specifically about you, but because I know that we all share the same human nature which stagnates when it is still.

Lots of people assume that growing is something they can give up when they reach a certain age or stage in life. Learning is for children, they reason. Growth is for adolescents. Maturation is for the young adult. Apparently, Jesus didn't realize that he was exempted, for he continued to grow until the day they put him on the cross. Hebrews tells us, "He learned obedience through what he suffered."

### You Need Milk

So the question is: where am I in all of this? Am I growing or am I remaining the same while the world around me does nothing but change? Am I ready for solid food in my spiritual life or must Christ say to me as Hebrews says to his readers: "You need milk, not solid food...solid food is for the mature..." (5:13).

Take a long look at your own life as a Christian. Is it a life nourished on "solid food", or is it mostly dependent upon the milk diet of an infantile Christian behaviour? Are you ready to make some substantial growth in maturity, or have you assumed that you have reached a point where growth is no longer necessary?

The writer of Hebrews calls us to continue to grow throughout life: "Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrines of Christ and go on to maturity..." (6:1). Many of us have never gotten beyond the elementary level we reached when we joined the church. At the same time, life has become more complex than it was then. Life as a Christian adult requires nothing less than "solid food."

## HAY HAWS



We better start looking for a new pesticide.