



# Off the Sounding Board

By Sheila Miller, Editor

## Better safe than...

There's an old saying that's traditionally passed down from generation to generation that goes "Better safe than sorry."

Well, in our bigger, better agricultural industry, many farmers have paid or are paying the price for not heeding the advice of their forebears.

"Oh, no," you exclaim. "Here comes the annual reminder on farm safety. Who needs it? I haven't had an accident that killed me yet."

Your right on one point. This is Farm Safety Week. But as far as not needing it, you're dead wrong.

Let's take a look at some statistics.

The National Safety Council tells us agriculture is now the most hazardous occupation for all of industry. Last year, 2,000 of the 13,000 deaths resulting from work accidents happened to farmers or their employees.

For every 100,000 workers, agricultural accidents caused 61 people to die. Even though this rate marks a 12 percent decrease in the number of deaths for that many ag workers during the past ten years (in 1970, the figure stood at 69 deaths), it still puts agriculture at the top of

the list. And, the statistics show that farmers were more careless in 1980 than in 1979, with deaths resulting from ag accidents jumping 13 percent.

By comparison, mining — which is considered to be a dangerous occupation by most people — has cut its death rate record in half over the past decade. In 1979, mining accidents claimed the lives of 100 out of every 100,000 workers, whereas today that figure has dropped to 50.

Construction comes in third with 43 deaths out of 100,000 workers last year, followed by transportation and public utilities with 28.

Surprisingly, working for the government is also hazardous, with 11 government workers out of 100,000 dying because of their jobs last year.

The average death rate per 100,000 for all industries combined is 13 deaths — far below agriculture's 61.

Still think farmers don't need to be reminded to be safe?

The statistics tell us the cold, hard facts on how many of our fellow farmers have been killed, but it skirts the morbid details of how and why. And, most of us with weak stomachs, are just as glad the numbers don't go

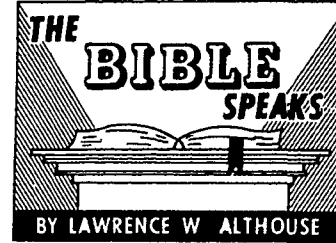
beyond demographics in description.

But, despite the uncomfortable feelings that sweep from stomach to head, it's important to learn just how fatal farm accidents occurred for the mere reason of preventing the same situation from happening to you.

As horror story after horror story is recited, one horrendous fact leaps out in an effort to warn farmers about the consequences of being careless — "in too much of a hurry." Most fatal ag accidents were the result of farmers not taking the time to

turn off the equipment, teach children and hired hands to use the equipment properly, get the right tool, get help, install a fence around the pond or lagoon, aerate silo chutes and manure pits before climbing in, and the list of careless causes goes on.

Everyone in the ag profession likes to boast about being on top, but this is one statistic where farmers should want to strive to be on the bottom of the list. It's a way of life that's meant to be enjoyed. Like the saying goes, "safety is no accident."



TO SEEK THE PLACE  
July 26, 1981

**Background Scripture:**  
Deuteronomy 12:1  
through 14:29  
**Devotional Reading:**  
Amos 5:18-24.

Despite the fact that John had been brought up in a fine church family, when he went off to college it soon became apparent that he was "through with the church." It wasn't just our church, but all churches and his exodus was not one of angry rebellion, but of quiet skepticism. On a few occasions he talked with me about his feelings and thoughts on this subject, but to no apparent effect. We parted friends, but nonetheless friends in disagreement. He might continue in some way to believe in God, he assured me, but he didn't feel that the church had any effect on his religious convictions.

**Not At Every Place**

Therefore it was with some surprise recently when I returned to that church and found John once again a member and substantially involved in its life. A member of the congregation told me that John had come back to the church several years after marrying and the arrival of his first child. I need not have been surprised, for John's experience is something that has been repeated again and again in lots of families and congregations: a youthful rejection of the church that may be followed later by a return when the person finds him

or herself in the midst of adult responsibilities.

When I later spoke with John about his return, he told me that despite his dissatisfactions with some facets of church life, the establishment of his own family had led him to realize that it was nevertheless something that he needed. When the time was ripe, his own inner voice had led him to seek out the church once again.

It was to this same inner voice that Moses was speaking when he challenged the people of Israel: "...you shall seek the place which the Lord your God will choose out of all your tribes to put his name and make his habitation..." (Deut. 12:5). In the promised land of Israel there was to be a central place of worship in contrast to the multitude of local altars at which the Canaanites worshipped. "Take heed that you do not offer your burn offerings at every place that you see; but at the place which the Lord will choose..." (12:13,14).

**Filling The Sojourner**

This did not mean that the Israelite could or should not worship God within his own home or his own town, but that there was an underlying need to come to a central location to join in worship with others. We may say that we can worship God in our own homes (or on the golfcourse) and therefore do not need the church—and we can—but we still have a need to come out from the narrow confines of our own lives to worship God as part of a community of faith.

In fact, the call to worship corporately is a call from a self-centered life in which we assume we need no one else. True worship calls us to "open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in the land" (15:11). And that is why God calls us to "seek the place" where we may hear and respond to that challenge.

## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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### To Attend General Crop Field Day

Keeping up-to-date in the many areas of agriculture is a continual part of our operations. In an effort to assist you with that, a general Field Day will be held on July 29 at the Southeastern Field Research Laboratory of The Pennsylvania State University.

The field day will feature farm and garden crops ranging from corn, forages and soybeans — to grapes, flowers and tomatoes. You'll see trials on different hybrid corn varieties, corn disease research, double cropping of corn after barley, insect control on potatoes, weed and insect control on tobacco and many other projects. While touring plots, you will be able to discuss various farm and garden needs with specialists from Penn state. Lunch will be available by the Lancaster County Farm Women Society #5.

The Landisville research farm is just west of Lancaster off Route #283. Get off at the Salunga-Landisville interchange. Go northeast on Spooky Nook Road about half mile; then left on Shenk Road to covered bridge. Go through the bridge, turn right and you are there.

### To Determine This Winter's Feed Needs

Harvest time is usually one of

the best times for buying good quality feeds at a reasonable price, according to Lancaster County Dairy Agent, Glenn Shirk. In addition to prices being more reasonable, you also have more time to shop for the kind of feed you need, and to negotiate prices and purchasing agreements. Can you afford to make advanced purchases at current interest rates? That depends on the price savings you can negotiate plus the value of any additional production you can obtain from your cows. The added production could be your biggest benefit if advanced purchases enable you to assemble sufficient quantities of fairly uniform quality feeds far enough in advance of need to give you ample time to develop a balanced ration. For example, you might have to borrow \$30,000 at 16% interest for 9 months to purchase feed now, which might cost you \$36,000 later. The interest on this would be about \$3600. The savings in feed costs would be \$6000; that's a net savings of \$2400. The biggest gain might be, being able to feed the cows a more balanced ration it this amounts to a mere 2 pounds more milk per cow per day that's an additional bonus of about \$75 per cow for 9 months — \$3750 for 50 cows. That pays the interest!

### To Understand the pH Effect on Pesticides

Many pesticides, particularly the organophosphates such as Cygon and Diazinon and Carbonate insecticides such as Sevin and Furadan are decomposed quite rapidly by alkaline water (pH 7.0). The decomposition is due to alkaline hydrolysis of the molecule which is converted to a form that is frequently inactive.

For this reason, in areas where water supplies are greater than pH 7.0, better pest control will be obtained if the pH is lowered to a range where pesticide stability is optimized. For most insecticides, the optimum pH is below 6.0. Let's look at a few examples of how pH affects the stability of pesticides.

Dylox decomposes rapidly above 6.0 pH — at a pH of 8.0 only 63 minutes — pH of 7.0 only 386 minutes and a 6.0 pH will require 89 hours for decomposition. Sevin will be 50% decomposed within 24 hours in a 9.0 pH water.

As a general rule, most pesticides undergo some degrees of hydrolysis in alkaline solutions. If your experience a situation with a high pH water we suggest you look for another source of water with a lower pH rather than try to

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## HAY HAWS

PERFUME



"I'm sure he'll just love this new perfume — Le Ferme Fatal. Guaranteed to get a country boy, it's a combination of the scent of new mown hay curing on a warm July afternoon and freshly baked bread cooling on a crisp December morning."