



## Off the Sounding Board

By Sheila Miller, Editor

### A time for giving thanks

Mother Nature is once again signaling the end of a productive if not necessarily prosperous farming year.

Trees devoid of foliage stand out starkly against the horizon, silhouetting fence rows and reminding everyone that winter's cold blasts will soon be whining through barren branches.

As the last of the field corn clanks noisily from the mouth of the picker and lands with a thud atop mounds of golden ears, we are reminded of our bountiful harvest and the blessings that our crops were given in this year of unpredictable weather.

Geese, gregariously honking their way to the sunny south, abandon our colder climes with each beat of their silent wings. Their V-shaped formation marks the route for their annual trek to find a more hospitable winter home.

It's a melancholy time of year as field work winds down and farmers turn their thoughts to long postponed but urgently needed machinery repair and maintenance. The warm machine shed is much more inviting than a wind-raked tractor seat — no debate.

With sweatshirt hood and cap pulled snug around our ears, we hurry with the outside chores — wishing the water hose would fill those troughs faster, promising to cut down on the number of and space between calf hutches strung out around the buildings, lingering a little longer than usual in the comfy hog or broiler houses.

The animals, too, are 'dressing' for the season. Summer coats have been shed and replaced by furry, fuzzy, soft-as-down hair. Human hands often find warmth and a respite from the chapping cold as they are wriggled under the animal's natural blanket.

Coming in from the cold, damp fall day, we sit down to a hearty meal with visions of a plump Thanksgiving turkey in everyone's

head. But that special day of remembering our blessings is still five days away, so our taste buds will have to settle for chicken today.

To the delight of the kids, the weatherman is already forecasting flurries — they secretly pray for a Monday morning announcement that will liberate them from the drudgery of schoolwork and give them a delightful day of sledding and snowball battles.

As farm families and friends prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday, this is also the time when we celebrate the annual Farm-City Week festivities. Fast becoming a tradition in all counties throughout Pennsylvania, this special week calls for sharing concerns and thoughts with our urban neighbors. Many city businesspeople find new insights and respect for the complex, demanding jobs facing today's farm families as a result of 'job exchanges', tours and banquets.

As we share our life's work and experiences with city friends and neighbors, we are reminded of just how lucky we are to be farmers. Although we're not immune to hectic schedules, fighting the traffic on the 'way to work' is not nearly the problem for us that it is for our urban friends. And, unlike the assembly-line factory worker who never sees the finished product, farmers watch and pray at each step of the way — from planting to picking, from farrowing to finishing.

We farm families have a lot to be thankful for, not only this Thursday, but all year long. We're all blue ribbon winners in the 'contest' of devotion and dedication to the land and the farming way of life.

It is the time of year for giving thanks, just as our pilgrim ancestors did long ago. May our prayers of thanks overshadow our complaints about the economy, politics, and other matters for at least one day.

Happy Thanksgiving

## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent  
Phone 717-394-6851



### To Observe Farm-City Week

Pennsylvania's 25th observance of Farm-City Week — scheduled through Thursday — emphasizes the concern for improving our quality of life and recognizes the responsibilities which are shared by both rural and urban people.

The 1981 celebration also focuses attention on the fact that understanding the problems of rural and urban residents are everyone's concern.

Farm-City Week observances were organized on a national scale 26 years ago "to bring about a better understanding between rural and urban segments of society, thus making for a stronger America." The need for this understanding is greater today than at any time in the past.

Pennsylvania is linking its observance this year to theme, "Farm-City — Key to the Future."

Few persons realize the truly close partnership that exists between our rural and urban community, or how greatly our economy depends on the mutual cooperation of rural and urban Pennsylvania. Let's take this opportunity to better understand

the problems and lives of each other.

### To Take A Correspondence Course

The Pennsylvania State University offers a number of Correspondence Courses in Agriculture and Home Economics. They range from Farm Law, Soil and Water Conservation, Genetics of Animal Breeding, Dairy Goats, Rabbit Production, Household Pests and Their Control to Planning Your Retirement, Dressing and Curing Meat, Reupholstering a Chair and many more.

These courses are given by mail and are very practical. Hundreds of people have taken these courses and learned more about their business or a new enterprise.

### To Beware of Anti-Freeze Poisoning in Dogs

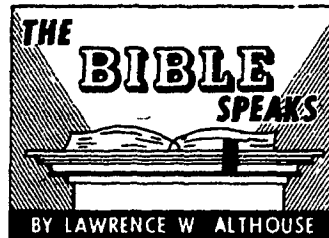
An increasing number of people are performing their own automobile, truck and tractor maintenance. This may include draining and changing the anti-freeze. If you are among this group of home mechanics, a word of warning is advised.

Dr. Dwight Schwartz, Penn State Extension Veterinarian, tells us that dogs find the sweet flavor of anti-freeze solutions very tasty.

Beware! Ethylene glycol, a chief ingredient in anti-freeze, is extremely toxic to dogs, causing severe kidney damage. Never leave open containers of automotive coolant lying where a dog might find and drink from them. If your car, truck or tractor leaks coolant or the radiator overflows onto the driveway, clean and spill and dispose of the soaked towels properly.

### To Enroll 4-H Beef Club Members

Do you know of a young person who would like to raise his own steer, to train and groom his steer and then show it at local and state fairs, and to participate in a variety of 4-H Club activities with other young people? If so, he might be interested in joining the Red Rose 4-H Beef Club. Glenn Shirk, Extension Agent, reminds us that members are now starting to purchase 400 to 500-pound feeder calves for next year's project. Youth between the ages of 8 and 18 as of January 1, 1982 are welcome. For more information about 4-H and the Red Rose 4-H Beef Club, contact the Lancaster County Extension Service, located in the Lancaster Farm and Home Center; tele 394-6851.



ARE WE STILL "PLAYING CHURCH"?  
November 22, 1981

Background Scripture:  
Ephesians 4.

Devotional Reading:  
Colossians 2:8-15.

I don't know about you, but when I read the fourth chapter of Ephesians, I feel a deep sense of shame. The words are beautiful, but their power to judge us is fantastic. You don't even have to read the whole chapter of know what I mean:

"...forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace..." (4:2,3).

"There is one body and one Spirit...one hope...one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all..." (4:5,6).

"...the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint...makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love" (4:16).

"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you" (4:31,32).

No Longer Children

Read each of those passages along with your daily newspaper

and you cannot escape the terrible knowledge that Christ's people on earth are projecting anything but the image of the Church described in Ephesians. "Maintain the unity of the Spirit"? What unity? "Be kind to one another"? No, Christians are not kind to one another, they are contentious, judgmental, and divisive. "There is one body and one Spirit"? Hardly! There are many bodies, and it would seem, all contending that they alone possess the one Spirit.

Oh, to be sure, sometimes the Presbyterians, Methodists and U.C.C.'s get together for a service, or sit together with the Episcopalians and the Lutherans in a council of churches. Yes, and sometimes the Pentecostals sit down with the Baptists and the Church of God acknowledges the Nazarenes. And Roman Catholics and Protestants have buried the hatchet haven't they? (— except in Northern Ireland, where they're burying one another).

The Truth In Love

But if you think that's what Ephesians 4 is all about, no wonder we're so divided. Ephesians 4 is speaking of a unity and love that does not issue into constant conflict and division. Ephesians 4 is the antithesis of Christians attacking each other, impugning each other's faith, deriding each other's efforts, and denouncing each other's discipleship.

The writer of Ephesians calls us to "mature manhood" (personhood) "so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine..." (4:13,14). But, until we learn to accept our unity in Christ we will still be children "playing" church."

## OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

### Our great American farmers

Each Pennsylvania farmer gets more important every day. While the state and nation have fewer farmers than ever before, the overall population continues to increase so there is a growing demand for more food.

Never have so many persons been so dependent on so few. Farm-City Week is being observed November 20-26 to bring about increased understanding of problems existing between the rural and urban segments of our society.

The number of United States farms is expected to drop by another third in the next 20 years. There were about 2.5 million farms in January 1980. This may be only 1.8 million by the year 2000.

Because in the decline in the number of farms, many think American agriculture is a diminishing industry. But nothing could be further from the truth.

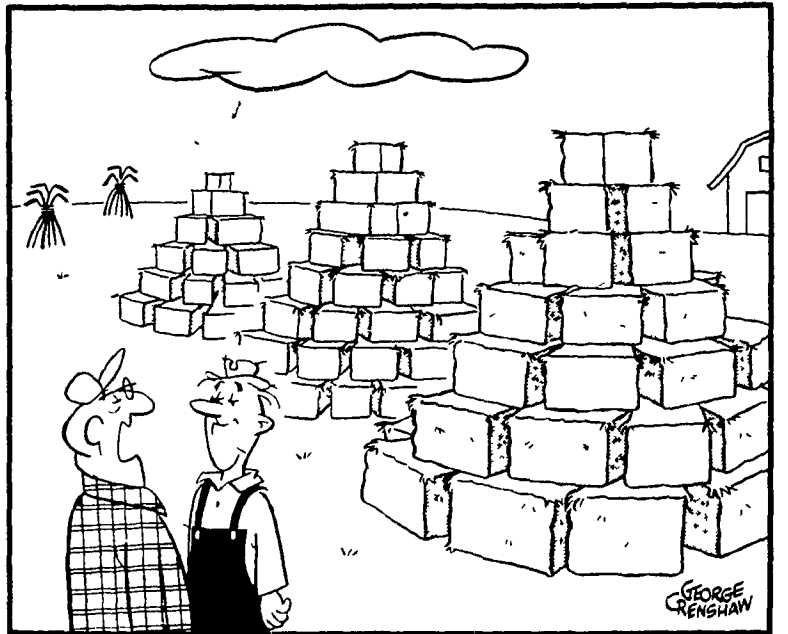
One farm worker now feeds 59 persons. In 1952 the figure was 16. And the American diet is the finest in the world. It includes fruit and vegetables, both fresh and canned; more meat per person than in most other countries; grain products such as cereals and breads; and an endless variety of dairy products.

Specifically this included per person in 1979:

- ✓ 147 pounds of beef, veal, pork, lamb, and mutton;
- ✓ 62 pounds of chicken and turkey;

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## HAY HAWS



"I realize it's Farm-City week, Hooper. But we're supposed to show those grocers who are coming to visit how things are done on the farm, not make them feel at home."