



Promoting #1 Ag

AG Day will be observed on Saturday, Oct. 1, at the Colorado State-University of Utah football game in Fort Collins. A barbecue will feature Colorado-grown farm products. Two dozen Colorado farm and commodity groups are cooperating in staging such activities as a milking contest, sheep-shearing demo, equine, agronomic and hort displays and a mini-auction.

This seems like a natural way for the Number 1 Nittany Lions to help promote the Number 1 industry in the Commonwealth -- agriculture.

The Lions play a few teams that hail from states with a better-recognized ag reputation, such as Nebraska and Iowa. Joe Paterno finally succeeded in showing the rest of the nation that Eastern football is as good as any in the country. Perhaps the Lions could help in getting across this same message that Eastern agriculture is as good as any in the country.

National TV exposure wouldn't hurt in helping to tell this story.

Perhaps, Gov. Thornburgh or Penny Hallowell could challenge their counterparts to some friendly competition -- a cornhusking contest with the Nebraskans or hog calling with the Iowans.

Picture is worth...

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then perhaps a few pictures might be worth some votes in the State Legislature. Now that the budget fuss is over in Harrisburg, lawmakers can turn their attention to other bills, such as SB 463, the mandatory deposit bill for beverage cans and bottles.

We won't devote too many words to the merits of the bill in farm country. They're pretty obvious.

Let's let the photos on Page A12 tell the story of the visual violation of the rural countryside.

Also, we suggest four alternate courses of action to help boost the "bottle bill." They're listed in direct order of increasing militancy to get across the point of the proliferation of cans and bottles in farm country.

1. If you don't want to get directly involved, yet help, see that the page of photos gets to your state legislator.

2. If you want to get mildly involved, take some polaroids of your own along the roadways and fields of your farm and send them to your legislator.

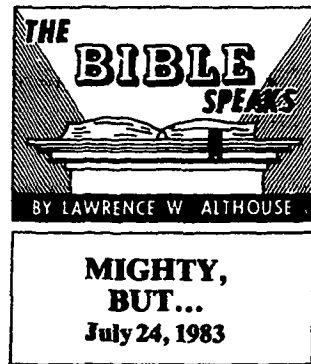
3. If you really want to get the point across, take a little time and collect some of the cans and bottles, package them up and mail them to your state legislator.

4. If you want to get collectively involved, get the 4-H, FFA or other farm group together and collect all the cans and bottles you can find. Fill a few pickups or grain trucks and take a "can caravan" to Harrisburg and drive around the Capitol about noontime.

Now, these last two suggestions are given with some reservation, even though one of our favorite writers was Henry David Thoreau, the bean planter and father of civil disobedience.

But you gotta admit, particularly that last idea would get some media coverage on front pages and on the 6 o'clock news.

Whatever you do though, SB 463 deserves rural backing.



The story of Naaman, the Syrian general, has always been one of my favorites. One reason is that Naaman's plight and reaction to that plight are so typical of human behavior today. He was a very important man, second only to the King of Syria himself. The chronicler tell us: "he was a mighty man of valor..."

Yet, there is more to the chronicler's comment on Naaman. Despite Naaman's undeniable importance and power, there was something that was going to take away all his power. There was a flaw in him that would negate his tremendous potential: "He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper!" His career would collapse.

A LITTLE MAID

Many of us have had the same experience, for something in our lives sometimes keeps us from realizing our potential. "Jack would make a good supervisor, but he drinks too much," "Sally does a great job in sales, but she can't get along with people."

Naaman knew that his career would be over soon if he didn't do something quickly. Fortunately for him there was someone in his own household who could guide him to someone who could heal him. How ironic that it was a little Hebrew slave girl, a maid in Naaman's

household who would be instrumental in getting the general healed. As one who had been kidnapped from Israel, we might well expect that she would be too bitter to help her master.

We get a glimpse of Naaman's anxiety. He is so anxious to find help that he is willing to go anywhere and do anything.

Well, almost anything and almost anywhere. When it becomes obvious that the King of Israel cannot help him, the prophet Elisha invites Naaman to come to him for healing. It is a mighty host that appears before the humble house of Elisha: horses, chariots and troops. No doubt about it, Naaman is a mighty man!

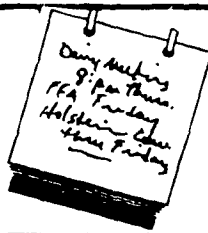
SOME GREAT THING

So, perhaps we can understand his reaction when Elisha sends him a messenger instructing him to bathe seven times in the Jordan. The fact that Elisha himself didn't come forth to meet him truly offended the proud man: "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper." Naaman wasn't accustomed to being treated in that manner and he was indignant.

Once again, however, it is one of those "little" people who is able to help Naaman help himself. First it was a "little" maid and now it is one of his servants who speaks persuasively to the proud general: "My father, if the prophet had commanded you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much rather, then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean.'?"

Only when Naaman was willing to "come down off his high horse" was Elisha able to heal him. And often, it's that way with us, too.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, July 23
Shippensburg Fair, Shippensburg. Continues through July 30.
Pa. Ayrshire Field Day from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Delaware Valley College.
Lebanon County 4-H horse round-up at 9 a.m. at the Lebanon Fairgrounds.
Del. State Fair, Harrington. Continues through next Saturday.

Sunday, July 24
Clarion County Fair, New Bethlehem. Continues through July 30.
Big Butler Fair, Butler. Continues through July 30.
Troy Fair, Troy. Continues through July 30.
Goshen County Fair, West Chester. Continues through July 30.

Monday, July 25
McKean County Extension Executive Committee chicken barbecue at 7:30 p.m. at the 4-H Center.

Tuesday, July 26
Hunterdon County, N.J. Farmer Businessmen's picnic at

Matthew Gordeuk dairy farm, neautville. Continues through July 30.
Baptistown, N.J.
Conneaut Valley Fair, Con-

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OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

Doesn't agree

Dear Editor:

As a Lancaster Farming reader and part-time farmer, I have been noticing the articles regarding advertising for dairy products. I would like to comment on dairy product consumption that normal advertising will not help. This problem is where you have people allergic to dairy products; i.e. their digestive systems cannot tolerate dairy products.

My boss, my sister-in-law and many others have always been allergic to milk products. Myself, I grew up on a dairy farm and I always enjoyed milk and milk

products. Then, a couple of years ago I noticed I was getting indigestion after every ice cream cone. Eventually, I gave up on all dairy products. No amount of traditional advertising could induce me to consume dairy products again.

What the dairy industry needs is a ready to consume ice cream, cheese, butter and milk product for anyone. Until then, there will always be a large portion of the population who will not consider consuming dairy products.

D.J. Francis
Westminster, Md.

NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent
Phone 717-394-6851



To Take Time To Be Safe

Once every four years the average farm laborer can expect to be injured so severely that medical attention is required. Our safety engineers tell us that agricultural workers are much more susceptible to accidents and injury than industrial workers.

Many pieces of farm machinery need to be repaired and adjusted on the job. Some of this is done while the machinery is operating and on the run. This is dangerous and we urge you to stop the machine and shut it off before any adjustments are made. Just a few seconds of patience could save a life or a vital part of the human body. Farm machinery has replaced the dairy bull as the main cause of farm accidents. Keep in mind however, it is not the machinery that is at fault in most cases, but the operator who does not take time to be safe.

To Order Seed Needs

The late summer and fall seeding season is coming rapidly. August seedings of alfalfa should now be in the planning stage. Winter oats, barley and wheat seedings should be planned and orders placed for the right kind of seed. Don't wait until seeding time and then discover the supply is exhausted. Certified seed is strongly suggested in order to realize the most from all inputs.

If you plan to use homegrown seed from a healthy field, they should be tested at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture seed lab; don't waste

time and money on poor quality seeds; you could be spreading disease and more weeds.

To Understand The pH Effect On Pesticides

Many pesticides, particularly the organic phosphates such as Cygon and Diazinon and Carbonate insecticides such as Sevin and Furadan are decomposed quite rapidly by alkaline water (pH less than 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 maintained. 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 to decomposition. Sevin will be 50% decomposed within 24 hours in a 9.0 pH water.

As a general rule, most pesticides undergo some degree of hydrolysis in alkaline solutions. If you 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 change the pH of your water supply.

To Determine This Winter's Feed Needs

Harvest time is usually one of

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