



## Ostrich ag; hen farming

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

Another Farm Fairy Tale as told by Grandmother Heidi many years ago.

Once upon a time, an ostrich and a hen wanted to go into farming.

The big, strong ostrich looked down at the hen and thought:

"I got it all over this little hen. She's never going to be able to keep up with me."

And, the little hen looked up at the ostrich and thought:

"What am I doing? I'm never going to be able to compete with this big bird."

Now, the time they picked to go into agriculture wasn't exactly the best no matter who you may be. Government was cutting back on its ag support; an ill-timed crop reduction program was put into effect; foreign birds were causing all kinds of problems and the weather went sour -- just to name a few of the problems.

The hen and ostrich went about starting to

farm in different ways.

The hen constantly moved about, scratching and pecking away here and there. If the scratching and pecking was too tough in one spot, the hen moved elsewhere and tried something different. She constantly checked with others in the flock and beyond. She just didn't sit back and cackle away, but asked questions, checked with others and adapted to changing conditions.

The ostrich tried its own type of farming. It stuck strictly to the old, traditional ways, sticking its head in the sand and letting its colorful plumage flutter in the breeze. It was big, colorful and quite impressive-looking, but also extremely impractical for the times.

Grandmother Heidi would always end the fairy tale with the questions of which farmer you'd rather be -- the ostrich or the hen.

It seems that her question is now more appropriate than ever.

Ostrich agriculture is being practiced by those who think it's business as usual. "Let me alone and just let me farm," they think.

But it is not business as usual in farming and likely never will be again. The rules have changed drastically and more and more those outside agriculture are setting the rules.

A lot of farmers face some tough, hard decisions and the longer they play ostrich, the fewer will be their alternatives. It's time to get those heads out of the sand and start scratching and pecking around to check out those alternatives and what may need to be changed to survive.

The first step is admitting that it's not business as usual and accepting that some long-held traditions and practices may need to be changed.

And, what happened to the ostrich?

It stuck to tradition and business as usual.

And its business went the same way of its flashy, colorful plumage. When's the last time you saw ostrich plumes as fashion accessories?

## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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### Cool Apples Keep Longer

This is apple picking season and whether you grow apples or just like to eat them, here's some information on how to store them.

Remember that cool apples will keep longer. Ideally, they should be stored at 33° Fahrenheit at 90% humidity and in dim light or darkness. Since most people can't provide these perfect conditions, the next best thing is a family-type refrigerator. Just put the apples in a plastic bag, then close the bag loosely or punch a few small holes in it so the air can circulate.

Now as to picking, it's a good practice to store the fruit in shade as it's picked, then allow it to stand in the orchard overnight to cool. Then, place the apples in storage early in the morning before the temperature rises too much.

If you leave apples in a packing shed or in piles under the trees for one week, you'll shorten their storage life by about five weeks. So keep apples cool, maintain good

air circulation during storage and your apples should keep a long time.

### Winter Protection From Rabbits

That cute rabbit you saw playing in your yard this summer may be back this winter to eat your landscape plants. In winter when food is scarce...rabbits will eat the bark from small trees and shrubs...and if the rabbits are hungry enough and plentiful enough they can kill a plant.

You can protect your trees in one of two ways. Wrap the trunks and low hanging branches with wire mesh or hardware cloth. The wire barrier should be at least 2 feet high to prevent rabbits from reaching over it.

You can also use commercial rabbit repellents, however, you may have to reapply the repellent during the winter.

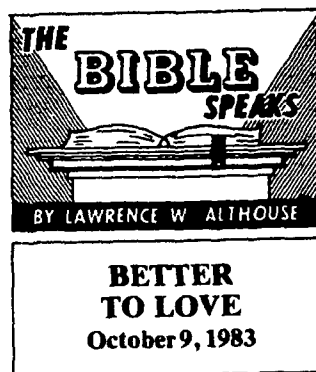
Rabbits are fond of small fruit trees, crab apples, dogwood, and pine. They also like forsythia bushes, pyracantha and

honeysuckle...but this doesn't mean your other landscape plants are safe...a rabbit's taste is anything but consistent.

### To Salute 4-H

National 4-H Week runs through this week - October 2-8. I wish to commend the over 3,000 4-H members, volunteer leaders and professional youth workers for their accomplishments and service to Lancaster County.

Through 4-H projects and activities, youth from all social and economic backgrounds, both rural and urban, demonstrate that they can make a difference in food production, conservation of our national resources, improve economic understanding, and in the formulation of future career decisions. As a result of the fine exchange programs, 4-H also contributes to international understanding and increased world food production. Four-H provides an important pathway to the future for many youth.



Background Scripture: Hosea 11:1-4, 8; 14:4-7; 1 John 4:8,9.  
Devotional Reading: John 3:18-26.

Behind the wry joke, I could sense a bundle of pain. The man, a friend of many years, had just told me that his daughter had given birth to a baby out of wedlock. The father of the child, a college dropout who manages to escape employment by getting the daughter to solicit funds from her parents, has also managed to turn the girl against her parents (although not their monetary support), rupturing a once-close, warm relationship. "Do you think," he concluded, "they'll ever invent birth control pills that are retroactive?" We both chuckled. It was better than crying.

### THEY DIDN'T KNOW

Of course, he didn't really mean that he wished his child had never been born. But he couldn't help wondering, if only for a moment, whether he would have risked all that love if he had known the hurt and disappointment that were later to go with it. Don't many of us wonder that from time to time? To love is to make ourselves vulnerable to pain.

And that is true, not only on the human level, but on the divine level as well. Nowhere is this more poignantly expressed than in the prophecy of Hosea, Chapter 11:

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning incense to idols. Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk. I took them up in my arms; but they did not know I healed them. (11:1-3).

God's love is expressed for us here in terms that any of us can understand and appreciate. No matter how tender the love, the capacity for hurt is always present. We can place ourselves within Hosea's words: "I led them with cords of compassion, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them" (11:4). The more tender the love, the greater the potential for pain.

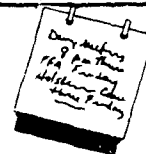
### WITHOUT LOVE

Many people conclude, therefore, that the only thing to do is to insulate themselves from love. If they do not make themselves vulnerable through love, they will protect themselves from pain. So they steel themselves to feel nothing, neither love nor pain.

Yet, as must be obvious, that is no answer to the problem of love. For, if we insulate ourselves from love to protect ourselves from pain, we will also insulate ourselves from God. One cannot "play it safe" and still experience love. For, as the writer of 1 John tells us so simply: "He who does not love does not know God; for God is love." We can never be secure without God and, without running the risk of loving, we cannot know God.

It is like that old saying: "Better to have loved and lost, than never having loved at all." Except that when we love - as God loves us - we do really lose.

## Farm Calendar



Saturday, Oct. 8

International Trotting and Pacing Pony Sale, Farm Show Complex.

Sunday, Oct. 9

Red Rose Alliance Walk-a-Thon, 1 p.m., Rea & Derick parking lot, New Holland.

Tuesday, Oct. 11

Lebanon County Holstein Club banquet, 7 p.m., Zoar's Social Hall, Mt. Zion.

Wednesday, Oct. 12

NEMA annual meeting, Hershey Hotel, continues through Friday.

Dairyalea Co-op annual meeting, Hotel Syracuse, N.Y., continues tomorrow.

Bradford Lamb Pool, 9-11 a.m., Wyalusing Sales Barn.

Northeast DHIA Directors, 10:30 a.m., Pink Apple, Tunkhannock.

Thursday, Oct. 13

Pa. Veterinary Medical Assn. 101st annual meeting, Seven Springs Mountain Resort, continues through Sunday.

Pa. 57th renewal of the Pa. State Guernsey Sale, Sales Pavilion.

Friday, Oct. 14

Penn National Horse Show, Farm Show Complex, continues through next week.

Second annual State Grange Dairy Sale, Mel Kolb Sale Barn, Lancaster.

Saturday, Oct. 15

Second Annual Keystone Autumn Classic Pa. Shorthorn Breeders Assn., Brad Eisiminger Farm, Waynesburg.

East Coast Farm Toy Show, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Harvest Drive Restaurant.

### To Sow A Fall Cover Crop

Our concern for soil conservation should include a cover crop following tobacco, corn or other row crops. This is an excellent practice and we encourage all farmers to keep their land covered with some vegetation during the winter months. The cover crop could be any winter grain crop or domestic ryegrass and field broomegrass. Then next spring the growth can be pastured early and then plowed down or used in a no-till grain operation. Cover crops not only add organic matter but help to hold the topsoil during the winter months. They are well worth the investment.



### Otis

