

OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

We're forgetting about the rules

I have been reading in your fine weekly the sorrowful lamentations of readers concerning such common subjects as farm foreclosures, Avian influenza and pseudorabies in hogs.

Although my first reaction was to feel sorrow for all those who have been stricken with one form or another of bad luck, my second more compulsive emotions lean toward the remonstrative.

In all of life we learn that in order to avoid problems there are certain rules by which we must abide. In like manner, there are certain rules of nature far more forceful than any rules laid down by man, and these are the rules of God's Universal Nature.

Modern man has conquered so very much that he fails to recognize these rules, or has the false confidence that he can conquer or circumvent them. Sooner or later, however, man is made to realize just how insignificant we really are.

Over the past several years we have had some very clear examples that we cannot long violate the rules of Nature and

always come out the winner.

First, we had a pseudorabies outbreak; secondly there was Avian influenza and even now I'm hearing of a deadly devastating disease in large dairy herds in Eastern Pennsylvania.

In all of these cases the victims followed the philosophy with which I was recently admonished: "Specialize, get in big, mechanize or get out!" This is the modern way. The word is monoculture. God and his nature did not intend this to be so. In monoculture the pathogens have a "field day." We have been shown that alien pathogens can adapt much faster than man can possibly formulate his miracle drugs to combat them.

Far better the farmer heed the rules of Nature (God) than blindly follow the urging of governmental agencies whose purpose is to maintain a stable society through a cheap food policy! Sooner or later, and perhaps not too much later, this strategy is destined to backfire.

Already it is not at all unusual

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Farm Calendar

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Farm Machinery Meeting, Sheraton Danville Inn, continues tomorrow.

Grassland FFA Banquet, 6.30 p.m., New Holland and Blue Ball Fire Halls, program in high school auditorium

Lamb grading workshop, Waynesburg, continues tomorrow

Beef cattle field day, 9 a.m., Beltsville Md Ag Research Center.

York Extension Soils School, 9.30 a.m.-3 p.m., 4-H Center, Blair Farm computer program, 9 a.m., Hunterdon County, N.J Extension.

Manheim FFA Banquet, 6.45 p.m., Ruhl's Church.

District 4-H dairy leaders, Dauphin County.

Saturday, March 10

Cecil County, Md. Farm Bureau annual meeting.

Now is the Time

(Continued from Page A10)

pigs warm, relax aching muscles, or warm crankcases of tractors and automobiles so they'll start easier. The heat lamp can also be used in brooders for small pigs or lambs, or baby chicks or at your workbench to give you quick heat.

But, I'd like to add a word of caution. A heat lamp can be dangerous because the lamp's rays can easily burn you, the same as a sunburn.

Also, if you are using the lamp continuously for a long period, use a porcelain socket. Brass and most plastic sockets will not be able to stand the heat. Another thing ... in a brooding area use a wire or chain

to support the lamp. Don't hang it by its cord, the cord was designed to carry the current and not the weight. Remember, a heat lamp can come in handy around the farm or home in cold weather. But handle it with care.

To Develop

Good Pesticide Records

The arrival of March means the beginning of a new growing season and warmer weather. And, the use of various spray materials and chemicals will be a common practice. They're all intended for a special purpose, if used correctly. In order to protect the producer from the danger of having excess residues in food and feed crops, it is very important that accurate records be kept. This is true on crops as well as with livestock. In case the producer is charged with excess residues, these written records may save your business. Don't rely on your memory or oral statements; they will not stand up at a hearing or in court. Be sure records list the name of the material, and the rate and date of application.



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