

## Blame it on spring fever

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

By the calendar, it should be time for spring fever, even if the weather hasn't been cooperating too much lately. That means it's time for another nonsensical ag essay. So, here goes.

From time to time, new books come out onto the market which attempt to catch the fancy of readers by making the central character an animal. Everyone remembers the classic, "Black Beauty."

And supposedly there's another out of the Nation's Capital these days that centers on the pet dog of Vice President George Bush. It places the pooch in all kinds of political and diplomatic situations.

Well, it's about time that some enterprising farmer with a literary interest takes pen to paper and authors another of these animal novels. There are all kinds of possibilities:

In the tradition of finding one's true roots, a real dramatic, heart-wrenching novel could be written by a cute little ET heifer. The book could trace the widespread, futile wanderings of this poor little agricultural orphan of modern genetic technology as she searches from farm to farm trying to find her true mother and father.

The search begins with a tough grade Holstein cow who served as surrogate mother for the heifer who supposedly has black and white royalty running through her milk veins.

In a moving confrontation the heifer is told

by the surrogate that she was only pressed into temporary semi-motherhood to replace the real mother who wanted to quickly expand her royal lineage but not at the expense of her dual career as a mass merchandiser of progeny and production achievements.

Since the young heifer was just one of a large litter of ET's, she aimlessly wanders from brother to sister only to learn that each had been parceled out to different foster homes.

There are rumors that a kindly, old vet can shed some light on her beginnings, but he's much too busy to help her.

Her efforts to find her father are equally fruitless. Her inquiries only lead to cold, impersonal small semen tanks instead of the massive real-life fatherly image she sought.

In a tearful scene, she learns her father died some years even before her birth.

The confused heifer finally ends her futile search, only to be caught up in the continuing cycle of conceiving but not mothering offspring.

And, some poultry farmer can take a fling at a novel entitled "The Last Survivor."

It is a first-hand account by the sole surviving chicken of the Avian flu disaster.

By hiding behind the false partition of a small backyard coop, this lone feathered felon escapes the horrible fate of millions of its friends and neighbors.

While the para-military depopulation operation swirls around outside, this hidden hen scratches out a crude diary so that coming generations will not easily forget what has happened.

In the end, the hen emerges from hiding into a completely foreign antiseptic world of locked doors and keep-out signs.

These are just a couple of ideas that could lend themselves to possible ag best sellers about farm animals. I'm sure there are many, many more.

Having suggested the central characters and genesis of a plot, I'll bypass writing the actual novel itself.

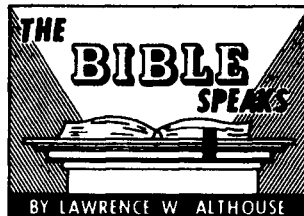
Along with the nonsensical ideas for the books themselves, blame the lack of interest in the literary followthrough on some spring fever.

In any event, let's have a spell of good drying-out weather so spring field activities get get under way with earnest.

After all, who's going to have any time to do some extra reading.

I'll wait for the "Made for TV movie" anyway.

But then again, Twilight zone has been off the air for quite a few years.



### THE ASTONISHMENT OF EASTER April 22, 1984

Background Scripture:

Mark 15:1 through 16:20

Devotional Reading:

Mark 15:6-15.

In many Bibles, particularly the more recent translations, the Gospel according to Mark ends with verse 8, usually with a notation that "Other texts and versions add as 16:9-20 the following passage..."

It is not my purpose to pursue the scholarly arguments concerning what is the original ending of Mark's Gospel. There is real value in 16:9-20 and it does not matter to me if it was originally part of Mark or added later in some versions.

At the same time, I must confess that, if we end Mark with verse 8, the last sentence of this gospel hits us with a tremendous intensity:

And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment came upon them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.  
**HE HAS RISEN!**

It is possible that Easter has become for many of us so tame and predictable that we have lost the sense of excitement it should generate. In Greece on Easter Sunday the resurrection means more than just the biggest worship service of the year. The Greek Orthodox still have the capacity to become emotionally involved in

the sheer magnitude of Christ's resurrection. They still are able to tremble at the thought of it and their capacity for holy "astonishment" remains.

If we are not truly "amazed" or "astonished" by this eternal event, it is because we don't really comprehend what it means. To be "ho-hum" about Easter means we've missed the point.

And what is amazing and astonishing about the resurrection is not that the stone was mysteriously rolled away from the tomb, nor that they found there a young man dressed in a white robe, nor even that, as the young man indicated, Jesus was no longer there in a tomb. What makes Easter an occasion for a holy "tremble" or two is the extraordinary proclamation that "He has risen," that "He is going before you to Galilee" and "there you will see him, as he told you."

#### THEY WERE AFRAID

The very last thing Mark tell us in this "short version" is that the disciples fled from the garden, "for they were afraid." Why? Why should they feel "afraid"? Perhaps this was not fright so much as a kind of "holy fear," the sense of awe and wonder in the face of something that overwhelms our minds and hearts.

Furthermore, I believe the disciples realized that the resurrection of Jesus confirmed that, in being with him, they had been in the presence of the Almighty God — and that should always be an astonishing thought for us.

So it is for us: to experience Easter in the deepest sense is to know that we are confronted with the presence and power of God. And if we "tremble" just a bit in the knowledge of that, is it not a fitting response to the astonishment of Easter?

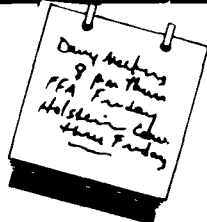
## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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## Farm Calendar



**Saturday, April 21**  
Little I livestock exposition, 8 a.m., Ag Arena, Penn State.  
York County Sheep and Wool Producers Field Day, 9:30 a.m., York Fairgrounds.  
Pa. Ayrshire Calf and Bred Heifer Sale, noon, Bedford County Fairgrounds.

**Sunday, April 22**  
Grange Week begins.

**Monday, April 23**  
Bradford-Sullivan Forum, 8 p.m., Bradford County Museum.  
Lancaster County Milk Promotion Committee, 8 p.m., Farm and Home Center.

**Tuesday, April 24**  
Bradford County Extension

Directors, 9:30 a.m., Extension Office.  
Lebanon conservation demonstrations rescheduled from last week due to weather. Begin at 1 p.m. at Evergreen Road and South Lincoln Ave.

Grange Week Pa. Legislative Day, Harrisburg Host Inn. Workshops at 1 p.m. and banquet at 6:45 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 25**  
Frederick County Conservation Field Day, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Albert Stambaugh farm, Rocky Ridge, Md.

**Thursday, April 26**  
Bradford annual sheep and wool growers meeting, 7:30 p.m.,

Extension Office.  
Biological farm and garden workshop, 7:30 p.m., Parkeville Fire Company, Hanover.  
Pequea Valley FFA banquet, 6:45 p.m., Plain and Fancy Restaurant, Intercourse.

**Friday, April 27**  
N.J. State Holstein Calf Sale, 7 p.m., Warren County Fairgrounds.

York Farmers Forum, 7 p.m., Rutter's Restaurant, Red Lion.  
**Saturday, April 28**  
Chester-Delaware Pomona Grange legislative banquet, Wagontown Fire Hall.

Bradford County Maple Festival,  
(Turn to Page A12)

### To Understand Persistent Weed Problems

Just how persistent do we have to be in order to control weed problems? Well, the answer to this question comes from weed scientists who ran germination tests on weed seeds which had been buried for up to 50 years.

They report that 29% of Johnsongrass seed germinated after being buried for 3½ years; morning glory 74% after 5½ years; pigweed 66% after 40 years; and dock 52% after 50 years. They further reported that 51 of 107 species tested still have live seeds after 20 years.

The reason these seeds remain in the soil for such a long period without sprouting is apparently related to environmental conditions. According to weed experts, some seeds need just the right combination of moisture, temperature, and nutrients before they will germinate. This explains why

we may suddenly be faced with a weed problem we thought was cured several years ago.

### To Practice Strict Sanitation

Our poultry producers are hopefully seeing the end to the avian influenza disease, hog producers are faced with the pseudorabies problem and dairy farmers are concerned with Johnes disease. We urge livestock and poultry producers to make every effort to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. Many of these infections are brought home by the owner, or with the purchase of a new animal. There are a number of infections that can be spread very easily from farm to farm.

In this part of the country where the density of poultry and livestock is so great, producers should be alert to the possibility of spreading diseases. When returning from another farm, or public place, different clothes and footwear should be used. Stray dogs, cats, flies and wild birds should be controlled as much as possible. New purchases should be segregated and tested before mixing with the home herd or flock. We urge every producer to give attention to the prevention of diseases through good management and the use of good sanitation practices.

### To Be Careful With Fertilizer Placement

Most of the crops we plant will require additional plant food in the form of nitrogen, phosphorus and

(Turn to Page A12)

