

Taking the long view

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

It is good to see more and more farmers and farm organizations taking a longer-range view of their problems and concerns.

The lesson of stop-gap, bandaid solutions -- that have been so popular at the federal level -- has finally sunk in deep enough to leave a lasting impression on agriculture.

Let's hope that PIK was the last of these bandaid lessons. While such stop-gap measures have helped some in agriculture, it also seemed they ended up hurting more than they helped. The repercussions of PIK are still being felt as evidenced by the "realignments" you're continuing to see in agribusiness, such as the fertilizer industry.

None of our business, but...

As a youngster occasionally I stuck my nose and fingers into places on the farm that they didn't really belong. I usually ended up with a stinging peck on the hand, a muzzle nudge or even ducking a flying hoof.

Again, I'm likely sticking my nose into places it doesn't belong, but editors have been known to offer their two cents worth even when it isn't worth it.

These editorial columns have been restricted solely to offering opinions on strictly agricultural items. After all, there are more than enough ag problems and concerns to go around. But for just once, I'm going to deviate a bit.

Currently, a major motion picture is being filmed in Lancaster County about the Amish

From a personal standpoint, I object to the film and particularly some phases of the story about violence, etc. I wish it were not being filmed, but it is and will be widely promoted and shown.

The sole justification for "on-location"

But discussions of the new Farm Bill and other concerns expressed by farmers and farm groups show they are taking the longer view.

An Ag Forum in Crawford County recently before federal ag legislators demonstrated this longer view. Dairymen particularly are asking the question: "What's beyond the diversion program?"

The vital importance of supporting research and promotion -- not only in the dairy industry but throughout agriculture -- also demonstrates the recognition of the need for a long-range program of agricultural self-help.

The Pennsylvania Farmers' Association has as one of its goals the preservation of farmland. The Pennsylvania State Grange is supporting a long-range animal health program for the Commonwealth.

This long-range broadening of the outlook toward some of ag's problems and concerns can only work toward the good of all agriculture. Sure, solutions may not come next week or next month, but they will come.

After all, farming is a profession of the future. While tending the crop of the present, farmers always look toward the better crop of the future.

And, it is good that farmers and farm groups are taking a more active role in speaking out to determine their own future.

Who better should primarily decide the future of agriculture than those whose daily toil nurtures the very foundation for that future.

filming is the extra revenue it brings into an area. But if every decision is to be made solely on an economic basis, it would be easy to justify most anything in life.

This one extra infringement on the Amish way of life was not needed. Their agrarian way of life must pay the price that all farmers pay, but they always have that extra cost in privacy that is inflicted upon them.

But the film is being made and nothing can change that. But I would like to see something positive come out of it that could help the future of that way of life upon which it infringes.

Perhaps, some sort of means of support could be created through the film to help that future. If it would be too wordly for that fund to help Plain victims of modern society (fire, storm, violence, etc.), perhaps it might go toward research or work to ease their continuing transition in crop emphasis.

But as I said initially, it's really none of my business.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE
YOUR MOUTH'S RELIGION
May 13, 1984

Background Scripture: James: 3.
Devotional Reading: Ezekiel: 3:9.

We all know people who, as far as Christianity is concerned, talk a better game than they play. Because what they say doesn't seem to bear much relation to what they do, we tend to pretty much disregard that religion that comes out of their mouths.

This doesn't mean, however, that what we say is unimportant so far as our Christianity is concerned. In fact, the religion of our mouths can be vital, particularly if the mouth and heart aren't both committed to Christ.

THE WILD BEAST

In fact, as James sees it, few things are as likely to condemn us so much as our own tongues:

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire... For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by humankind, but no human being can tame the tongue -- a restless evil, full of deadly poison. (3:5-8).

At first glance, it may seem James is somewhat overstating his case against the tongue. But when you think about it, James' allusions are pretty much on target. Words can inflame. Rumors spread like wildfire. The

tongue does sometimes seem to have a will of its own. It can be a destructive force for evil and a poison in human relationships. No, the tongue can be all that and -- unfortunately -- more.

Slander, harsh words, profanity, gutter language, sarcasm -- we all know how harmful they can be. Any or all of these is sufficient to make the religion of our mouths significantly inharmonious with the religion of our hearts. Most of us are more likely to have sinned with violent and destructive words than acts.

BLESSING AND CURSING

James cites a common example: With the tongue "we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who are made in the likeness of God" (3:9). In case the utter incongruity of these two uses of the tongue escapes us, James puts it clearly: "From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brethren, this ought not to be so." In fact, a faith that produces words of praise for God and terms of derision for his children is not a real faith at all.

But not all the mouth's irreligion is always so obvious. It may be that the words issuing from our mouths seem "religious" enough. But it is the motive behind those words and their effect that may make them every bit as destructive as profane cursers. These seemingly "religious" words may simply mask "bitter jealousy and ambition in your hearts."

True Christian religion of the mouth is this: "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits... And the harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace" (3:17, 18). Amen!

NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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To Check Farm Ponds

Many farm ponds are showing both algae and weed infestation build-up and as the weather gets warmer, these pond plants will begin to grow. Permits are needed in order for the owner to use the proper materials, and to protect livestock downstream from the pond. Before any ponds are treated in Pennsylvania with any chemical or fertilizer, the owner should obtain a permit from the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. Application for the permit is available from the Pennsylvania Waterways Patrol Office or from our Penn State Extension Office.

To Check Weevills

In Alfalfa

We are right into the decision making period for alfalfa weevil control. The question comes up, should I spray or cut it? This depends on the degree of damage and just how far your alfalfa is

along. If your stand is getting along in maturity, then it would pay you to cut it early. If you decide to spray, then it should be applied only when 60 to 70 percent of the plants show slight feeding damage at the tips. In most cases, spray application will not be necessary. The economic threshold line is based on a loss of 1/10 ton of alfalfa hay per acre. At \$100 per ton of hay, a loss of 1/10 ton equals \$10. If the cost of spraying is \$9.00 to \$10.00 per acre, you are at the break even level.

The two major problems with spraying is the physical damage by running the tractor over the growing plants and, secondly the tolerance time from the time of application until the residue is "off" the plants. Be sure to read the label for the tolerance periods for the different chemicals.

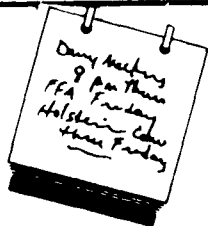
To Use A Starter

Solution For Transplants

Gardening is a way of life for farmers and most suburban people. And if you want to give your garden a real boost this spring ... then use a fertilizer starter solution when you set out your plants. It's easy to make ... just dissolve about 3 tablespoons of so of regular 10-10-10 fertilizer in a gallon of water. And, as you set out your plants, such as cabbage, tomatoes or peppers, pour some of the starter solution in the hole... stir the soil... put in the plant... cover the roots with soil... and you've got that plant off to the best start ever.

A starter solution makes plant nutrients available to the young

Farm Calendar



Saturday, May 12
Tenth Annual Mercer Sheep Sale, 6 p.m., Mercer 4-H Park.

Sunday, May 13
Happy Mother's Day

Monday, May 14
Live on-foot lamb judging sponsored by Berks Extension and Sheep and Wool Growers, 5:30 p.m., Peters Bros., Lenhartsville.

Pa. Dairy Sanitation Conference,

Keller Conference Center, Penn State, continues through Wednesday.

Bradford 4-H livestock committee, 8 p.m., Extension Office.

Pa. peach/nectarine research referendum opens.

Tuesday, May 15
Ephrata Young Farmers meeting, 7:45 p.m., high school ag shop.
York Farmers Association Ladies Day Out, Yorktowne Hotel, 10

a.m. - 3 p.m., featuring walking tour of Historic York.

Eastern Lancaster County Adult Farmer program on "Growing Carrots and Horseradish, 7:30 p.m., Union Grove Alternative School.

Wednesday, May 16
Workshop on Research Methodology and the

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Otis



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