

## Crime in Country

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

An interview with one of the latest victims of "crime in the country" might read something like this:

**Were you afraid?**

"I was so frightened that shivers ran throughout my entire black and white body and I almost let down my milk right in the stall."

**What did you think of when he held the knife to your throat?**

"I thought of all those happy carefree days on pasture I might miss and those two little twin calves that might be motherless."

**Did you ever think that something like this could happen to you right in your own home?**

"Never. I thought my stall was the safest place in the world. The peace and quiet of the barn always seemed to be my haven against everything that swirled around us in the outside world. But then all of a sudden that peace and quiet was shattered and that haven existed no more."

We're not trying to be facetious or poke fun at a serious situation, but this fictitious interview illustrates the extent that crime and violence has invaded the rural countryside.

This week, an episode on a Lancaster County farm included threats by an intoxicated, knife-wielding hired hand, who held the blade to the throat of a cow and poured gasoline on the ground and threatened to blow everybody up. He also cut milk hoses and both he and the farmer ended up with injuries.

Sure, this particular incident is quite bizarre

and unusual. But the occurrence of crime and violence in the country unfortunately is no longer unusual at all.

The rural migration of the past couple of decades by all those people seeking the peaceful and quiet security of the country has been followed by some of the things they were trying to escape in center city.

Consider just these few area examples:

--A massive manhunt for a terrorist group believed responsible for multiple state trooper deaths was concentrated in rural areas where they liked to hide.

--Barn arson had farmers almost to the point of vigilante thinking.

--Bull semen, a valuable, highly mechanizable ag item that comes in a relatively small package, was stolen.

--Theft of other farming supplies amounting to losses of tens of thousands of dollars is under scrutiny by federal investigators.

--Farmers seeking a needed cash crop in tough economic times become prey for unscrupulous promoters or marketers.

And these are just a few examples. Many more of an even greater sensational nature could be cited.

But our purpose here is not to recite a litany of some of the things that have gone wrong in farm country.

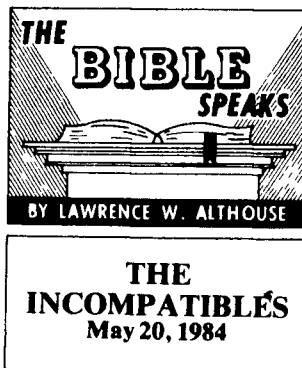
Our purpose is to make a two-pronged request.

First, law enforcement agencies need all the help they can get in their investigations of rural crime and their attempts to curb it. Everyone knows the true market value of ag supplies and if you're approached about bargain prices, you can't help but be suspicious.

But just being suspicious isn't enough. Those bargain offers should be officially reported. Crime costs money and you the consumer always pays the price somewhere along the line.

Second, make it as difficult as possible for criminals to operate in the country. Recently, a Lancaster State Trooper spelled out some good suggestions in Lancaster Farming on how to make your farm safer and more secure. And, everyone in the country should keep a constant eye out for the welfare of everyone else.

These two simple, but vital expressions of cooperation will go a long way toward bringing back that peace and quiet we all so fervently seek.



**Background Scripture:**  
James 4.

**Devotional Reading:**  
I Peter 4:17-19.

There are a lot of things that just don't mix — the proverbial oil and water, for instance. Often we must choose between one or more alternatives when it is obvious we can't have both. From our study of stress management it is obvious that tension and relaxation are incompatible. A person does not experience stress when they are relaxed. Conversely, they cannot relax when they continue to hold on to tensions.

**JUDGEMENT AND HUMILITY**

So it is, too, with our religious life. As James has put it so clearly in his letter, you cannot rightly use your mouth to bless God and curse his children. The curses spoil or render useless the words of praise.

In James 4 we find still another set of incompatibles: judgement and humility. It is humility — remembering who He is and who we are — that best characterizes the true disciple of Jesus Christ. James quotes Proverbs 3: 34, "God opposes the proud, but gives peace to the humble" (4:6). And he exhorts his readers to evidence this humility in approaching God: "Be wretched and mourn and

weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to dejection. Humble yourselves before the Lord and He will exalt you" (4:9,10). In other words, remember who He is and who you are and don't ever minimize the difference!

James then goes on to warn against speaking evil of others and even specifically against judging others. "But who are you that you judge your neighbor?" (4:12b). It may seem that James has changed the subject — from humbling one's self before the Lord — but he is simply further applying the need for humility. One cannot humble himself or herself before the Lord and still sit in judgement of the neighbor. Like oil and water, humility and judging others are incompatible. To embrace the one, you have to let go of the other.

**THE LAWGIVER**

As we've indicated before, humility before God consists in recognizing the essential differences between us. He is the Creator; we are the creatures. He is the lawgiver and we are the ones to whom the laws are given to obey. But, as James says, "There is one lawgiver and judge..." (4:12). Only he who gives the law is capable of serving as judge. To judge others means to usurp that which belongs to God along — Lawgiver and Judge.

Does this mean we are to remain mute in the face of evil deeds by others? Not at all. We oppose wrongdoing whenever we can, but that is not the same as attempting to be the judge of the one whom we determine is the wrongdoer. Humility before God forces us to acknowledge that we are not wise enough, just enough or good enough to judge our neighbor.

## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent  
Phone 717 394-6851



### For Haylage and Hay Making

Good quality forages can help farmers generate more cash income with little to no additional expense. And, what farmer couldn't use that right now! Cows produce more milk and livestock gain more rapidly on higher quality forages. The need for purchased concentrates is also generally reduced. So if you are growing forages, concentrate on improving forage quality and improving nutrient yield per acre.

Most important to quality is stage of maturity at time of harvest. For established stands of alfalfa, harvest the first cutting at the late bud stage; later cuttings can be harvested in the late bud to early bloom stage — about 35 to 42 days after the previous cutting. To enhance the vigor and longevity of

the stand, at least one of the cuttings should be allowed to bloom. Similarly, the first cutting of a new seeding of alfalfa should be made in the early bloom stage.

Grasses should be cut in the boot stage of maturity, just as the heads are beginning to emerge.

### To Be Aware of Corn Insects

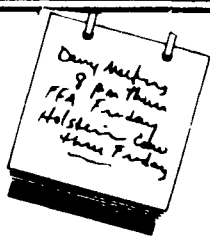
With the increased trend toward no-till corn planting or minimum tillage, we can expect more problems with corn insects. Past experience shows this. We urge corn growers to inspect their fields frequently to observe any feeding on small plants. You can have cutworms, stalk borers and armyworms at any time feeding on the corn plants. The Agronomy Guide lists several materials for the control of cutworms and armyworms, including Sevin, Lorsban, Permethrin or Dylox. The stalk borer is very difficult to control because they work inside the corn stalk. Flea beetles are another insect that may feed on small corn leaves; they create small holes in the leaves but seldom do extensive damage. Sevin can be used to eliminate these small insects, if it is a serious infestation. Keep an eye on the corn field for the first several weeks and avoid serious insect injury.

### To Be Aware of Wheat Diseases

We have had cool-wet conditions in the past six weeks that just might spell trouble ahead from plant disease attacks on our wheat

(Turn to Page A12)

## Farm Calendar



### Saturday, May 19

Lehigh County Beekeepers Association, 2 p.m., Palmerton Rod & Gun Club.

Bradford Forest Landowners Landowners Indepth Woodlot Management, 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Lindstrom's Tree Farm.  
Bradford 4-H County Council, 8 p.m., Extension Office.

### Monday, May 21

Strawberry Growers meeting, Bob Ilyes farm, Seven Valleys, 6:30 p.m.

Adams County Beekeepers, 7:30 p.m., Penn State Fruit Research Lab. Biglerville.

### Tuesday, May 22

Pa. Noxious Weed Committee, 9:30 a.m., Room 309, Ag Bldg., 2301 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg.

### Wednesday, May 23

National Farm-City Conference, Syracuse, N.Y., continues tomorrow.

Pa. Senate Ag/Rural Affairs Committee public hearings on Sunset Review of Pa. Milk Marketing Board and Farm Show Commission, Room 459, Main Capitol. Farm Show Commission hearing at 9:30 a.m.; PMMB at 10:30 a.m.

### Thursday, May 24

Lancaster County Beekeeper meeting, 6:30 p.m., apiary of Marlin Kreider, Rt. 222, south of Quarryville.

### Friday, May 25

Pa. peach/nectarine research referendum closes.  
York Farmers Forum, 7 p.m., Rutters Restaurant, Red Lion.

### Saturday, May 26

Bradford County Dairy Day Festival, Wyalusing, parade at 11 a.m.; pageant at 8:15 p.m.  
York County Dairy Princess Pageant, 8 p.m., 4-H Center.

## Otis

