

## The Ag Olympics

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

Did you watch any of the Olympics on TV during the past couple of weeks? Anyone who turned a set on or opened a newspaper couldn't help but get Olympified.

While watching some of the Summer Games, I got to thinking what an opportunity farmers would have to display their skills and get their story across to the world if they'd hold an Ag-Olympics.

Instead of Jim McKay, Paul Harvey could be the anchor for the telecast. Commodity princesses could hand out the awards and celebrities like Penny Hallowell could serve as judges.

Here are some of the possible events that could be held:

--Instead of a discus throw, farmers could compete in tossing cow chips. Strict international rules would need to be written concerning bovine diets to get the best chips, as well as proper drying techniques -- both natural by the sun and mechanical with a microwave or whatever

--For the shot put or hammer throw, you could substitute the bale throw. Rules would need to be written concerning bale weight and composition, method of tying and a stipulation in case the bale falls apart in midair. Instead of the familiar little sports logos you see plastered all over the athletes and their equipment, New Holland, Deere and others could become sponsors

--Watching those tiny, young ladies on the balance beam reminds me of putting up tobacco. To me it's much more difficult and requires more skill to balance yourself on a narrow beam while passing a heavy lathe of

tobacco up over your head to someone who's filling the top of the shed.

--The floor exercises of the gymnasts could be transformed into an event for tractor drivers pulling a haybine through a large field of alfalfa. Each driver would be required to perform a routine of maneuvers -- such as figure-eights, circles, etc -- and move through each section of the field. Judges would compare consistency of cut and precision of the maneuvers

--The dance-like steps of a team driver while standing on a moving wagon across a bumpy field would be substituted for the ballet-like steps of the gymnasts

--Instead of a static, unmovable side horse, farmers could perform on a real horse

--Instead of speed swimming events, farmers would compete against each other to see who can get a balky cow out of a farm pond the fastest on a hot, sultry afternoon.

--To replace the cycling events, farmers would operate stripped-down self-propelled windrowers around a sloping oval track of small grain

--The high hurdles would be made more interesting. Those flimsy hurdles easily knocked over would be replaced with barbed wire hurdles -- electrified of course. Wow, what an incentive to set a world record

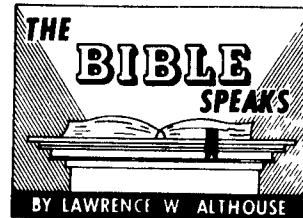
--The long jump would also contain some extra incentive. The jump would be made over a pit of squooshy manure. Look out Carl Lewis, our farmer-leapers will make you look sick.

--In the relay races, competitors in the Ag Olympics must be mixed -- one farmer, one banker, one supplier and one consumer. In this way, each would learn how important it is to depend on the other for success.

--But the most interesting event in the Ag-Olympics would be one similar to the parallel bars or still rings. Each competing farmer could display what an intricate job farming has become, requiring the careful balancing of many different skills. And, if a farmer lets up for just one minute in his daily Ag Olympics routine, he's likely to fall flat on his

--And, finally instead of playing the individual national anthems when the medals are presented, John Denver could belt out a few bars of "Thank God, I'm a Country Boy (or girl, too)"

And, there would be a very humanitarian byproduct of the Ag-Olympics, too. All of the food products harvested by the competitors during the events would be donated to those under-developed countries with the starving populations who send athletes to the regular Olympics to compete in the lap of luxury.



### A BACKWARD STEP AHEAD August 12, 1984

**Background Scripture:**  
2 Kings 18 through 20.  
**Devotional Reading:**  
Isaiah 1:18-20.

Recently I had an opportunity to return to my university alma mater after several decades of absence.

I knew that in the thirty years since I had graduated, the campus had undergone a tremendous change. Many of the things we had dreamed of when I was a student there had now come to pass: bright, shiny new buildings to replace some of the old "dungeons" of my day, city streets had been closed-off, trolley tracks taken up and the campus almost doubled in size. Millions had been spent to improve the university.

**HE HELD FAST**  
But my "homecoming" was something less than the joy I had anticipated. The campus of my alma mater today is a hodgepodge of glaring architectural experiments, graffiti, and a campus that looks "seedy." All the new "improvements" have not necessarily made the campus a better place to pursue an education.

This is hardly a unique or singular experience, but one that I have encountered frequently. I realize at this point in my life that all too often in the past I have placed too much stock in replacing the "old" with the "new". "New"

is not necessarily "better."

Like many of us, the people of Israel were eager to leave behind the "old ways" of their fathers and establish the "new" ways that seemed to be the only key to the future. The "old" religion seemed too restrictive and forbidding. The "new" religious movements all around them promised to be much more enjoyable and profitable.

That is, until Hezekiah became king. ...e most of his predecessors and successors. Hezekiah was not hesitant to return his nation to the old values and practices which had so sustained Israel in former times. Thus, the writer of 2 Kings makes what was to be a very rare entry: "And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, ...For he held fast to the Lord; he did not depart from following him, but kept the commandments which the Lord commanded Moses" (18:3,6).

**HE PROSPERED**  
It wasn't that Hezekiah was trying to take the people of Israel back to "the good old days," but that he was trying to get them to return to the eternal truths and values which time does not outgrow. It was Israel's heritage from the past that would be the foundation upon which the Israel of the present must build for the future. The end result was that "wherever he went, he prospered" (18:7).

Hezekiah apparently realized that one does not have to give up the past in order to live in the present and prepare for the future. There was value in the old traditions of Israel. There was continuity in perpetuating some of the old ways.

It was this appreciation and reverence for the traditions of Israel that made him so effective in the present moment. The reform of Hezekiah, although it appeared to be a movement backward, was actually a step ahead.

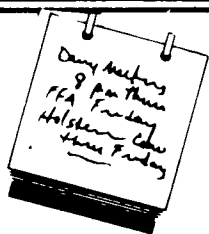
## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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## Farm Calendar



**Saturday, August 11**  
SCPPPA Annual Picnic, Gene Hege Farm, Chambersburg, 6:30 p.m.  
Conservation Field Day, Cold Brook Preserve, Oldwick, N.J. Tours and demonstrations at 9:30 a.m.  
Sussex County, N.J., Sheep Breeders Show, continues tomorrow.  
Southcentral Pa. Cattlemen's Field Day, 9 a.m., Laird farm, Dover, York County.  
Annual meeting of Pa. Livestock Auction Association, Villa Leo,

New Cumberland.  
Eastern Regional Holstein Show, Kutztown.

**Sunday, August 12**  
McKean County Fair, continues through August 19.  
Second Intergalactic Milk Carton Boat Race, 1:30 p.m., Knutsen's Lake, Rising Sun, Md.  
75th Annual Meeting, Pa. Baker's Association, Four Seasons Hotel, Philadelphia.  
Huntingdon County Fair, Huntingdon; continues through Saturday.

Kutztown Fair, Kutztown; continues through Saturday.  
Washington County Fair, Washington; continues through Saturday.

**Monday, August 13**  
Mifflin County tillage demonstration, 9:30 a.m., Ferguson Valley Farms.  
Carlisle Fair, Carlisle; continues through Saturday.  
Bullskin Township Fair, Mount Pleasant; continues through Saturday.

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### To Renovate Old Pastures

Late August and early September are good times to establish a new pasture, or renovate an old one. In fact, this is a good time of the year to make any pasture or lawn seeding. The old sod should be destroyed by cultivation or by a herbicide. After the soil has been treated with lime and fertilizer, according to a complete soil test, it can be seeded and should produce good grazing for next summer.

The advantage of a fall seeding is to permit time for the new plants to become established before the 1985 hot weather arrives. The cool, moist fall months should give the plants a good start. The Agronomy Guide lists some good seeding recommendations.

### To Plan Herbicide Changes For Next Fall

By this time of year, any weed problems in your fields are fairly evident and probably beyond control. But now is a good time to develop an effective program for next year.

The easiest way to check for the effectiveness of different herbicides is to leave a small part of your field untreated. This gives you a chance to tell what weeds were controlled and what ones were missed. However, spots that the sprayer missed near the ends of fields will serve our purpose quite well.

If several types of weeds seemed to have escaped control, you should check the herbicide container label as to whether the material was designed to eliminate those weeds. If it was not, be sure to include a herbicide to control them in your program for next year.

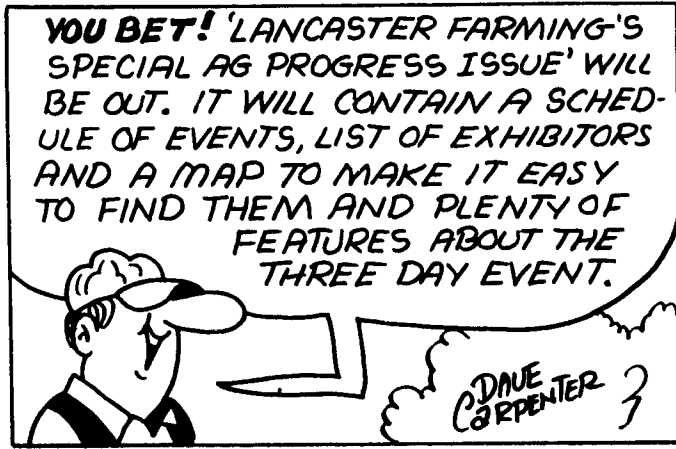
If your entire weed control program seems to have been ineffective, reread the label to see if you followed the instructions. Just a few simple mistakes during application can result in a complete failure.

Don't be too quick to condemn the herbicide. Either too much or too little rain soon after application can cause a great loss of effectiveness in many herbicides.

**To Be Aware Of The Pollen Count**  
The "hay fever" season is here. Despite its name, "hay" is not

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## Otis



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