

## Star Wars ag

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

Often we get lost in our own little domain of farming and forget that there is a big, big world of agriculture out there.

A publication from Holland this week shows that revolutionary ag developments are under way in that country which go well beyond our traditional concept of a land of windmills and tulips.

For example:

A totally new system of weed control through infra-red thermal radiation has been developed. Weeds are zapped with beams of heat radiation, causing their water-laden cell walls to explode and killing the weed. No residue and no wind drift.

Grass is being grown in completely enclosed rooms, reaching maturity from seed in eight days. Nutrition and digestibility are as good as field grown grass. Climate is fully controlled and water and nutrients are added automatically.

A seed cassette containing 16,000 tiny seeds now permits the automatic drilling of vegetable, flower and tree seeds into pots just like field crops are now drilled. It brings the advances of agronomic planting into the realm of horticulture.

In Holland, chicken manure is being compressed into briquettes and then burned to help heat the poultry houses. The system includes the compression chamber, combustion unit and automatic fuel feeding equipment.

A fertilizer spreader in Holland now has a better aim. Distribution of fertilizer from one side of the spreader can be strictly controlled and limited to keep valuable fertilizer from falling on unwanted areas.

And development is continuing on wind turbines -- the modern offspring of the traditional windmills. Now, they are being operated electronically to get the most efficiency at very low wind speeds.

It's just amazing that such ag developments are coming out of such a small country. Makes you wonder, if the U.S. is ever faced with such land and ecological constraints and other problems, what new developments might come off American agri-drawing boards -- instead of just ever bigger and more complex.

## NE Farm Bill

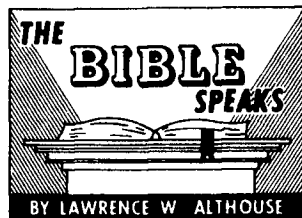
A Northeast Farm Bill Committee has come up with some drafts of policy statements concerning what it thinks should be in the 1985 Farm Bill.

Such thinking and working ahead is good. Traditionally, the Northeast has come out on the short end of the congressional stick in farm legislation.

But this NE committee, chaired by Clyde Rutherford, of Dairylea, appears heavily

weighted toward the dairy industry. We hope its policy statements cover more than just the dairy recommendations it has cited.

The Northeastern ag problem extends well beyond just dairy. While dairy is the bulwark of Northeastern agriculture and its economy, we hope that the other segments of farming are not forgotten when the needs of our area are relayed to Washington.



THE BEST DEAL  
September 23, 1984

Background Scripture:

Romans 7:4-25.

Devotional Reading:

Romans 6:12-23.

The young man thought he had made a deal with God.

He would straighten out his life and live according to God's will. In return, God was expected to save his marriage.

In vain, I tried to help him understand that God cannot be manipulated like that. Although I could assure him that God would forgive the mess he had made of his life, that did not mean that he would be spared the consequences of all that he had done in the past. And the break-up of his marriage was likely to be one of those consequences.

### BARGAINING WITH GOD

When at last his marriage ended in divorce, the young man gave up on his short-lived commitment to put his life in order. His justification: God had failed to live up to his end of the deal. Nothing I said seemed to help him realize that that wasn't the deal God had offered him in the first place.

It wasn't long after this that I was faced with a situation of my own. I was in a position where my conscience told me that I had to speak out against a certain situation. I really didn't want to do it, because I knew it would be a

rather unpopular stand (as it turned out, it was even more unpopular than I had realized). I would be standing virtually alone and I didn't relish having to do so.

The time came, however, when I could no longer refuse to take a stand. And I did. Yet, when I had said my piece and done what I felt I had to do, I was disturbed to find that I didn't really feel all that "good" for having done what I thought to be the right thing. I must confess that I was a little resentful that almost no one seemed to notice that I was doing the "right" thing.

### DELIVERANCE!

It was then that I realized that that had not been the deal God offered me in the first place. The deal God offers me and all of us is far better than that. The fact is that, at best, we never win the battle against our tendency to sin. For, as Paul puts it so well, "I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do." (7:19,20).

This, then, is where our bargains with God go astray: the problem is not with God, but with us, for we are the ones who often are not able to keep up our end of the deal. Like Paul, we are tempted to shout, "Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?"

The deal that God offers us is one that is not dependent upon our goodness at all, but upon his grace. It is the best possible deal we could ever be offered, for with the vastness of God's love and mercy it overcomes our inability to help ourselves. And what we get has nothing to do with what we "have coming to us"—God forbid! It is grace, not "just deserts" that leads us to join Paul in singing, "Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!"



## Farm Calendar

Saturday, Sept. 22

Del. Wood Workshop, 9 a.m., Blackbird State Forest headquarters.

Hunterdon County, N.J. Ag Awareness Day, open house on 12 different farms, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tewksbury, N.J. Winery Harvest Festival.

Milk Fitness Exhibit, noon - 4 p.m., Hess's Capital City Mall, Harrisburg.

Sunday, Sept. 23

106th annual convention, PennAg Industries, Host Farm, continues through Wednesday.

Monday, Sept. 24

All-American Dairy Show opens in Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, continues through Friday. Youth judging, 8 a.m.; Jr. Dairy Show, 9 a.m.; Invitational Brown Swiss Sale, 7 p.m.

Pa. Dairy Promotion Advisory Board, Harrisburg.

Bloomsburg Fair opens, continues through Saturday.

Reading Fair opens, continues through Saturday.

Tuesday, Sept. 25

All-American Schedule: Eastern National Brown Swiss Show and Milking Shorthorn Show, 9 a.m.; Invitational Ayrshire Sale, 1:30 p.m.; Pa. Dairy Princess Coronation, 6:30 p.m., Marriott Inn, Harrisburg.

Ag Preserve public meeting, 7:30 p.m., Donegal High School cafeteria, Lancaster County.

Morrison Cove Community Fair, Martinsburg, continues through Friday.

Ephrata Fair, continues through Saturday.

Wednesday, Sept. 26

York pesticide license update training, Extension meeting room, 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

All-American Schedule: National Guernsey Show and Ayrshire Show, 9 a.m.

Lampeter Fair opens, continues through Friday.

Thursday, Sept. 27

All-American Schedule: Jersey Show and start of Eastern National Holstein Show, 9 a.m.; All-American Holstein Sale, 7 p.m.

Annual meeting, Pa. Forestry Assn., Holiday Inn, Lewistown.

Franklin County Conservation District annual banquet and meeting, 6:45 p.m., Kauffman's Station Community Center.

Chester-Del. Farmers Assn. fall banquet, West Fallowfield Christian Day School, Atglen. Tri-Valley Fair opens at Hagens, continues through Sunday.

Friday, Sept. 28

Continuation of Eastern National Holstein Show, 9 a.m., Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.

## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent  
Phone 717-394-6851



### To Beware Of Frosted Crops

Colder weather means frost. In fact this is good news to many of us who have had enough of hot humid weather this summer. Livestock producers who have fields of sudan-sorghum hybrids should keep in mind that when frost hits these crops they could be toxic to livestock for seven to 10 days following the freeze. After this period, and the plants are dead, they may be used safely. However, any growth coming from the plant after a killing frost might also be toxic.

Another frost hazard would be to permit livestock to graze alfalfa or clover stands while the frost is still on the plants. This can cause severe bloating. Allow the frost to melt and the plants to dry before grazing. Good management is

needed on various forage crops after a killing frost.

### To Be Careful During Silo Filling

Two problems are occurring during this silo filling season as a result of the excellent growing year. One is overloading wagons causing broken spindles, twisted frames and bent axles. Corn silage is heavy this year and overloaded wagons crossing ditches and ruts in fields causes excessive strain on equipment. If your wagon is full when only half way around the field, change wagons; the "down time" making repairs is more costly than the time to change wagons.

The other problem is "silo gas". We are receiving a lot of calls concerning silo gas. These gases can develop from one day to 14 days after the silo is filled. Most of

these gases have a chlorine-laundry bleach odor. Some are yellow and some are colorless. Don't take any chances -- never enter a partly filled silo without running the blower for at least 15 minutes. These gases are heavier than air and will come down the chute into the barn. Be careful around recently filled silos.

### To Store

#### Pesticides Safely

Most producers are about finished with their spray materials for the year. Many of these can be held over until next year with good results. However, it is always best to purchase only enough for one season at a time. When storing spray materials, always keep them in their original container and always away from children, pets and livestock. It is strongly

(Turn to Page A12)

## Otis



EDITORIAL BY  
**OTIS**  
A. DRUE CARPENTER