

## Crop associations - their time has come

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

The Crop Management Association concept officially goes statewide on Monday when Mel Brown, longtime Centre County extension agent, begins his new duties as Pennsylvania coordinator.

Patterned after the DHIA, Crop Management Associations have spread out steadily from their Central Pennsylvania origins. Now with a true statewide effort beginning, they have the potential to surpass DHIA in possible farmer members throughout the Commonwealth.

Just like DHIA, the primary motivation to join a crop association is to become a better and more efficient manager of fields, just as dairymen have become better managers of their cows. And, it has already been proven that crop associations can cut production costs and increase profits in fields just as much or possibly more than DHIA has done in the barn.

But can the concept and advantages of crop associations be expanded even more to make them a leader in the growing effort to clean up the Chesapeake Bay?

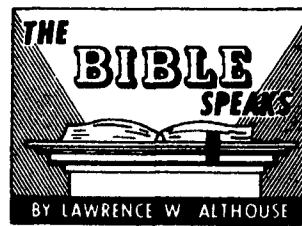
Crop association technicians do such things as regular soil tests and field inspections to make certain farmers are using correct management techniques and not wasting money by overdosing fields with manure, fertilizer and other chemicals.

And what makes these goals any different than those being put forth as necessary to clean up the Bay? There is no difference.

Through regular impartial and objective soil tests and field scouting surveys, crop association technicians are able to tell farmers exactly what their fields need -- no more and no less. And they tell farmers in plenty of time to do something about it.

These technicians could also be the eyes to monitor progress on Bay cleanup as they go about their duties of helping farmer-members.

Let's hope that as crop management associations spread throughout Pennsylvania they move into counties in the Lower Susquehanna where their need is even greater than where they already exist.



**MORE THAN CONQUERORS**  
September 30, 1984

**Background Scripture:**  
Romans 8.

**Devotional Reading:**  
Romans 8:18-30.

You know that old saying: "They won the battle but lost the war." After World War II it was commonly said that "we won the war but lost the peace."

No matter how important it may seem to win, it is apparent to us that sometimes winning is not enough. Having won the contest, we must make sure that we do not lose what we have won.

So it is with many of the battles we fight in life. It is not enough to win those battles, we must also prevail when the battle is over. As Paul puts it, "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (8:37).

**NO SEPARATION**

Jesus' death and resurrection made him "more than" a conqueror. He not only was victorious in overcoming death on a cross, but he came through that experience with his sonship intact. Nothing had been able to separate him from the love of God.

Our usual view of life is a short-run perspective. We see the obstacles, problems and dangers before us. These things dominate our thinking and our acting, as if

they were all that ultimately mattered. But, when we are able to take the long-run view of life, we realize that all of these are fleeting and transitory. What really matters ultimately is our relationship with God.

What we need to know, therefore, is that these short-run experiences cannot separate us from the love of God, not if we refuse to let them. As Paul puts it so eloquently, "For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (8:37-39).

**EXCEPT FOR FAITH**

A friend of mine for many years recently told me of a disastrous business deal into which he had ventured. All along the way, there had been disasters: governmental bodies delayed too long, friends had failed to support him when he needed it, people had taken advantage of him. The end result, although not yet certain, would be the loss of a fantastic amount of capital. He might even have to declare bankruptcy.

Nevertheless, despite all this frustration and disappointment, he was able to say to me, "If it was not for God, I don't know how I would have been able to take it." His faith is seeing him through this most painful situation. He is on his way to being "more than a conqueror."

That is something all of us can experience, if we let it come in to our lives. With Paul we may ask, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"

No, none of these has that power -- if we are to be more than conquerors.

## Who said what?

How is this for some real silver-tongued election year rhetoric?

"We will forge a new agreement on farm and food policy that assures a fair deal for family farmers."

"Government's responsibility is to create the opportunity for a free and competitive economic and policy environment supportive of the American farmers' industrious and independent spirit and innovative talent."

"Our goal is to restore the faith of family farmers that their hard work, ingenuity, efficiency and good stewardship will be rewarded with profit."

"Our new farm programs will bring flexibility to adjust to rapidly changing export market conditions and opportunities and, in a timely and effective manner, respond to the inherent, uncontrollable risks of farming."

"A reliable supply of high-quality reasonably priced food and fiber is best met by family farms."

"A prosperous agriculture is essential to the future of America."

The above fancy-worded statements are taken from both the Democratic and Republican platforms. We won't say which is which and who said what.

But does it really make any difference? None of them will help pay next month's mortgage, feed or seed bill.

**PIONEER AND FRIEND**

Charles B. Hooper Sr. was both a pioneer and friend. A farm equipment pioneer with 43 years in Lancaster County and a record similar length of affiliation with IH. And a friend to everyone involved in area agriculture. Many will miss him.

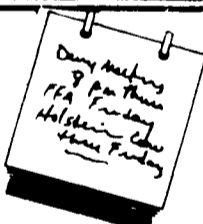
## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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## Farm Calendar



**Saturday, September 29**  
Private Landowners Conference, Pa. Forestry Association, Holiday Inn, Ephrata.  
State Maple Tour in McKean County continues from yesterday, headquarters at Port Allegheny Fire Hall.  
Wild Horse and Burro Days, NE Adoption Center, Lewisberry, continues tomorrow.

**Monday, October 1**  
Joint Annual Meeting of State Commission and the Pa. Association of Conservation District Directors, Inc., Erie

Hilton Hotel; continues through Wednesday.  
Pa. Association of Farm Cooperatives annual meeting, Holiday Inn, Harrisburg; continues tomorrow.  
Hollidaysburg Community Fair; continues through Thursday.  
General nutrition and waste management poultry session, 7:30 p.m., Berks County Ag Center.

**Tuesday, October 2**  
Open space and trail preservation seminar, 8 p.m., New Bottom Center Amphitheater.

Adams County Farmers Association annual meeting, 6 p.m., Sheraton Inn, Gettysburg.

Turf Equipment Day, Rutgers Stadium, Piscataway, N.J.

**Wednesday, October 3**  
Hunterdon County, N.J. Board of Agriculture, 8 p.m., Extension Center.

New Holland Farmers Fair; continues through Saturday.  
General nutrition and waste management poultry session,

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**To Prepare For Wheat Planting**

Wheat is an important crop in many of our farming programs and the selection of good seed will result in a better crop next year. Due to some infection of Scab and Powdery Mildew in our winter wheat last summer, growers should be extra careful this fall by planting clean seed. Certified seed would be free of these problems. If you are planting to use homegrown seed, then do an extra good job of cleaning and treating. Vitavax 200 is a recommended fungicide for seed treatment. The fly-free date is either after the first killing frost or in Southeastern Pennsylvania, October 10.

Just a few reminders on planting wheat - it should not be planted in the same field more often than once every 5 years; this time

period will reduce the fungus carryover in the soil. Plow the fields as early as you can, then disc and harrow to kill as many weeds as possible. It's also a good idea to harrow the field thoroughly the day of seeding.

**To Fertilizer Alfalfa Stands**

After the last cutting of alfalfa is removed, it is a good practice to topdress the field with a phosphorus-potash fertilizer. Many growers have been doing this for years with good results. The fall application permits time for the soil elements to reach the root zone of the plants and become available for next spring's growth. Well fertilized alfalfa fields will produce more top quality forage and will be able to withstand adversities much better. Also, after the removal of the first crop next spring, another application of fertilizer should be made. Research continues to show that a nitrogen application on established stands of alfalfa is not a good investment.

**To Help Cows Adjust**

During this time of the year, cows are subjected to many stresses. They need all the help they can get from you to adjust to new feeding programs, changing weather and to indoor confinement. Feeding changes should be made gradually, and guided by a forage testing program. Bringing cows in from the pasture and confining them to concrete all day

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