

## Sacrificial lambs & sharpened knives

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

I've spent a good bit of my working life in big business and industry, including farm equipment manufacturing. The two main things that really drove me up the wall were the large number of meetings that are held and the constant attempts to spread around responsibility (and consequently the blame if necessary) by those who hold high positions.

Government is a lot like big business and industry. It, too, holds meetings just to plan more meetings. And, the higher the job the greater the attempts to spread around responsibility.

A pseudorabies meeting was held at Harrisburg this week by the PDA. After some two hours, the only firm decision was to defer making any real decision until another meeting is held this coming Wednesday.

I believe one too many meetings are being held. There's no need for the upcoming session on this coming Wednesday. It's time for someone who is paid to make decisions to get off the dime and exercise his personal responsibility.

The Bureau of Animal Industry has been requested to rescind its forced depopulation policy by the Pa. Pork Producers Council and adopt a more moderate program of quarantine but continued operation.

The Bureau says no decision on the request will be made until it has a consensus of opinion from the entire livestock industry in the state. If the entire livestock industry wanted to have a say, why weren't its representatives at the meeting this past Wednesday.

Many representatives could find enough time to come to KILE earlier in the week. But they couldn't find enough time on Wednesday to come to the meeting in the PDA offices across the street from the Farm Show Complex.

Where were the Cooperative Swine Breeders? There were plenty at the breeding hog shows on Tuesday.

Where was the Cattlemen's Association? Plenty of cattle breeders were at KILE.

Where were the Sheep and Wool Growers. You spent the whole weekend at KILE.

Where was the Livestock Auctioneer's Association?

Where was the Pa. Dairy Association? (They already got their help from the state.)

Where were the representatives of packing plants that are docking producers who are being forced to market light or heavy hogs through depopulation? (This doesn't include Hatfield, which did send a representative, and has been treating its producers fairly who have been hit by PRV.)

If these groups weren't interested enough to come last Wednesday, there's no reason to include them in any further consideration.

The decision on pseudorabies should be made primarily between the Bureau of Animal Industry and the Pork Producers. The more groups you include the less chance that any decision is going to be made promptly.

Let's make that decision and make it now, remembering when you make a decision affecting someone else, you must be willing to share in the responsibility for the consequences that you inflict upon them.

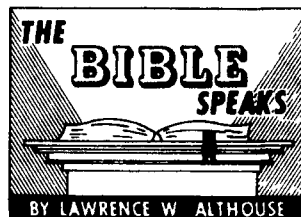
Lancaster County agriculture is rapidly assuming a "sacrificial lamb syndrome."

How many times have I heard the words of praise for the sacrifice of Lancaster County during the Avian influenza. The rest of the poultry industry said "thank you" by expanding beyond belief, trying to capitalize on those temporary egg price increases which the whole industry will now pay for during months to come.

And I'm sure there will be attempts to profit off the misfortune of area hog producers.

What next? Maybe the rest of the dairy industry is already standing in line to see what can be done after the extent of John's is known.

It's bad enough that sacrificial lambs are still being offered in agriculture, but when everyone else is right there to make sure the knives stay sharp, that's a little much to swallow in this compassionate, caring society in which we live.



**"EARTH THROWN IN"**  
November 11, 1984

Background Scripture:

1 Thessalonians 1 through 4

Devotional Reading:

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8.

When you die, that's it - you're dead!"

These were the words, not of an atheist or agnostic, but of a Christian clergyman. I was teaching an adult church school class on the subject of life after death and he had slipped into the back of the classroom to listen. When the class was over, I knew that the subject had troubled him. He wasn't belligerent; he simply could not share my hope in another life beyond this one.

His response was not all that surprising to me. I frequently encounter reactions like this from my people, mostly clergy. They feel impelled to declare that life on this earth is enough to support the Christian faith. Perhaps it is, but not for me.

**PIE-IN-THE-SKY**

Why is it that belief in a life after death is so troubling to many people? One reason may be that many people become too discouraged and disillusioned in their daily lives to believe that there is more to life than what we have experienced. Because they are afraid to let themselves hope, they cannot permit themselves to believe

Having experienced that everything in life does not "come out all right in the end," they tend to regard a belief in life after death as some kind of wishful "pie-in-the-sky" thinking. "I will concentrate upon life here on earth," said the clergyman, "and leave to you the question of what happens thereafter."

Somehow, these people reason that it's more practical and more realistic to focus upon this world, as if they had to choose between life here and now and life there and then.

C.S. Lewis once wrote. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought more of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, all left their mark on earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven... Aim at Heaven and you will get earth "thrown in;" aim at earth and you will get neither. The power to live faithfully here in this life comes from our hope of a life beyond this world.

**STEADFAST HOPE**

When Paul writes the church at Thessalonica, he commends these people for their "work of faith and labor of love." These are possible only because of their "steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." Later, in 4:13, Paul spells it out. "But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope."

Without hope in a life of some kind beyond this world, grief is the consequence - grief for loved ones who have passed on, grief for life on this world. But, if we aim at heaven, we will find earth thrown-in.

## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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## Farm Calendar

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| <p><b>Monday, Nov. 12</b><br/>National Grange annual convention, Portland, Me., continues through Sunday.<br/>Fulton Grange meeting on Wild Life at Muddy Run Park, 8:30 p.m., Oakryn.<br/>USDA processed pork meetings, 2:30 and 7 p.m., Lancaster Farm and Home Center.</p> <p><b>Tuesday, Nov. 13</b><br/>American Mushroom Institute meeting on Perishable Ag Commodities Act, 7:30 p.m., Hockessin, Del. Fire Hall.<br/>McKean County DHIA/Holstein Club annual meeting, Hull's Restaurant, Smethport, 7:30 p.m.<br/>USDA processed pork meeting, 2 p.m., Berks-Lehigh Farm</p> | <p>Credit, Fogelsville.<br/>Peach/nectarine advisory board, Harrisburg.<br/>Agronomy Ag Service School, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., DuBois.<br/>Catoctin and Frederick, Md. Soil Conservation Districts tour, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.<br/>McKean Beekeeper's, 7:30 p.m., Maple View Ag Center, Coudersport.<br/>Ag waste management tour of Berks, Chester and Lancaster counties, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Wednesday, Nov. 14</b><br/>Md. conference to "Enhance Community Vitality," 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Sheraton New Carrollton Hotel, Washington Beltway and Highway 450 West.<br/>Hunterdon County, N.J. Ag</p> |
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- Development Board, 8 p.m., Extension Center.  
Hunterdon, N.J. Wine Growers Assn., 7:30 p.m., Extension Center.  
Delmarva Poultry Nutrition Short Course, University of Delaware Substation, Georgetown, Del.
- Thursday, Nov. 15**  
Inter-State Milk Producers annual meeting, Host, Farm, Lancaster, continues tomorrow.  
Fayette County annual Holstein meeting, 7 p.m., Glisan's Restaurant.
- Friday, Nov. 16**  
Clearfield County Crop Management Association exploratory meeting, 10 a.m., Multi-Service Center Auditorium.
- Saturday, Nov. 17**  
Hunterdon County, N.J. Board of Agriculture annual dinner meeting, 6 p.m., Quakertown Fire House, near Pittstown, N.J.

### To Appreciate Farm City Week

Each farmer is a very important person. While we have fewer farmers than ever before, the growing population demands more food. Never have so many persons been so dependent on so few.

Farm City Week is being observed November 16-22 to bring a better understanding of problems existing between the rural and urban segments of our society. Some people may think that agriculture is a diminishing industry, but this is not true. There are fewer farmers but each farmer is now producing enough food to feed 72 people. In Russia that ratio is one to seven.

Over one-fifth of the state's work force is employed in agriculture related manufacturing, wholesale and retail trades. Even more workers are employed in the industries providing seed, feed,

fertilizer and other supplies used in farm production. We urge you to take part in Farm City Week events.

### To Exercise Dairy Cows

I know that many of our dairy farmers keep their milking cows confined to the stall barn much of the time. This is easy to do when you are short of labor during the winter months. In order to have a healthy herd, the cows should be allowed outside to exercise daily unless severe weather conditions exist. The exercise will not only keep their feet and legs in better condition, but will permit the cows in heat to be detected; this is often a problem when cows are kept confined too much of the time.

If the herd is turned out for 15 to 30 minutes each day, the time involved will be very worthwhile. You'll find very few days when the weather will interfere.

### To Mulch Strawberries

Winter injury has been a problem in strawberries for a number of years. Crown injury can be reduced by applying mulch to protect them for the winter. The best time for application is from mid-November and to mid-December. The exact date depends on weather conditions. But a good rule of thumb is to apply mulch when the temperature begins to stay around 20 to 25 degrees F. If it drops to 15 degrees or lower, unprotected strawberry crowns could be injured. In any case it's a good idea to mulch the plants after they have been exposed to a few good

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