

Hang in there

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

"Let your women loose."
 "It's our own product and our way of life that is slowly falling by the wayside."
 "The membership drive is one way to involve people and seek out new leaders."
 "If your name is on the deed, you need to know what you can do and how you can get involved."

All of these are statements of commitment and involvement and they're found in stories in this week's issue of Lancaster Farming.

They all come from women -- a nun, a dairy wife and milk promoter and PFA women leaders.

Such voices are steadily coming to the foreground in agriculture. In some areas they may still be a whisper; but in other areas their vocal resonancy is increasing in tempo and volume and soon will hopefully become a resounding chorus working for a better agriculture.

And the time for such a chorus to take its proper place on the ag stage is long overdue.

When farmers are such a small minority to begin with, it makes no sense to have about half of their dwindling total only as silent partners.

Agriculture needs all of the voices it can get and it makes no difference if they are a deep bass or a shrill soprano.

I sat in on a women's committee session this week at PFA's annual meeting at Hershey. I was one of just three males in the room. The other two happened to be a PFA staffer and a speaker.

And I like what I heard from people like Joyce Sankey, State PFA Women's Chairman.

Let me just quote a couple of her statements at the session:

"Do not make the mistake of thinking that PFA Women's Committees just bake the cookies and provide refreshments for county meetings.

"We help produce the ingredients for those cookies and we have the ingredients to make PFA programs rise to fuller heights."

I also hear similar voices coming at other meetings.

--A recent Agway session reportedly included comments for expanded roles for younger farmers and females.

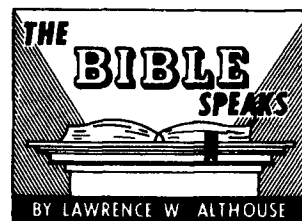
--A question at the Inter-State Annual Meeting made reference to the male-dominated hierarchy so often found in ag and was critical of certain women's activities at the session.

We're proud here at Lancaster Farming that many of our female staffers are active in ag and community activities -- from a director of a leading co-op and breed association promoters to helping to instruct in English as a second language.

And let me be perfectly honest, there would be no Lancaster Farming as you see it every week if it weren't for those female staffers who are deeply committed to their professions and to agriculture.

And, I know some of your problems. Speaking from experience, I know that speaking out when most remain silent can get to be pretty lonely and trying at times.

But hang in there; it's worth it. We're with you and Lancaster Farming will always be available to provide an avenue for your voice to be heard.



WHAT MAKES YOU WEARY?
 November 25, 1984

2 Thessalonians 1 through 3.

Devotional Reading:

2 Thessalonians 3:1-15.

"Brethren," writes Paul to the church at Thessalonika, "do not be weary in well-doing" (2 Thess. 3-13).

I've read and re-read that verse many times and thought about it long and hard. To make certain I knew exactly what Paul meant, I read it in my copy of the Six Version Parallel New Testament to see how it is rendered in the King James, Living Bible, New English Bible, Jerusalem Bible and Phillips Modern English versions in addition to the RSV. And no, there's nothing really obscure about the meaning, although perhaps the New English Bible puts it most simply: "But you, my friends, must never tire of doing right."

MERE BUSYBODIES

The NEB has the sentence start with "But..." and there is a suggestion that what has preceded this statement stands in glaring contrast. So, to understand what Paul is saying in 3:13, we need really to go back and see what has preceded it. And we find that Paul has been addressing himself to a problem in the Thessalonian church. "For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work" (3:11).

Some commentators believe

that, because the early church expected the immanent return of Christ in glory, some Christians spent their time in idle waiting, instead of continuing to do their daily work. While it may be true that some people were thus motivated, it is more likely that the problem went considerably beyond that. There are always in any age or any era those who would rather talk about problems and concerns than do something about them. Every group I've ever belonged to could be divided into the "talkers" and the "doers," although the latter group is always outnumbered by the former.

Often, I've found, the reason people spend their time being, as Paul puts it, "busy-bodies," is because they have too little of their own business to do. In fact, as a pastoral counsellor, I've found that all too often the key to a person's loneliness, depression, bitterness, and a score of other debilitating emotions is a lack of meaningful work or effort to do something worthwhile.

DO YOUR WORK

"But you, my friends, must never tire of doing right." I have never known very many people who exhausted themselves doing too much for other people. What exhausts many of us is not the great quantity of what we do for others, but the way we feel about what we do. If we feel resentful, if we work reluctantly and begrudgingly, we will be weary -- but not of helping others.

There are lots of things that tire me and some even exhaust me, but I do not believe it is frequently because I give too much of myself to others. No, I am much more likely to become weary because I don't want to spend myself for other people. Actually, to really tire myself in helping someone else might be the most exhilarating feeling of all.

You and I must try it some time.

NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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To Be Careful Around Flowing Grain

A major hazard of stored grain is to become covered up and smothered by it. It is very dangerous to be standing in a grain bin when it begins to flow. It takes only a few seconds for an unloading auger to remove enough grain for a person to start sinking into the grain. Never enter a grain bin without first "locking out" all the power sources; also, never enter the bin alone without another person being present. Children should be warned about entering grain bins because of the danger of "bridging" of the grain or the shifting of large areas. All employees should be alerted to the hazards of flowing grain.

To Consider Attending No-Till Conference

"Recognizing and Solving No-Till Crop Production Problems", is

the theme of our 1984 Mid-Atlantic No-Till Conference scheduled for Wednesday, December 19 at the York Fairgrounds, York, Pa. reminds Arnold G. Lueck, Lancaster Extension Agronomy Agent.

The program committee has arranged for several prominent speakers to cover such timely topics as: farmers and the Chesapeake Bay, disease concerns in corn and alfalfa, No-Tilling alfalfa stands, cover crops, the effects of tillage systems on yield and soils, control of those pesky perennial weeds and starter fertilizers. Some over 45 commercial exhibitors will be eager to greet and help you. The doors open at 8:00 with the speaking program set for 9:30 to noon.

Tickets and program details are now available from County Extension Offices.

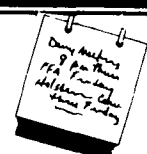
To Control Cattle Grubs

Cattle grubs can be completely eliminated from dairy heifers and beef cattle by the simple application of a pesticide approved for grub control.

Grube control pesticides may be applied by spray, pour on, or spot-on treatments, according to Dr. Larry Hutchinson, our Extension Veterinarian at Penn State. They are safe to use and completely effective if applied according to label directions, and before the end of November. After that, migrating grub larvae are found close to the spinal cord where their death can produce problems.

Regular yearly treatment against cattle grubs in areas where they are common can completely eradicate these painful parasites in the backs of cattle, and can greatly improve the quality of the hide at slaughter.

Farm Calendar



Monday, Nov. 26
 Mennonite Conference on Faith and Farming, Laurelville Mennonite Church Center, Mt. Pleasant, Pa., continues through Wednesday.
 Wednesday, Nov. 28
 Dairy Day at Alfred State Ag and

Tech College, 9:45 a.m. to 3 p.m., Alfred, N.Y.

Thursday, Nov. 29
 Lancaster County Guernsey Breeders Banquet, Black Rock Retreat, Quarryville, 7 p.m.

To Be Careful When Cleaning Manure Pits

Many manure pits will be emptied at this time of year; it's an opportunity to clean out the pit before cold weather arrives. When this volume of manure is agitated there is greater danger of toxic and explosive gases being released. Every precaution should be taken. If there are animals above the pits, then maximum ventilation should

be provided. When the pit is empty or partially empty, no one should enter the pit without a respirator or gas mask. There may be dangerous gases present. Also, no smoking or open flames should be nearby. These pits are the modern way to store manure, but they do present a hazard to both man and animal.

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Let farm women loose

PORTLAND, Me. -- Sister Thomas More, a rural activist and co-founder of American Agri-Women, told delegates attending the National Grange convention in Portland, Me., last week that

families have to be involved in any organization just as they are on the farm. She praised the structure of the family-oriented Grange organization and challenged the rural leaders to take a chance on innovators. She said power is the answer to improving the economic welfare of agricultural producers and that power is achieved through unity. She encouraged all farm groups to work together.

Sister More criticized the farm groups that exclude women from the policy-making process. She said that women are goal conscious and know how to get things done. Sister More told the farm leaders to let their women loose.

She said the policy of the 1985 farm bill is likely to offer two choices, either market-oriented resulting in a decrease of farm programs or to treat agriculture

(Turn to Page A31)

