

Editorially Speaking

See you at the Farm Show!

Starting tomorrow about half a million people will travel to Harrisburg during the coming week for the 1985 state Farm Show. Many will be exhibiting livestock and farm products, others will be sightseers from both agricultural and non-agricultural backgrounds. While the hundreds of thousands of people who flock through the Farm Show gates will be coming from all walks of life, they will, for this short time, have a common bond — they will be immersed in agriculture, which is not only the top industry in Pennsylvania but the foundations of our culture here.

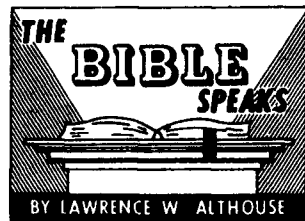
Now in its 69th year, the Pennsylvania Farm Show has grown from a handful of exhibits of fruits and grains to one of the largest agricultural promotions under one roof in this country. Farmers, agricultural and agribusiness leaders from at least 20 states and Canada attend the Farm Show each year. The number of exhibits has grown from the 440 entries at the first Farm Show to about 8,000 individual entries and nearly 300 commercial entries at this year's show. Floor space at the show is in such demand that some commercial firms have been on a waiting list for space for as long as five years.

Getting ready for Farm Show is hard work, no doubt about it. The staff at Harrisburg work through the spring, summer and fall processing

entry applications, laying out floor plans, and getting the Farm Show Complex ready for the big January event. And anyone who exhibits knows that preparation for Farm Show goes on all year long. Getting ready involves sweat and tears and laughter, not only for the exhibitors but for the people working alongside — 4-H leaders, FFA advisors, parents, children, neighbors. If you're a winner, the joy is monumental. But — and herein lies the beauty of the Farm Show — even if you don't take a ribbon, you still have gained exposure and experience, and a chance to learn what you need to do for next year's show.

The Farm Show means different things to different people. It is the farmers' show window, an integral part of their advertising, and a chance to see new equipment and supplies. For agribusiness, Farm Show is a chance to show a lot of interested farmers what's available and efficient for their farming operations. To the city dweller, Farm Show is a wonderful place to see what farmers are doing, an important educational experience since it is the farmer who feeds us all.

Farm Show is a place to touch, to taste, to smell, to look and take it all in, a place to show and be shown, to exchange ideas, and to have fun. If you've never been there, you ought to go. See you at the Farm Show!



THE ULTIMATE GOURMET
January 13, 1985

Background Scripture:
John 6.

Devotional Reading:
John 6:22-29.

For the first two-and-a-half decades of my life I was a "meat and potatoes" person. I had been raised at a "meat and potatoes" family table and my Pennsylvania German ("Dutch") background did not incline me in any other direction.

But, somewhere between my twentieth and thirtieth year I discovered "food" — all kinds of food: vegetables I had never heard of, meats I had never dared, a whole new world I had not known existed. Now, in my sixth decade of life I must confess that since those "meat and potatoes" days, I have been fortunate to experience so many epicurean and gourmet delights.

EATING MANNA

Yet, no matter how much I have enjoyed and continue to enjoy the delight of food, I have learned that no matter how good it tastes, no matter how much I look forward to it, the gratification is always temporary. No matter how wonderful the food, I am usually hungry the next day—if it takes that long.

So, I have come to realize that food is good and necessary and one

of our God-given joys in life, but it does not nourish us much beyond the present moment. As Jesus reminded those who were offended because he called himself "the true bread," the Israelites under Moses "at the manna in the wilderness, and they died" (6:49). No one lives forever on the food he or she consumes on a daily basis.

Jesus' words may not be quite so significant to us today because, unlike the manna to whom he spoke, eating is not the major concern for daily survival. Manna was for them. They ate to live—whereas it seems many people today live to eat. A crust of bread might be all they had to give them strength to do their daily work in order to earn another crust of bread.

Regardless, both we and they know—although we sometimes seem to forget—that nothing material will ever be enough for us. No food, no thing can empower us to overcome the experience of death. Things—material things—can never satisfy us ultimately. That kind of satisfaction is fleeting at best.,

THE LIVING BREAD

All of us, therefore, have a "hunger" that no food, no material thing can ever satisfy. We go through life vainly trying to fill that void that is not in the stomach but in the soul, until we realize some day that the only thing that can permanently satisfy this craving is the spiritual nourishment that comes to us in Christ.

His listeners got hung-up over Jesus' invitation to "eat my flesh and drink my blood," but we know very well—as they did—what he means. If we take his life into ourselves as the body takes in food and drink, we will find the nourishment of that which alone can survive the death of the body.

NOW IS THE TIME

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To Service Farm Machinery

This is the time of the year to be preparing your farm equipment for spring work. In the first place, this machinery should not be out in the weather. I still see too much machinery left out in the fields and barnyards. This is not good management and will shorten the life of the equipment. Preparing farm machinery is necessary every year, and now would be a good time to make use of the off-season labor supplies. Machinery is a huge investment and should be kept in good condition at all times. Rain and snow will soon develop rust on equipment; this will shorten the life span and is a primary cause of many unnecessary breakdowns.

To Be Aware of Child Labor Laws

If you have boys or girls between

the ages of 14 and 16 that plan to operate a farm tractor or machinery on a farm, other than your own farm, be sure they have the proper certification. Under the child labor regulations, the law requires that those boys or girls between 14 and 16 years of age, be certified and carry a certification card before they are permitted to operate hazardous equipment. Some equipment listed under the law as hazardous are: a tractor with one 20 PTO horsepower, corn picker, hay baler, feed grinder, fork lift and many more. Again, on your own farm, your children can operate any equipment that you feel is safe for them.

The certification process in most areas is through the Vocational Agricultural departments in the school system or through the 4-H Tractor Clubs. Contact either for more information.

To Move Equipment Safely

Farm equipment is getting bigger and taller, as seen at the Farm Show. This creates a new hazard. Cabs on larger tractors or combines may approach heights equal to ground clearance of high voltage electrical lines. Accidental contact between equipment and the electrical line can be fatal for the operator. This is especially hazardous where long spans cross fields creating considerable sag at mid-span. CB antennas or other additions to large equipment are almost certain to create a potential hazard if they come in contact with electrical lines.

Wide equipment, such as planters and tillage equipment, folded up for transport can also reach heights that are dangerous. Also be careful when moving portable elevators. Instruct all

Farm Calendar



Sat., Jan. 12
Swine and Sheep Judging, preceding official opening of Farm Show, Small Arena, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.

N.J. Holstein Assn. Annual meeting at Watchung View Inn, Rt. 206 n. of Somerville, N.J., 2 p.m. meeting followed by dinner and dancing.

Sunday, Jan. 13
Farm Show opens, continues through Friday. See complete schedule in this issue.

Monday, Jan. 14
Secretary of Agriculture Night at

operators and other workers about this hazard and how to avoid danger.

To Use Sawdust on Icy Walks

Freezing rain, sleet and hard packed snow on walkways and driveways is quite slippery and dangerous. The next time you have this condition, try using coarse sawdust to reduce the hazard.

Ammonium nitrate and other fertilizers have been used for melting ice and they may be ef-

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Farm Show, also Sr. Citizen's Day.

Poultry servicemen's seminar and dinner, Holiday Inn North, 1492 Lititz Pike (Rt. 501 S. off Rt. 30), Lancaster, 6:30 p.m.

Md. Assn. of Soil Conservation District winter meeting at Carousel Hotel, Ocean City, Md., through Jan. 16.

Fulton Grange #66, Grange Hall, Oakryn, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 15
Master Farmers Night at Farm Show.

Pa. Dairymen's Association Annual Meeting, Penn Harris Motor Inn, Harrisburg, 6:30 p.m.

Kent Co. Crops Meeting, Viola Ruritan Hall, University of Delaware, 7-9:30 p.m.

Pa. Angus Association Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet, Americana Host Inn, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.

1985 Farm Income Tax Area Meeting, Arners' Family Restaurant, Rt. 309, Quaker-town.

Wednesday, Jan. 16
Horsepulling and sheep to shawl contests, Farm Show.

1985 Farm Income Tax Area Meeting, Rt. 72, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, Jan. 17
Pony Pulling Contest at Farm Show.

New Castle and No. Kent Co. Crops Meeting, Clayton Fire Hall, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Pa. Co-operative Potato Growers annual potato banquet, Sheraton-West, Harrisburg, 5:30 p.m.

1985 Farm Income Tax Area Meeting, Holiday Inn South, Wayne Avenue, Chambersburg.

Friday, Jan. 18
Closing events at Farm Show. See complete schedule in this issue.

