

NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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To Prevent Water Pollution

The quality of our water supplies is very important, and in most cases it should receive more attention. Many people have wells with high bacteria count and/or with high nitrates, both of which are undesirable for domestic and livestock consumption.

When feedlots and barns are cleaned out this spring, every effort should be made to incorporate this manure into the topsoil as quickly as possible. With liquid manure, the soil injection type of applicator does an excellent job. With other types of surface spreaders, the manure should be disced or plowed into the topsoil soon after application. This is especially true on slopes above water supplies.

The application of fertilizers warrants the same attention; mix it with the topsoil very soon after application. Also surface water should be directed away from wells or any other water supply.

To Check Ventilation Systems

We are into the season of the year that ventilation is very important. The fans in our poultry houses and dairy barns have been working hard through the winter months. They have accumulated dust on the louvers and screens and developed loose belts, so they are less efficient — in other words they are not moving as much air as they are rated.

This is a good time to go through your buildings and clean the fan blades, the louvers and screens. Tighten the fan belts, and be sure to check the inlet screens. Many times, in our poultry houses in particular, we're not getting air circulation because the air can not get into the building. Clean these inlet screens so they are not restricting air.

Also, be sure to check the thermostats to make certain they are working properly.

Poor ventilation can cause health problems in poultry houses and "off" flavored milk in dairy barns. This is a good time to take care of some of these inside jobs.

To Control Wild Garlic

We may like onions on our hamburgers and in other foods, but very few of us like onion-flavored milk. This can easily happen on dairy farms where wild garlic plants are allowed to grow.

Many pastures are infested with wild garlic. One of the best times to start control measures on this weed is early in the spring when the young plants are four to eight inches high.

An application of 2,4-D will knock them down. Follow the label for directions. When this is applied around the middle to latter part of March, little damage is done to any legume in the area. If garlic plants are allowed to mature each year, the pasture area will become so

contaminated that dairy cows cannot utilize the grass.


To Control Mice in Orchards

Now that the winter weather is almost gone, our fruit growers should take a look at the newly-exposed grass sod in their orchards. If there are runways at the surface of the grass, it is a good sign that there are plenty of mice in the

orchard, even though a mouse baiting program may have been followed last fall.

The mice have used up their stock piles of stored food and are now looking for a fresh supply. At this time of the year they will move quickly onto bark and roots of fruit trees

Fruit growers should rebait their orchards as soon as possible if there are fresh mouse signs.



The Dairy Business

By Newton Bair

MORE HAY THIS YEAR, A ROSY TALE

A few years back, my closest neighbor was Roy. Everyone called him "Rosy" because of his pleasant disposition. He was a great guy, a fellow who would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it. He also had a quick smile for everyone, a smile punctuated by little dribbles of tobacco juice on each side. Rosy seemed to fit him better than Roy.

"Rosy" leaned over the fence to talk while his team rested under the row of locust trees that shaded the lane between our farms. He was plowing under last year's hay field, which was mostly ragweed and sorrel, with a smattering of timothy and alsike clover still showing. On this balmy spring morning, Rosy was in a somber mood as he swabbed his blue bandana around his crinkled neck.

"I can't quite figure out why my hay field petered out so bad last year," he mumbled between squirts aimed at a No Hunting sign on my side of the fence. "I'm just about ready to give up on spendin' money on clover seed. Can't get the Red's to catch at all, and even the Alsike is too thin to count. Sure wish I could get a stand of alfalfa like you got there."

Well, Rosy being a lot older than I was, I wasn't about to give him advice unless he asked me first. I had bought the farm next to his only two years before, and the first thing I did was test the soil. That is nothing new in this day of enlightened farming, but was an innovation in the early 1940's. The soil tests on my farm were extremely high in potash and phosphorus, but showed a pH of 5.0

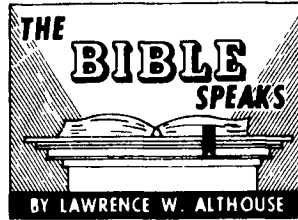
to 5.6. All I needed was lime, and lots of it. And I was pretty sure that that was about all that Rosy's hay field needed too. But he didn't believe in 'spending money' on lime. After all, he had to spend too much time hauling limestone rocks off the fields. Limestone soil shouldn't need lime anyway, should it?

His curiosity got the better of him when he saw the lime spreader pull into the next field. After he asked what the big idea was, I was finally able to explain that it was the lime that was unlocking the excess potash and phosphorus and making it available to the alfalfa and corn. The previous owner had been a heavy user of fertilizer, but didn't believe in lime either. I was reaping the benefit of years of heavy fertilizer applications on my farm, at a minimal cost of a few loads of lime. And alfalfa was now growing profusely on land that barely supported a thin stand of clover before.

Poor old Rosy was somewhat impressed by the think stand of alfalfa on my side of the lane, but not totally convinced that it could be duplicated on his land. A couple of years later he decided to throw in the towel and quit farming. He moved to town, and lived out his days working for a large dairy plant as a dock hand.

Now this corny little tale has a moral, as you might suspect. My respect for a good neighbor is not diminished by his lack of foresight in farming. Rather, it was my good fortune to buy that farm of his, remove the locust tree lined fence row, and lay out contour strips across the lane that separated the

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COMPLETING THE TASK
March 17, 1985

Background Scripture:
John 17.

Devotional Reading:
John 16:17-24.

Jesus uttered a phrase of ten words that I too would like to be able to say before my life's end here on earth: "...having accomplished the work which thou gavest me to do" (17:4). Can you think of any other words with which you would want to meet your Maker?

Jesus began life, his parents knowing that God had sent him for a purpose. His ministry commenced several decades later when he dedicated himself to fulfill that purpose for which he was sent. His brief ministry was dominated by his resolve to fulfill his reason for being and it was also his dedication to it that eventually took him to the cross, leading him at the very end to declare, "It is finished!"

A MAN OF PURPOSE

Jesus was a man with a mission in life and in John 17 he spells out some of the particulars of his mission. "I have manifested thy name to the men whom thou gavest me..." (17:6), he says. "I have given them the words which thou gavest me". (17:8) Furthermore, he has "kept them in thy name." And also: "The glory which thou hast given me I have given thee"

(17:22). It had been a "tall order" but he had accomplished all that God had given him.

These were not just a few idle ideas that came to him in a brief moment. Jesus had spent much time in thought and prayer considering just what it was that God desired of him and how he might accomplish it. It was the one thing above all else that dominated his life: more than pleasing the crowds, much more than winning titles and popularity, he deeply desired to please the Father who sent him.

BEING SENT

Jesus, however, was not the only one brought into the world to fulfill a specific purpose. Jesus taught his disciples that they also were to seek diligently to accomplish whatever God gave them to do. As Jesus prayed, "As thou didst send me into the world, so I have sent them into the world" (17:18).

During the Christmas holidays, we watched on TV that old Jimmy Stewart film classic, "It's A Wonderful Life." If you have seen it, you will remember that the man played by Stewart, frustrated, depressed and defeated, expresses out loud the wish that he had never been born. Hearing these words, his guardian angel arranges to show him all the things that never would have happened, all the lives that would not have been touched and enriched if he had never been born.

I couldn't help but think of my own life. Each one of us has a God-given opportunity to accomplish something worthwhile while we are on this earth. We too are people with a purpose and can never really be content until we can say with Jesus, "... having accomplished the work which thou gavest me to do."

Farm Calendar

Saturday, March 16

York County Swine Association Banquet.
Annual Meeting, Pa. Ayrshire Breeder's Assoc., Embers Convention Center, Carlisle.
Blue and Gold Show and Sale, Pa. Polled Hereford Assoc., Ag Arena at Penn State.
Fruit tree and bramble pruning demonstration and lecture, Holly House, Cook College, New Brunswick; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$3 fee. Call 201-788-1338 for registration form.

Monday, March 18

Lancaster County Woolies 4-H Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Lancaster Farm and Home Center.

Tuesday, March 19

Penn State Forest Resources Conference, University Park. Phone: 814-863-0401.
N.J. State Board of Agriculture, open meeting, Hunterdon Extension Center, Flemington; 10 a.m.

Mercer Co. Sheep and Wool annual outing, New Vernon Grange, Clarks Mills, 6.30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 20

Atlantic Breeder's Co-op Annual Meeting, Host Town Resort, Lancaster, 10 a.m.

Thursday, March 22

Farm Credit Co-op Meeting, Historic Strasburg Inn at noon.

Friday, March 22

Lehigh Valley Dairy Annual Meeting, Hershey.
Lancaster County Farmer's Association Spring Banquet, 7 p.m. Harvest Drive Restaurant, Intercourse. Guest Speaker, Congressman Bob Walker.

Saturday, March 23

Elizabethtown Young Farmers Awards Banquet, Hostetter's Banquet Hall, Mt. Joy. For tickets call 653-1567 or 367-1521.
High Tensile Fence Workshop, K and B Fence Co., Route 741 Lampeter, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information call 717-464-4193.

Tuesday, March 26

Eastern Peach Pruning Conference, Leesport, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Penn Ag Industries "credit management" seminar, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., General Sutter Inn, Lititz.

Annual Meeting, Pa Ag Safety Council, Penn State Sheraton

Thursday, March 28

Lancaster Progressive Pork Producers Seminar, "Increasing profits through genetics," Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Pa Holstein Association Show and Sale, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.

Friday, March 29

Performance Tested Bull Sale, Meat Animal Evaluation Center, State College, noon
Annual Meeting, Pa. Simmental Association, Autoport Restaurant, State College

Saturday, March 30

Lancaster Farm Toy Show, Sale and Auction at Lancaster Treadway Inn

