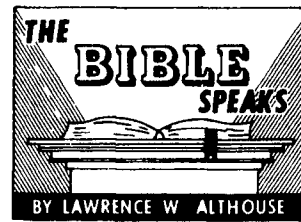


NOW IS THE TIME

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EMPTY NOTHINGS
April 28, 1985

To Plant Corn
The dry warm weather has developed excellent conditions for planting corn. So be sure your planter is ready to go when your fields are ready to plant. If you plan to change the row width, be sure to calibrate your planter to the plant population you desire. If you need new plates—pick them up and install them. Also, your pest control programs should be worked out.

If you are on a no-till program and have a cover crop of rye, wheat or barley, then it should be sprayed when the vegetation is 18-24 inches tall. Paraquat plus a surfactant does an excellent job.

As far as control goes, research data collected from numerous sites over the past several years indicates that soil insecticide treatments for corn rootworm control have not significantly increased yields except in a small percentage of the fields. If rootworm was not a problem in the past, treatment will not be necessary. If the field was in anything but corn, there would not be a rootworm problem because they only survive on corn roots.

To Think Ryelage

Many farmers plant rye as a forage crop for their cattle. Rye can provide a lot of much needed high quality forage—if it is handled properly. For top quality feed value, rye should be cut around the boot stage of maturity, and wilted before ensiling. After this stage, feed value drops rapidly. Some of our rye fields will be heading out soon. That means we should be thinking about cutting rye, perhaps even before we finish planting corn.

To Evaluate Sewage Sludge Before Using

Many farmers are being approached to have sewage sludge applied to their land. Several things must be evaluated before considering this step. First of all, many of our farms are presently producing more animal and poultry manure than they have land to apply it on, so we just don't have the acreage. You should also be aware of potential pitfalls in sewage sludge.

Sludge is a by-product of wastewater treatment and can contain many different elements and compounds from municipal and industrial sources. The wastewater goes through several stages of treatment, but the sludge that is removed from the effluent may contain heavy metals and trace elements such as copper, zinc, lead, nickel, chromium or cadmium. These elements can be toxic to plants at low levels and some represent a hazard to the food chain.

To avoid heavy metal or other

problems, sludges must be analyzed to determine their suitability. Ideally, your soil should also be tested. Sludge and soil testing is absolutely essential for the safe and beneficial use of sewage sludge on cropland. Costs of analyses are usually paid by the municipality involved.

To Develop Safety Habits

We are aware that farming is not the safest occupation. In fact the average farm worker can expect that once every four years he'll be injured so severely that medical attention is needed. We also know that farming is even more dangerous than industrial work. Farmers have a work accident rate that's two and a half times greater than the average for all industries. The problem is, that unlike industry, farmers work with a minimal amount of supervision and they may not be properly trained for the job. We urge farmers during this busy season to take time to be safe.

The Penn State Extension Service is an affirmative action, equal opportunity educational institution.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, April 27
Cumberland Blue Genes Sale.
York Sheep and Wool Field Day,
York Fairgrounds, 9:30 a.m.
Dairy Exposition, Penn State
University, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
A Day, Delaware Valley College.
Ag Day, University of Maryland
Dairy Goat Seminar, Montgomery
4-H Center, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tour of "The Goat Works," the largest goat cheese producing farm in the United States, Washington, NJ, 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sunday April 28
Annual Meeting, Pa. Association of Meat Processors, The Embers, Carlisle.

Monday, April 29
Pa. Sheep and Wool Growers annual meeting, Keller Building, Penn State University.

Tuesday, April 30
Pa. Wool Sale, Nittany Lion Inn, Penn State University.

Wednesday, May 1
Lancaster County Conservation District, monthly board meeting, Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, May 3
Pa. National Arts and Crafts Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.
Two-day Bio-Ag Seminar, Farm and Home Center, 10 a.m. to 9

man's that Job is questioning, "As for me, is my complaint against man?" (21:4). No, it is a complaint against God and Job's friends are aghast at the boldness of Job to say such things in God's presence.

Yet, just as the skeptical questions of the Apostle Thomas gave Jesus the occasion to utter some of his most profound sayings, so the dogged protests of Job are obvious... closer to God's heart than the "empty nothings" of Eliphaz, who seems to keep his faith by pretending that evil men always get their just deserts.

When we hear Job's complaints, we cannot help agreeing that that is often the way it is in our world, too. A brutal mobster all too often dies "in full prosperity...his body full and fat" (21:23,24). Yet, although Job is absolutely right in his judgement that justice often does not prevail in this world, he is absolutely wrong in attributing that failure to God.

DOWN TO SHEOL

Justice is God's will for his children, but he does not compel us to be just, just as he does not compel us to be good. Justice and equity are not part of the "given" of human existence, they are part of that which is to be achieved. So, if the world is unjust, it is we who have to change the world.

The key to Job's frustration is found in his statement to Sheol" (21:13). In the day this book was written most people believed that there was no conscious life after death. Sheol was the end. Thus, God's justice after death was too late.

But if you believe in a life beyond this earth, then you can begin to understand that it is in that realm that justice and evil receive their ultimate rewards and punishments.

p.m.

Saturday, May 4
Apple Blossom Festival, South Mountain Fairgrounds.
Md. Sheep and Wool Festival, Howard County Fairgrounds (continues Sunday).
Northeast Pa. Mountain Dairy Goat Association meeting, Madison Township Fire Hall, 1 p.m.
Two-Day Bio-Ag Seminar, Farm and Home Center, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Annual Spring Sale, Pa. Shorthorn and Polled Shorthorn Breeders Association, Mercer 4-H Park.

Saturday, May 11
Western Pa. Sheep and Club Lamb Sale, Mercer County 4-H Park, Mercer, 6:30 p.m.

Grange outlines legislative priorities

HARRISBURG — Grange Master Charles E. Wismer outlined the Pennsylvania State Grange's legislative priorities at the Grange Week banquet Tuesday night.

Turning to members of the state legislature in attendance, Wismer praised "both sides of the isle" for working for agriculture in rural Pennsylvania.

Here's where the Grange will be concentrating its efforts:

- H.B.236 - Introduced by Rep. Carville Foster, this bill would limit foreign investors to the ownership of not more than 10 acres of land. The present limit is 100 acres.

- H.B.237 - Also introduced by Foster, this bill would prohibit all on-site farm operations from obtaining PIDA (Pa. Industrial

Development Authority) loans. Previous legislation prohibited only foreign-owned operations from receiving PIDA money and required that applicants employ at least 25 people. The Grange's objection here is that this latter requirement effectively excluded small family farm operations. Agri-business concerns would still be eligible for loans. Both the above bills have received House Ag Committee approval.

- H.B.976 - A bill introduced by Rep. John Broujos, would require payment for poultry and eggs within 21 days unless otherwise stated in a contract. Producers not being paid within this time period could place a lien on the debtor's property. This bill also passed the House Ag Committee.

- H.B.479 - Introduced by Rep.

Curt Bowley, the so-called "Bottle Bill" would place a five-cent deposit on all non-biodegradable beverage containers. This bill would name the Pa. Department of Agriculture as responsible for enforcement. A May 9 hearing is scheduled in the House Ag Committee.

- S.B.191 - The Senate equivalent of H.B.479 was introduced by Sen. Edward Helfrick.

- House Resolution 61 - Introduced by Rep. Ruth Rudy, this resolution requests that Congress include funding for federal meat inspection in the federal budget. The resolution takes issue with the proposed "user fee" concept that would require meat processors to absorb the cost of inspection.

Delaware farmers increase crop insurance coverage

NEWARK, DE — Delaware farmers have increased their use of crop insurance as a management tool to protect themselves against devastating income losses caused by abnormally low yields.

"We anticipate that farmers in this state will buy more than \$3.5 million worth of crop insurance this year," says University of Delaware assistant extension farm

management specialist Mark Kooker. "That's a 25 percent increase over 1984. Looked at another way, you could say this figure shows that Delaware farmers are sharing \$3.5 million of their product risks with other producers from across the nation."

Multi-peril crop contracts insure against essentially all unavoidable production hazards such as drought, freezes, hail, excessive rain, wind damage, insects and diseases. The policies do not cover losses due to neglect, theft or failure to follow recognized farming practices.

Delaware farmers can find out about insuring their crops in several ways. They can contact an agent who sells crop insurance, a county ASCS office, or the county extension office in Newark (451-2506), Dover (736-1448) or Georgetown (856-7303).

They can also call Kooker directly at 451-2511. He has prepared a fact sheet, "Multi-Peril Crop Insurance: A Management Tool," which is available at all county extension offices.

