

NOW IS THE TIME

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To Be Aware of Larvadex Approval

Fly control in poultry layer flocks has become extremely difficult because the flies have become immune to nearly all approved materials. But, I received good news last Friday that Larvadex has received EPA approval for use in layer flocks. Larvadex is a feed-through material that has no effect to the bird or egg.

The treated feed should be fed as a daily ration. Do not feed Larvadex treated feed to broilers or poultry producing eggs for hatching purposes.

Manure from layers fed Larvadex may be used as a soil fertilizer at the rate of 5 tons of manure per acre per year. Another important fact - *do not* apply to small grain crops that will be harvested or grazed.

There is a three-day withdrawal time for all birds going to slaughter to make sure the material passes through the bird.

Larvadex can't do it alone, follow good cultural and sanitation control practices in and around poultry houses.

To Be Aware of Hot Hay

Many farmers may be making hay that is higher than usual moisture levels in order to get the

first cutting of hay into the barn. This can result in excessive heating, spoilage and possibly a barn fire due to spontaneous combustion. If you suspect your hay is hot, check its temperature. Drive a pipe down into the hay mow at several locations, and lower a thermometer into the pipe.

Temperatures will rise to 120°F during normal sweating and then drop back. At 150°F, you are entering the danger zone, and temperatures should be checked daily. At 160°F you are in the danger zone and temperatures should be monitored every 4 hours. Hot spots or fire pockets may be anticipated at 175°F; alert your fire company. At 185°F, start removing the hay; be careful you don't fall into a fire pocket; have fire protection and rescue service standing by.

To Be Aware of Corn Insects

With the increased trend toward no-till corn planting or minimum tillage, we can expect more problems with corn insects. Past experience shows this. We urge corn growers to inspect their fields frequently to observe any feeding on small plants. You can have cutworms, stalk borers and armyworms at any time feeding on the corn plant.

The Agronomy Guide lists

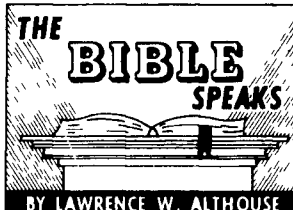
several materials for the control of cutworms and armyworms, including Sevin, Lorsban, Furadon, or Dylex. Stalk borers are very difficult to control because they work inside the corn stalk. Flea beetles are another insect that may feed on small corn leaves; they create small holes in the leaves but seldom do extensive damage. Sevin can be used to eliminate these small insects, if it is serious enough. Keep an eye on the corn field for the first several weeks and avoid serious insect injury.

To Read The Label

I am sure you have heard this suggestion before, however, it is still very important to all farmers and gardeners.

Every pesticide carries a label with directions; this should be read and followed during the application of the material. Don't make the mistake of applying the material in error. The labels are required by law and should be respected by the user. Serious losses may occur if the directions are not followed. Materials should always be kept in their original container and stored in a separate place under padlock.

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THE BEST INVESTMENT
May 19, 1985

Background Scripture:

Proverbs 3:13-18; 8:1-21

Devotional Reading:

Proverbs 2:1-15

Somebody out there must be laboring under the mistaken impression that I've got a substantial sum of capital to invest in something. How else should I explain the growing flow of mail inviting me to subscribe to investment newsletters, buy books that will help me to manage my money, or join various schemes to buy this or that?

One source says "buy gold!" Another, "put your money into real estate!" Still another advises "precious gems!" But, even a cursory glance at this literature on its way to my circular file has convinced me that there is simply no agreement among them as what I should do with my money—if I had it.

MOOD ELEVATORS

Now, I'm not for one moment disparaging the practice of investment. Nor am I indicating that we should not be concerned with the management of whatever material resources we have. What I am saying, however, is that we should be no less concerned with the investments we make of the intangibles of our lives.

You see, no matter what we say about what's important in life, our society today acts as if the essence

of life is to be found in material things. Advertising suggests that things will make us happy, guarantee our success, and make life enjoyable. And, although we make some allowance for advertising hype, we act as if we pretty much believe that that is true. A new stereo, video recorder, tape deck, dirt bike, computer, van or car are regarded by some people as "mood elevators" - when you feel "down," you buy something to chase the "blues" away.

I love gadgets (just keep me out of a hardware store) and I have my share of things, including a home computer and video recorder. But I know that no matter how much pleasure they give me, they are still not what life's all about. They all break down, wear out or expire eventually—as I will, too—and then what is left of me is the only thing that really counts, my immortal soul or spirit.

BETTER THAN JEWELS

That's why the writer of Proverbs can say, "for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her" (8:11). The getting of wisdom and understanding, of spiritual maturity, is the most important investment any of us can ever make—better than jewels, better than precious metals, the stock market, or even certificates of deposit.

Lots of people draw near to the end of life with a good education, with an ample estate, and social recognition, but whether they also have gained wisdom, spiritual discernment, is another question.

My native Pennsylvania Dutch (German) have a saying:

We get too soon old, and too late schardt.

But that's not the way it has to be.

Lancaster ranks 11th nationwide in value of farm products

WASHINGTON — Always known as the "Garden Spot," Lancaster County has officially been recognized as one of the most productive counties in the U.S. — and the most productive on the East Coast.

New rankings released this week by the U.S. Census Bureau place Lancaster 11th in the nation in value of agricultural products, trailing eight California counties and two other Western jurisdictions, one in Arizona and one in Colorado.

The top ranking in the survey was occupied by Fresno, CA, where products valued at \$1.15 billion were sold. Almost without exception, Fresno's California companions in the top ten were located in the lush San Joaquin Valley, which has extensive fruit and vegetable farming.

Lancaster, by contrast, had sales of \$574.9 million, although on a smaller amount of land. Fresno sprawls over 5,978 square miles, while Lancaster occupies 952.

The rankings are based on the 1982 census of agriculture conducted by the bureau.

The individual rankings by commodity, however, contained

striking evidence of Lancaster's incredible diversity. While other leading producers excelled in one category, Lancaster was ranked prominently in several:

- Second in value of livestock and poultry products. In sub-categories, Lancaster was second to Sussex, DE in value of poultry and poultry products sold, and fifth in hog inventory.

- Fourth in the number of dairy cows and sixth in value of dairy products sold.

Pennsylvania was the only Middle Atlantic state to place among the top 20 ag producers

nationwide, finishing 15th with \$2.8 billion. The Keystone State remained fifth in dairy production, with sales of \$1.082 billion.

The rankings of the top ten producing counties in the U.S. is as follows:

1. Fresno, CA, \$1.15 billion.
2. Kern, CA, \$1.07 billion.
3. Tulare, CA, \$963 million.
4. Weld, CO, \$829 million.
5. Imperial, CA, \$742 million.
6. Monterey, CA, \$738 million.
7. Merced, CA, \$655 million.
8. Maricopa, AZ, \$628 million.
9. Riverside, CA, \$619 million.
10. San Joaquin, CA \$593 million.

Maryland tobacco auctions have fourth best year

ANNAPOLIS, MD — The 1984 Maryland tobacco auctions saw the state's oldest crop recover considerably in price from the year before, averaging \$1.398 per pound—the fourth best Maryland market average in history.

A total of 28,591,210 pounds of Type-32 leaf was sold over the eight tobacco warehouse floors during the 30 days of sales for a total of \$39,991,021. This contrasts

with 1984 when 27,487,326 million pounds was sold at an average of \$1.048 cents per pound returning farmers \$26,487,614.

Sold on this year's auction markets was the crop of tobacco produced in 1984 which was generally regarded as a very high quality crop. However, several million pounds of 1983 crop tobacco was also sold this year by farmers who had held it off the market last

year because they were unwilling to accept the low bids offered last season.

The average price of \$1.398 per pound paid by buyers this year has only been exceeded by the average prices paid for the crops of 1981 (\$1.749), 1980 (\$1.704) and 1982 (\$1.520) and just better than the 1979 crop average of \$1.397.

This year's dollar amount paid to farmers of \$39.9 million is also the

fourth best figure ever recorded for Maryland tobacco. The 1982 and 1981 crops brought dollar totals of about \$58 million each and the 1980 crop returned \$42.6 million to farmers.

Prices and dollar totals are historically tracked by crop year because Maryland tobacco is sold the year after it is produced. Thus, the tobacco sold this year is credited against the 1984 crop.



Farm Calendar

Saturday, May 18

ABS Cattlemen's Spring Field Day, Stornoway Farms, Ligonier. Phone: 412-238-9756.

Sunday, May 19

Spring Farm Show, Carroll County Farm Museum, Westminster, Md., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesday, May 22

20th Spring Rally, Pa. Society of Farm Women, Ramada Inn, Hagerstown, Md.

Friday, May 24

Devon Horse Show and Country Fair, Rt. 30, Devon. Continues through June 1. For ticket information call 215-688-2554 Mon. to Fri. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, May 25

Pa. Simmental Association Sale, Farm Show Building; small arena; 1 p.m.

Sunday, May 26

NW Keystone Jr. Beef Classic, Mercer Co. 4-H Park, Mercer.

