

# NOW IS THE TIME

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### To Recognize Stage of Maturity

Harvesting at the proper stage of maturity is the most important factor in the process of making top quality hay or silage. Many farmers allow their crops to become too mature before cutting. This is very easy to do early in the spring when weather conditions are poor for making hay.

The legumes such as alfalfa and clover are at their peak when in the bud to early blossom stage. The grasses are highest in feed nutrients at heading time. Winter grains contain the most feeding value when made into silage in the blossom stage.

The crop may be easier to cure later in the spring but not contain top feeding values. The making of crops into silage, instead of hay, early in the season is one way to preserve maximum nutritional value.

### To Check Stored Pesticides

The shelf life of most pesticides, when stored in their original containers, is usually several years. The greatest problem with stored pesticides comes from freezing temperatures. Cold

winter temperatures may cause a breakdown of the emulsifier in liquid materials. These materials may not mix properly when added to the spray water.

To determine if the pesticide will still mix properly with water, follow this easy procedure: (1) place ½ pint of water in a small container; (2) add ½ to 1 teaspoon of the pesticide; (3) shake or stir thoroughly (you should get a milky mixture); (4) let stand for about one hour. The spray mix should remain an even milky mixture. If an oily scum or layer forms on top, or if a layer of curds appear on top, don't use the material.

### To Check Water Supplies

Water is one of our most important resources, and it should be checked periodically. Many families depend on wells for their water supply. But they pay little attention to the water unless the pump fails or the well runs dry. Your water should be tested annually to determine its quality.

It is important to test water following any reconstruction or addition to the water supply or its distribution system. Water supplies should be checked whenever

a disease occurs that may have been caused by unsafe drinking water. If water changes in taste, odor or appearance for no reason, it should be tested.

There are many tests and analyses that can be used. Two of the most important are for nitrates and bacteria.

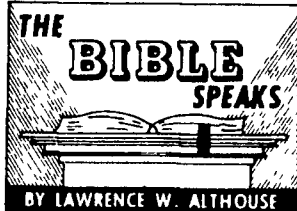
### To Be Aware of Ticks

The tick season is here. These pests may be on almost any dog or person that walks through uncultivated fields or woody areas from May to September.

Ticks await their victims on low-growing shrubs and on tall grass. They attach to, and feed on the blood of, dogs and humans as well as many other animals.

To control the American dog tick, first clean the area of tall grass and weeds on which the ticks await their victims. Also, treat bushes 20 to 30 feet on either side of paths with either Sevin, Diazinon or Lindane. The dog should also be treated with a 5% Sevin dust at weekly intervals, or as needed, to control ticks.

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THE LIMITS OF WISDOM  
May 26, 1985

### Background Scripture:

Proverbs 1:7-19; 3:5-8; 14:1-12.

### Devotional Reading:

Proverbs 6:1-15.

One of the achievements of understanding is the ability to differentiate between intelligence, education, and wisdom. Lots of people fail to distinguish the important differences between them.

Some of the most intelligent people I've known have not much of a formal education (although an education could have enhanced their superior intelligence). I've also known some people who were well educated and obviously quite intelligent, but that did not necessarily say that they were also wise. In fact, some of the most foolish people I've known (and thus can include myself) have been both well-educated and quite intelligent.

### LEARNED FOOLS

I have frequently noted that some people seem to reach a point in life where, surrounded upon success after success, they have come to believe that all their judgements and decisions are guaranteed to be right. Hitler, for example, began the Second World War with a string of brilliant victories. As time went by, however, he was so intoxicated by his success, that he refused to follow the wise advice of those around him. The result was

crushing defeat. I have also known businessmen with brilliant track records for success after success who, eventually, have come to bitter and humiliating ends. The reason: they forgot or perhaps never knew that there are always limits to human wisdom.

The problem is that our cleverness often leads us in the direction of pride and self satisfaction, which is the opposite direction from wisdom. If we are really learned or smart or both, we will realize the limitations of these faculties. The result will be humility, not pride. The more we know, the more we will realize how much we don't know. The more we understand, the more we will acknowledge the enormity of what we do not understand.

### WISE IN WHOSE EYES?

But there's more to it than learning our own limitations. The writer of Proverbs counsels us: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight" (3:5). The more we learn about life, the more we will realize that none of us, by ourselves, is sufficient. There are times when we have thought as clearly as we can think, when we have persevered as long as we could, and worked as hard as we have strength, and it still was not enough. Real learning, intelligence and wisdom mean that we find there is something beyond ourselves on which we must ultimately rely and someone to whom we must eventually turn. "Trust in the Lord..." is the sage's counsel, but it takes a truly smart person to do it. Only the smart person realizes that smartness is never enough - no matter how brilliant it may seem to ourselves, no matter how much it may dazzle others.

When we have reached the extremities of our own wisdom, it is then that we enter to the precincts of the wisdom of God.

## Morris proposes \$2 million ag productivity program

HARRISBURG - Rep. Samuel W. Morris, D-Pottstown, is calling for creation of a \$2.3 million Pennsylvania Agricultural Crop and Livestock Productivity Program to help insure long-term prosperity for the state's largest industry.

The legislation (H.B. 1224), co-sponsored by Morris, who is Chairman of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, would set aside funds for acid rain research, avian flu and other animal disease research, diagnosis and treatment. It also would underwrite an on-going poultry disease surveillance to prevent a repeat of the avian flu outbreak which devastated the industry last year.

Agriculture is Pennsylvania's biggest cash industry and its biggest growth industry, the Chester County lawmaker noted.

He said it was the duty of state government to protect its principal industries and to be on the lookout for threats to such key elements of economy. Government, he said, should provide the kinds of aid and services which individual entrepreneurs cannot generate for themselves.

Principal products in Pennsylvania's agricultural mix, he noted, are grains for feed and human consumption, truck and fruit crops, dairy products and

poultry and other meat products. A flaw in Pennsylvania's current services to farmers is the state's failure to adequately address the problems of pollution on crops and diseases on animals, he said.

The plan would set aside \$400,000 for acid rain research, \$300,000 for epidemiology and health economics training at veterinary schools concentrating on large animals, \$275,000 for a computerized diagnostic and tracking network and \$153,000 for livestock disease diagnosis. Also, the plan earmarks \$183,000 for a field investigation team on animal diseases, \$375,000 for avian influenza research, \$500,000 for poultry research and surveillance programs and \$169,000 for diagnostic services at poultry laboratories.

The lawmaker said there was a lesson in avian flu "which apparently has been lost on" the state Department of Agriculture.

In 1979, an eminent epidemiologist, Dr. Daniel Coher, recommended the creation of a "modern early-warning epidemic intelligence system in the Commonwealth" for animal disease similar to that underway in New York state. Those recommendations, according to Morris, were not implemented and the avian flu epidemic, which could have been better contained with a

more effective early warning system, almost wiped out Pennsylvania's poultry industry.

State government, said Morris, has the duty to work to prevent a repeat in the poultry industry or in another animal area.

His program, he added, will not attempt to seek a solution to the acid rain problem. Rather, he said, it will underwrite research to determine what kinds of crops do best under current conditions and which hybrids can be most productive.

Morris noted that besides avian influenza, Pennsylvania agriculture is threatened by such animal diseases as pseudorabies, wildlife rabies, trichinosis and various cattle diseases.

The Chester County legislator noted that the Thornburgh Administration has cut more than \$1 million from livestock disease research programs in the Department of Agriculture in its 1985-86 budget proposal.

The Crop and Livestock Productivity Program would restore the cuts and move into advanced animal disease control and research into acid-rain resistant crops.

## Farm Calendar

### Saturday, May 25

Pa. Simmental Association Sale, Farm Show Building, Small Arena, 1 p.m.  
York County dairy princess pageant, 8 p.m., York County 4-H Center

### Sunday, May 26

North West Keystone Jr. Beef Classic, Mercer County 4-H Park, Mercer

### Thursday, May 30

Pa. Dairy Promotion Board Meeting, 10 a.m., Room 309 of Agriculture Building, Harrisburg

### Wednesday, June 5

Lancaster Conservation District monthly board meeting, 7:30 p.m., Farm and Home Center  
Cedar Crest Young Farmers Banquet, Schaefferstown Fire Hall, 7 p.m.

### Friday, June 7

37th Delmarva Chicken Festival at Wicomico Youth and Civic Center, Salisbury, Md., continues through June 9  
S.E. Pa. Lamb Grading and Marketing workshop, continues through June 8, Peters Brothers Meats, Lenhartsville  
Milk - It's Fitness You Can Drink Day, 11:30 a.m., Independence Mall, Center City Philadelphia

## Penn State adds ag options

UNIVERSITY PARK - Two new agricultural minors have been created at The Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. William C. Richardson, executive vice president and provost of the University, in-

formed the Penn State Board of Trustees today (May 17) that no additional funding is required for these changes.

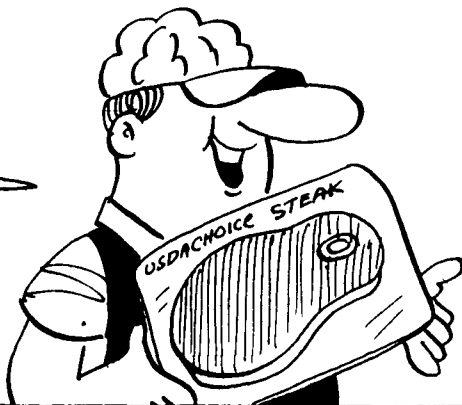
The new minor in wildlife science provides nonmajors with an introduction to the principles and practices of wildlife research and management, he said, offering an introduction to wildlife conservation, mammalogy and ornithology, as well as wildlife ecology and management.

The new minor in poultry technology and management enables students to focus their studies in the poultry field while at the same time pursuing a major such as animal bioscience, agricultural business management or agricultural education, Dr. Richardson said.

He added that no new courses are required for either of the new minors, both of which are in the College of Agriculture.

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# Thank You!



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