

NOW IS THE TIME

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To Be Aware of Storm Safety

Spring is a time to savor—and also a time to beware when nature casts aside a gentle way and unleashes deadly forces. Though lightning, wind and floods frequently destroy life and property, you can do much to avoid being a victim of weather's fury.

When a thunderstorm approaches, avoid lone trees, small metal buildings, fences and high ground. Get out of the water if swimming or boating. Find refuge in a substantial building, motor vehicle or tractor cab. Don't ignore forecasts of severe weather because they are correct a majority of the time. It's also a good idea to safeguard your house and buildings with a properly installed, approved lightning protection system and inspect it annually.

Don't take chances, take safety.

To Prepare Grain Bins

We are approaching barley harvest season with wheat not too far behind, so I would like to remind our grain producers that now is a good time to clean up your grain bins in preparation for harvest. First, clean out all the old grain. Sweep down all the

sidewalks and floor, making sure to remove old grain lodged in the cracks.

Next spray the floor and walls with a residual insecticide. Malathion and methoxychlor are still very effective — follow the label for directions. Finally, prevent birds and rodents from entering the bin. Repair holes with metal or other rat proofing material. Clean up all spilled grain around the bin to discourage the various pests from the area.

To Remove Broken Limbs in Pasture

The high winds that accompany summer storms can create problems in pasture fields. Broken lambs lying around may be hazardous to your livestock. If you have any wild cherry or choke cherry branches lying in your pasture fields, be sure to remove them before allowing any livestock in the fields.

When leaves are damaged by broken limbs, they wilt down and a poisonous substance is formed within the leaves. Just a handful of these wilted leaves can kill a cow of several sheep if they are eaten. Death occurs very quickly because the poison interferes with the oxygen carrying ability of the

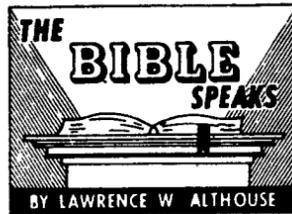
blood. Treatment is possible, but the animals are usually found dead in the field.

The only way to eliminate the danger of wild cherry poisoning is to eliminate the trees. Fields with wild cherry should be checked for fallen limbs after a storm; it's a simple precaution and could save a cow or a whole herd.

To Use Respirators

A great many different types of chemicals and pesticides are used on farms today. This includes mixing, handling and applying the various materials. We urge farmers to invest in respirators to meet safety measures under today's farming procedures. These are needed for handling and applying various spray materials, and when using solvents that give off toxic fumes.

In addition, farmers working in dusty places, in manure storage tanks, and in silos should wear one of the protective devices. Dusts, molds and fumes are hard on lungs and require protection to reduce injury. The canister type respirators are suggested because they cover the entire face. Don't expose yourself to permanent lung injury when protection is available.



JUSTICE VS. RITUAL
June 9, 1985

Background Scripture:
Amos 1:1 through 2:8.
Devotional Reading:
Amos 2:9-16.

The prophecies of Amos may seem dry as dust—unless you change a few names and words here and there. Then, Amos will no longer be dry; in fact, he may become downright disturbing—just as he was to the people of Israel.

Let me illustrate. In Amos 1:3, for example, let's make one substitution so that it reads: "For three transgressions of Libya, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment." If we go on to 1:4, we can substitute the name of "Khadaffy" for Hazael. Now, that makes Amos timely instead of "dry," doesn't it?

In 1:6 we can substitute "Iran" instead of Gaza, in 1:9 "Cuba" for Tyre, in 1:11 "USSR" for Edom, in 1:13 "Nicaragua" for the Ammonites, and in 2:1 "Vietnam" for Moab. Like the Israelites in Amos' own day, we would probably receive those prophecies with both understanding and relish!

CLOSER TO HOME

But, of course, there was more. In 2:4 we could substitute for Judah the name of "Canada." For, although Israel and Judah frequently had disputes, still there was a blood relationship between

them. Thus, when Amos prophesied the sending of fire upon their cousins to the north, the people of Israel must have had some mixed emotions.

Yet, there is one more prophecy that Amos delivers from God. And here, if we are to appreciate how that prophecy sounded to the people of Israel, we need to substitute for Israel the name: "United States of America." (Note: I'm not saying that God is making such prophecies about us, but only that this substitution helps us to appreciate what the Israelites felt about Amos.)

So long as Amos was pronouncing doom upon the enemies of Israel, the people heard him gladly. But when his prophecies began to hit home, people no longer regarded him as a prophet, but as a subversive meddler. So we can appreciate, can't we, why Amos was invited to get out of town? Isn't that how we would likely react if he were to say to us what he said to Israel? As the old saying goes, "It depends upon whose ox is being gored."

JUST AS CORRUPT

Note that each of Israel's enemies was condemned because they oppressed their neighbors with violence and treachery. Judah, on the other hand, is condemned because, instead of oppression, she was found to be ignoring the laws and statutes of God. And when Amos turns to Israel, it is not aggression that is condemned, but moral corruption: "...because they sell the righteous for silver and the needy for a pair of shoes."

Israel may have been blameless as far as its foreign relations were concerned, but it was that which was within this nation that brought God's judgement upon them.

And us? How might our ox fare under the prophecies of Amos?

Jersey Cattle Club, Host Inn, Lancaster.

Tuesday, June 18
Penn State Crops Day at Landisville, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
39th Annual Meeting, FFA at Penn State.
Indiana County dairy princess pageant.

Wednesday, June 19
Lycoming County Dairy Week at Lycoming Mall, June 19 to 22.

Thursday, June 20
Summer meeting, Pa. aggregates and concrete association, Seven Spring Resort, Champion.
Regional Beekeepers Workshop, 9 a.m., Penn State Fruit Research Lab, Biglerville.

Friday, June 21
Bedford County dairy princess

pageant, Northern Bedford County High School, Loysburg.
Butler County dairy princess pageant, Butler County community college, Butler.
4-H Leadership Council, Penn State; continues through June 27.

Saturday, June 22
National Holstein Centennial Sale-Syracuse.
Beaver/Lawrence County dairy princess contest; Bigland Grange, Rochester.
Crawford County dairy princess pageant, George and Doris Brown Farm, Cambridge Springs.
Susquehanna County dairy princess pageant, Montrose Fire Hall, Montrose.
Warren County dairy princess pageant, Warren County 4-H Center, Pittsfield.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, June 8
Cumberland County Farm Tour, Ashcombe's Dairy Farm and Strockland Farm, Mechanicsburg, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Armstrong County dairy princess pageant, Lenape Vo-Tech School, Ford City.

Sunday, June 9
Deer Creek Fiddler's Convention, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Carroll County Farm Museum, Westminster, Md.

Monday, June 10
28th Mushroom Industry Short Course, Penn State University; continues tomorrow.
Venango County Wool Pool, Wesley.
Soil Survey Workshop, Shikellamy High School, Sunbury, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 11
Pa. Agriculture promotion, Keister's Middleburg Auction. Summer tour in North Virginia; State Horticultural Association of America.

Wednesday, June 12
East Berlin Sr. Citizen's Quilt

Show, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., East Berlin Elementary School.

Wednesday, June 13
Annual Meeting of the American Guernsey Cattle Club, Denver, Colo.
Mercer County dairy princess pageant, Mercer County Extension office, Mercer.

Friday, June 14
Penn State Rabbit Conference; continues through June 15.
Cumberland County dairy princess pageant, Embers, Carlisle.
Perry County dairy princess pageant, Newport Fairgrounds, Newport.

Saturday, June 15
York County Farmers Association free farm tour, Hellam area, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Junior Livestock Day, Ag Arena, Penn State University.
Adams County dairy princess pageant, Biglerville High School.
Franklin County dairy princess pageant, Kauffman Community Center, Chambersburg.
Huntingdon County dairy princess

pageant, Shaver's Creek Community Building, Petersburg.
Lancaster County dairy princess pageant, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster.
Sullivan County dairy princess pageant; Main Street, Dushore.
Sun Area dairy princess pageant, Boscoe's Susquehanna Valley Mall; Selinsgrove.
Washington/Greene County dairy princess pageant, Washington County Fairgrounds, Washington.
Lebanon County dairy princess pageant, Annville Elementary School.

Sunday, June 16
33rd Annual Convention, Pa. Food Merchant's Association, Bally's Park Place, Atlantic City; continues to June 18.
Annual Big Weekend Show, Pa. Dairy Goat Association, Huntingdon. Contact Jane Smeltzer, 814-359-2073.
Annual Meeting, Pa. Landrace Swine Breeders Association, Leon Arnold Farm.
National Meeting, American

OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

Land-tithing

Modern American agriculture is characterized in exploitation for immediate gain and in short-sightedness to long-term consequences. It is a fact that no one knows the extent of damage to the

bio-system (soil, water, micro-organisms) from use of hard chemicals.

Cultivation practices have effectively eliminated habitats for countless species of plants, birds, insects, organisms, etc. Human insensitivity to life is putting all life on earth at risk, including human.

The time is long overdue for action to correct the situation. A beginning and important step in the right direction could be legislative enactments which have immediate and long-term benefits for farmers and for the entire public.

An example of such enactment would be one securing the biological base of interdependent biosystems wherein certain constraints are put on agricultural practices. These constraints

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