

NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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To Graze Sudan And Sorghum Grasses Carefully
Some livestock producers plant sudan grass or one of the hybrid sorghums for extra summer pasture. These grasses have the ability to grow well during the heat of the summer. However, they should be managed carefully in order to prevent livestock poisoning.

When sudan is grazed or green-chopped before it is 18 inches high, and if the sorghum hybrids are used before they are 24 to 30 inches high, there is danger of prussic acid poisoning. There is greater danger with the sorghum hybrids.

After the herd or flock has grazed the area, it should be clipped high, and then the regrowth allowed to reach the same length before using as fresh feed. Horses should not be allowed to graze or eat either of these two forage crops; it has been blamed for causing urinary bladder infections in equines.

Manage sudan grass and sorghums carefully for best results.

To Be Aware Of Accidental Spills And Contamination

The recent accidental industrial chemical spills make us aware of the value of clean water for our livestock. Yes, accidents do happen, and occasionally, these accidents may spill chemical and industrial waste into streams. In addition to causing fish kills, such spills may also pose a threat to the

health of any animal that consumes this polluted water.

If you notice fish kills, try to find out the cause. If it is due to a shortage of oxygen, perhaps as a result of hot weather and a very rapid decomposition of organic matter present in the water, the water may still be safe for animal consumption. However, be cautious of stagnant waters that support a lot of algae growth or of waters that may be laden with coliform-carrying waste products. Excessive levels of coliform bacteria and certain algae can be very toxic to animals.

If you suspect fish kills are related to a chemical or industrial pollutant, protect animals and people from polluted water. Offer animals other sources of drinking water, even if it temporarily requires hauling water from other sources. If necessary, keep animals stabled or confine them to other pastures and lots until the danger passes. Have the water tested if you are not sure, don't risk the lives of valuable livestock.

To Be Careful With Sprayers

Chemical weed killers are used quite frequently these days for controlling weeds. Many of these sprayers are used for other purposes. We have seen several cases of herbicide damage on tobacco and other crops. Most were due to improper sprayer cleaning before spraying the tobacco field. Chemical weed killers such as 2,4-D will stick to the sprayer

equipment for years, unless soaked and washed with ammonia water and other strong detergent.

It is best to flush the sprayer and hoses with clean water first and finish with the ammonia solution. Use 1 pint of ammonia for every 25 gallons of water. Choose your cleaning area with great care. It is important to discharge the cleaning water where it will not contaminate water supplies, streams, crops or injure other plants.

To Keep Dogs Under Control

The summer months increase outdoor activity with your dog. Keep in mind that a dog owner's responsibility is to keep their pet under control at all times. Free roaming dogs cause accidents, bite, damage property and can be a general nuisance. They also carry disease from farm to farm. Dogs are personal property and the owners are responsible for any damage caused by their pets.

Many dog related problems would be alleviated if owners were more aware of their responsibilities. All pet owners really need to do is to have their dogs licensed and keep them under control. Remember, all dogs six months of age or older must be licensed. A license is an inexpensive means to identify your dog if it should stray. It also shows you care for your pet.

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THE BIBLE SPEAKS
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

THE DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN
July 14, 1985

Background Scripture:

Hosea 4 through 6.

Devotional Reading:

Hosea 7:1-7.

We've seen it in a hundred or more TV, motion picture, or theatre plots: a husband comes home from a business trip bringing his wife an extravagantly expensive gift. Immediately, the wife begins to wonder what he's done that he feels a need to save his conscience. Nothing is more transparent than a guilty feeling.

Still, we live in a day and age when the Christian concept of sin, repentance and redemption seems so out of favor with the popular mood. More than a few people have told that they have become largely post-Christian because they were sick and tired of the church and its preachers loading them up with such a burden of guilt. So, many harmful acts today are regarded, not so much as sin, as simply the result of ignorance, a failure to achieve our innate goodness.

THE LAND MOURNS

Some years ago, the distinguished therapist, Dr. Karl Menninger of the Menninger Clinic of Topeka, Kansas, wrote a book entitled, *Whatever Became of Sin?* Dr. Menninger found that the loss of the concept of sin in our society has seriously injured not only our religious outlook, but the society in

which we live as well. When people lose their sense of sin, says Menninger, society begins to decay.

It is this decay and its consequences that probably first awakens us to the fact that something is wrong in our lives and in the world. Often, what brings this consciousness of sin, is not so much a moral sensitivity to what we have done, but having to deal with the consequences of our actions. We don't like paying the consequences and we react by regretting what set them in motion. We are sorry, not so much for our sin, as we are for not having been able to get by without suffering anything for it. This is the way it was for the people of Israel: "Therefore the land mourns and all who dwell in it languish" (4:3).

NO SIN, NO SALVATION

The concept of sin is important, because, without it, there can be no repentance, no redemption. And the purpose of teaching people about sin is not to hit them over their heads with condemnation, but to lead them to move on beyond their sins to the newness of life which can only really come to them when they have experienced a sense of sin, of breaking the covenant relationship.

And what is required then is not simply for us to say or think, "I'm sorry." What is required is nothing less than repentance, a desire, as a conviction that calls us to say, "Come let us return to the Lord" (6:1). That "returning" means true repentance, not just a regret at getting caught or a "peace offering." "For I desire steadfast love," says the Lord, "and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God, rather than burnt offerings" (6:6).

To that kind of return, we know that the door is always open.

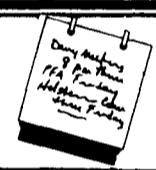
(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Released by Community Press Service.)

Ice Cream Day is July 14



Lancaster County Commissioner James Huber enjoys an ice cream sundae with Lancaster dairy royalty at Kreider Dairy Farms Family Restaurant in Manheim Thursday. Huber read a proclamation designating July 14 Ice Cream Day and the week of July 14 to 20 Ice Cream Week in Lancaster County. From left are second alternate dairy princess Delinda Tindall, dairy princess Janae Martin, County Commissioner James Huber and first alternate Julie Long.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, July 13

Pa. Polled Hereford Association Field Day, Falkland Farm, Schellsburg. Phone: 814-733-2818.

Pa. Angus Breeders Show, Centre Hall.

Sunday, July 14

International Flying Farmers Annual Convention, Host Inn, Rt. 30 East, Lancaster; continues through July 19.

Jefferson County Town and Country Fair, Sykesville; continues through July 20.

Monday, July 15

Summer Field Tour of Westmoreland and Allegheny County Vegetable Operations, Pa. Vegetable Growers Association; continues tomorrow.

Annual Meeting, Pa. Vo-Ag Teachers Association, Penn State University; continues through July 17.

Wednesday, July 17

Western Pa. Tillage Field Day, Richard Kind Farm, Slippery Rock.

Co-op Couples Conference, Pa. Association of Farmer Co-ops; continues to July 19.

Jefferson County Holstein Show, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.

Thursday, July 18

American Simmental Association Annual Summer Conference, Americana Host Inn, Lancaster; continues through July 20.

The Great Pennsylvania Ice Cream Dream, Harrisburg, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m..

Saturday, July 20

Bradford Co. Jersey Picnic, Brian Harris Farm. Shippensburg Fair, Shippensburg; continues through July 27.

Sunday, July 21

Clarion County Fair, New Bethlehem; continues through July 27

Monday, July 22

Troy Fair, Troy; continues through July 27. Big Butler Fair, Butler; continues through July 27. Kimberton Community Fair, Kimberton; continues through July 27.

Tuesday, July 23

Pa. Allied Nursery Trade Show, Pa. Nurserymen's Association, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center; continues through July 25. Jefferson Township Fair, Mercer; continues through July 27.

Wednesday, July 24

Weed tour, Penn State University. York County 4-H dairy roundup, York Fairgrounds. Somerset County Holstein Show, 9

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