

NOW IS THE TIME

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To Apply Lime When Seeding Small Grain

Preparation is being made for fall wheat and barley seeding. This is an excellent time to apply lime. A soil test will indicate how much per acre, if needed. This is doubly important if you plan to seed down a grass-legume mixture next spring.

Many times a clover or alfalfa producer will wait until spring to have lime applied to his field. This is not the best way to obtain a good stand. Lime needs up to six months to react in the soil and correct the acidity.

If soil needs lime, it should be worked into the topsoil when the small grain seedbed is being prepared. Legume seedings are costly; be sure the soil is between 6.8 to 7.0 pH so they have a good chance to survive.

To Ensilage Corn At The Proper Time

Most of our corn crop looks good this year and corn silage is an important part of the feeding program in dairy and feeder cattle. Harvesting corn silage at the right time is very important. I'd like to point out that more feed nutrients will be harvested if the

ear can be allowed to mature into the early dent stage. Silage research reveals that corn made into silage in the silk stage will yield only 63 percent feed nutrients, while corn in the dent stage should give silage with 69 percent feed nutrients.

The important thing is to allow the ear to develop properly before ensiling, if at all possible. Corn silage is a valuable crop; let's make every effort to harvest the maximum feed nutrients.

To Apply For Gasoline Tax Refund

I would like to remind our farmers that applications for the Pennsylvania Liquid Fuel Tax Refund should be filled before Sept. 30.

Farmers may apply for an 11-cent per gallon refund on all liquid fuels used in non-licensed tractors when used off the highway for agricultural purposes, or non-licensed power farm machinery used for actual farm work. This includes fuel used in all auxiliary engines on balers, elevators and other stationary equipment.

The liquid fuel tax is for all farm production used between July 1, 1984 and June 30, 1985.

The people who have not already

received applications should apply by writing: Board of Finance and Revenue, Room 409 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120 or by calling 717-787-3365.

Remember, applications received after Sept. 30 will not be honored; they must be filed on time. The time to do it is now.

Keep in mind - this is not money the State is giving you - it is money you already paid; you are just applying to get it back. It may not seem like much but 11 cents per gallon on 5,000 gallons is \$550.

To Fertilize Strawberries

The new strawberry patch that you planted this spring should be pushing runners by this time of year. It's a good idea to fertilize these new plantings during August. A fertilizer high in nitrogen or nitrogen only would be best.

The objective is to encourage more runners and develop a stronger plant. It will also increase yields for next summer. Another thing, weeds must be controlled at all times to have a healthy strawberry patch. The earlier in the summer we can get the runner plants to take root, the better they will be established for next year.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE
GOD CAN'T LOSE
August 18, 1985

Background Scripture:

Joel

Devotional Reading:
Joel 2:14-17; 3:14-16.

The title I selected above jars me a bit. I find myself questioning the theology of it. But the more I wrestle with it, the more I am convinced that, taking the long, long point of view, it is quite true: God cannot lose, although human beings may certainly delay God's plan by failing to live by his will and heed his warnings.

That, of course, is why so often he has sent messages like the words of Joel: "Turn to me now, while there is time...Come with fasting, weeping, mourning. Let your remorse tear at your hearts and not your garments" (2:12). Because he is not anxious to punish us, "Perhaps even yet he will decide to...give you a blessing instead of his terrible curse" (2:14).

There, then, is one facet of our Christian hope: if we return to him, we can escape the doom of the prophecies.

GREEN AGAIN

But there is another aspect of our hope, too. Even if we do not turn in time to avert the consequences of our sins, God will eventually turn our mourning into joy. Unfortunately, there are times when we learn the lesson only *after* we have paid the terrible price. Although the cost of our learning is great, it is better to pay that price than to learn at all.

As we have learned that lesson or lessons, in God's time he will fashion something even better out of the ashes of our defeat. As Joel put it to the people of Israel, "Then the Lord will pity his people and be indignant for the honor of his land" (2:18). Thus, even in the midst of the suffering we bring upon ourselves, we can take hope in the future because we know that it is in God's hands alone. So, no matter how terrible things are now, "Let the flocks and the herds forget their hunger; the pastures will turn green again" (2:22).

A NEW DAY!

On the ruins of our failures, God builds a new day and a new world, not just the restoration of the old. Often, when we have built poorly (sinfully), there must be some tearing down before God can do his own building-up. "After I have poured out my rains again, I will pour out my Spirit upon all of you!" says Joel, "And I will pour out my Spirit even on your slaves, men and women alike" (2:29). The new order will be a more inclusive human community.

God's will, not human sins, rule the universe—and that is why God can't lose.

Rains improve crop outlook

PARK RIDGE, IL — The American Farm Bureau Federation has projected this year's corn crop at nearly 8 billion bushels and a soybean crop in excess of 1.8 billion bushels. The farm organization attributes the improved crop outlook to recent widespread rains. The Farm Bureau report is based on field surveys conducted last week in major corn and soybean producing states.

"Timely rains through most of the corn belt and east-southeast portions of the country will save

virtually all of the crop from further deterioration and ultimately, could improve yields on those fields where the corn has not fully filled," said Dean Brown, commodity specialist for the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Survey results showed a projected average yield of 107 bushels of corn per acre from 74.75 million acres resulting in an estimated 7.99 billion bushels. This compares with 7.656 billion bushels in 1984 from nearly 3 million fewer acres.

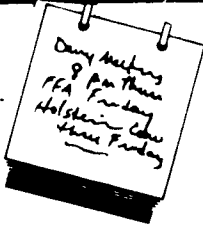
"The corn estimate can be considered as fairly neutral news, not large enough to depress market prices, but too large to provide any strength to an already weak market," said Brown in assessing the market outlook.

"We expect soybean production to exceed 1.8 billion bushels, averaging about 29.2 bushels per acre, from an estimated 62.4 million harvested acres. Ideal weather conditions for the next 4-6 weeks could push the production even higher, perhaps equalling the 1984 crop of 1.86 billion bushels," Brown said.

"Soybeans have benefitted more than corn from the recent rains. The bean crop has avoided most of the stress and damage caused by the dry weather in North Central Iowa and Southeastern Minnesota. Whereas, relief has come too late for much of the corn to recover in these areas, beans are developing additional pods and filling satisfactorily," Brown added.

According to Brown, the projected soybean crop should have a neutral impact on the market, but he cautioned any improvement in the crop could produce additional weakness in the market.

Farm Calendar



- Saturday, August 17**
Central Pennsylvania Holstein Championship Show, Huntingdon Fairgrounds, 6 p.m.
Westmoreland County Fair, Greensburg; continues through Aug. 24.
- Sunday, August 18**
Cameron County Fair, Emporium; continues through Aug. 24.
Carbon County Fair, Lehighton; continues through Aug. 24.
Franklin County Fair, Chambersburg; continues through Aug. 24.
Fulton County Fair, McConnellsburg; continues through Aug. 24.
Somerset County Fair, Meyersdale; continues through Aug. 24.
- Monday, August 19**
Crawford County Fair, Meadville; continues through Aug. 24.
- Tuesday, August 20**
Ag Progress Days, Rock Springs, Penn State University; continues through Aug. 22.
Ag Progress Holstein Sale, 7:30 p.m., Grange Fairgrounds, Centre Hall.
Northeast Pennsylvania Holstein

- Championship Show, Whitneyville Fairgrounds.
Blue Valley Farm Show, Bangor; continues through Aug. 24.
Harford Fair, Harford; continues through Aug. 24.
Hookstown Grange Fair, Hookstown; continues through Aug. 24.
Perry County Fair, Newport; continues through Aug. 24.
- Wednesday, August 21**
Dawson Grange Fair, Dawson; continues through Aug. 24.
Lancaster County 4-H Pig Roundup, Lancaster Stockyards. Show at 8 a.m., sale 1:30 p.m.
Performance Tested Boar Sale, 6 p.m., Meat Animal Evaluation Center, State College.
- Thursday, August 22**
Mount Nebo Grange Fair, Ohio Township; continues through Aug. 24.
Wye Field Day, Wye Research and Education Center, Queenstown, Md.
- Friday, August 23**
Centre County Grange Fair, Centre Hall; continues through Aug. 29.

- First Annual Lebanon Bologna Fest, Lebanon Fairgrounds.
- Saturday, August 24**
Summer Picnic, Pa. Nut Growers Association, Nature Glen Farm, Mount Joy, 10 a.m. Bring one dish.
Maryland State Fair opens, Timonium..
- Monday, August 26**
Indiana County Fair, Indiana; continues through Aug. 31.
Sullivan County Fair, Forksville; continues through Aug. 31.
Transfer Harvest Fair, Greenville; continues through Aug. 31.
West End Fair, Gilbert; continues through Aug. 31.
- Tuesday, August 27**
Elizabethtown Community Fair, Elizabethtown; continues through Aug. 31.
Jamestown Fair, Jamestown; continues through Aug. 31.
Wattsburg Fair, Wattsburg; continues through Aug. 31.
Allentown Fair, Allentown; continues through Sept. 2.

- Wednesday, August 28**
Big Knob Grange Fair, Rochester; continues through Aug. 31.
Great Stoneboro Fair, Stoneboro; continues through Sept. 2.
Somerset Fall Classic Sale, 7:30 p.m., Meyersdale.
- Thursday, August 29**
South Mountain Fair, Arendtsville; continues through Sept. 2.
New Jersey dairy princess contest, Flemington Fairgrounds
- Friday, August 30**
Pa. Quarter Horse Association Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.
Bradford County Dairy Day, 4-H Building, Troy Fairgrounds, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Saturday, August 31**
Juniata County Fair, Port Royal; continues through Sept. 7

