

NOW IS THE TIME

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To Prepare For Local Fairs

We are rapidly approaching the time for local fairs. These times should be happy events—but once in a while they are not because planning was not done ahead of time. This is the time to take necessary precautions to help prevent the possibility of your taking disease to the fair with your animals or poultry or bringing infection home to your farm.

Many fairs require health charts and specific tests or vaccinations for animals and poultry. Be sure to read the health regulations carefully. And, it doesn't hurt to be more strict than what the regulations may require.

Animals or poultry with any form of communicable ailment should be left at home.

When animals or poultry leave the fair and go home, it's important to have a place where you can isolate them and observe them closely for a period of time before returning them to their herd mates. If in doubt, consult your veterinarian for advice.

To Be Alert For Silo Gas

We are fast approaching silo filling time; in fact many farmers are servicing their equipment now. This is one of the best methods of

harvesting the corn crop to obtain maximum feed nutrients. With our large tower silos, the danger of poisonous gases becomes more important.

We urge our farmers to discuss this hazard with their employees and all family members. These gases can develop from one day to 14 days after the silo is filled. Most of these gases have a chlorine or laundry bleach odor and irritate the eyes and respiratory system. Some are yellow and some are colorless. Don't take any chances—warn all your people of this danger.

Never enter a partly filled silo without running the blower for at least 15 minutes. These gases are heavier than air and will come down the chute and into the barn. Be careful around recently filled silos.

To Determine Fertilizer Needs

The early fall months are good times to do soil testing and learn what plant nutrients will be needed for the 1986 cropping season. When the plant nutrient needs are known this fall, some of them can be applied to the soil, and others can be ordered. Be sure to include the nutrient value of manure when planning your fertilizer needs. The approximate nutritive values of

the different manures are listed on page 15 of the 1985-86 Agronomy Guide.

With fall application, the plants will have time to absorb some of the plant nutrients and strengthen it for the winter. This is especially true with alfalfa and some of the perennial grass crops. When soil tests are made in the fall, the land owner has more time to locate and deal for his lime and fertilizer needs.

To Keep Stand-By Generators In Order

The value of stand-by generators is evident when power failures occur from lightning or flooding conditions. The important thing is to have a generator that is in good working condition. We never know when we will have additional storms (rain, snow or ice) that will take away our regular power source.

Highly mechanized farmers are urged to test their generators and be sure they are in top condition. If the generator is old, or not in good condition, it might be wise to invest in another one. Some losses have been very high due to the lack of electricity for a short period of time. Planning for emergency action when electric power is off is very good management.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE
LIFT YOUR EYES ...AND SEE!
August 25, 1985

Background Scripture:

Malachi

Devotional Reading:

Malachi 1:6-14.

One of the biggest problems with human nature is that we see things differently than God does. And sometimes those differences can be vitally important.

This is particularly apparent in the Book of Malachi. For example, Malachi begins his book with one of these important differences: "I have loved you very deeply," says the Lord. And the people reply, "Really? When was this?" (1:1). God and his people looked at the same data, but each saw it differently. To God, his acts were the proof of his love. But obviously, the people saw these same acts differently. So, Malachi proclaims, "O, Israel, lift your eyes to see what God is doing all around the world; then you will say, 'Truly, the Lord's great power goes far beyond our borders!'" (1:4).

WHO? US?

Malachi passes on quickly to another area of misunderstanding: what constitutes sin? God says, "I am your Father and Master, yet you don't honor me, O priests, but

you despise my name" (1:6). And the priests reply incredulously, "Who? Us?...When did we despise your name?"

Through Malachi, God says that when they made offerings of lame animals (thinking God didn't really mind if they gave him less than their best), they were, in effect, making polluted sacrifices. Once again they saw it one way and God saw it another. So they need to "lift" their eyes and "see" as God does.

Another area: in Malachi 3 the prophet foresees the coming of God's Messenger. "But who can live when he appears?" asks the prophet, "Who can endure his coming?" To God's children, the coming of his Messenger seems to be an ominous event. It is seen as a time of punishment and retribution.

A REFINER'S FIRE

But even this God sees differently. The purpose of his coming will be salvation, renewal, not punishment and condemnation. Yes, the Messenger will come like a fire, but it will be as a refiner's fire—a fire to burn away the sin and the dross. As in refining silver, the finished product is not something broken, but purified.

Things haven't really changed all that much since Malachi, have they? Like the people then, we look at our lives and say, "What has God done for me lately?" We wonder how it could be that he is dissatisfied with us. And when we are called to face tribulation, we complain bitterly, even though it is a refiner's fire.

So, also to us: "Lift your eyes...and see!"

Pa. peach crop

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swelling buds, Yager noted. In December and early January, "the buds had actually started to soften," he said. "They didn't have their normal winter hardness."

So when January brought temperatures in the single digits and wind chill factors well below zero, the peach trees were especially susceptible.

The cold was so widespread that peach producers were unable to use the smudge pots that sometimes save them from pockets of frost, Yager said. "At those extremes, there was probably nothing they could do," he added.

For consumers, the poor crop means higher prices at the fruit market. A half bushel of plump, juicy peaches that usually sells for \$6.50 to \$7, is bringing about \$9 or \$10 this year. Some peaches from New Jersey are filtering into the state to meet the demand, Yager said.

For some peach producers, the

Pennsylvania Holstein State Championship Show, Crawford County Fairgrounds, Meadville.

Saturday, September 7
District Junior Dairy Show, Meadville.

Pa. Dairy Goat Association, 1985 Keystone Conference and Sale, Sheraton Inn, Milesburg.

crop loss will mean belt tightening in the months to come, Yager said. But, he added, "Most of them are diversified enough that they will pick up income from other fruits."

Bill Peters, general manager of Mountain Orchard Cooperative in Adams County, said they lost about 95 percent of their crop to the January freeze.

"It's the first time it's been this severe in about 40 years," he said. The temperatures also had some effect on cherries, plums, and nectarines, "but the biggest effect was on peaches," he continued.

For most of the co-op's 30 producer-members, the full force of the damage won't be felt until later, Peters said. "The true effect won't be felt until the apple season when we see if they have a cushioning effect," he explained.

Nonetheless, many have been tightening belts since the freeze in January. "We don't spend as much because we don't have it," Peters said.

For many Lancaster County producers the picture isn't quite so grim. Dick Haas of Cherry Hill Orchards in Lancaster said that while they have less than a full crop, they do have an average of two thirds to three quarters normal production. And the peaches they do have are good quality, he continued.

However, other Lancaster County producers, especially those in higher elevations, suffered more damage, he said.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, August 24
Summer Picnic, Pa. Nut Growers Association, Nature Glen Farm, Mount Joy, 10 a.m. Bring one dish.
Maryland State Fair, 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.
Elizabethtown Community Fair, Elizabethtown; continues through Aug. 31.

Tuesday, August 27
Jamestown Fair, Jamestown; continues through Aug. 31.
Wattsburg Fair, Wattsburg; continues through Sept. 1.
Allentown Fair, Allentown; continues through Sept. 2.
Greene-Dreher-Sterling Fair, Newfoundland; continues through Sept. 2.

Wednesday, August 28
Big Knob Grange Fair, Rochester; continues through Sept. 2.
Great Stoneboro Fair, Stoneboro; continues through Aug. 31.
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. Quarterhorse 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.

Sunday, September 1
Spartansburg Community Fair,

Spartansburg; continues through Sept. 7.

Monday, September 2
Cambria County Fair, Ebensburg; continues through Sept. 7.
Ox Hill Fair, Home; continues through Sept. 7.

Waterford Community Fair, Waterford; continues through Sept. 7.
West Alexander Fair, West Alexander; continues through Sept. 7.

Wednesday, September 4
Lancaster Conservation District monthly board meeting, 7:30 p.m., Farm and Home Center.
Grain Marketing Meeting, York County 4-H Center, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 5
Grain Marketing Meeting, Shippenburg Valley Bank, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For information call Adams County Extension, 334-6271.

