

NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent
Phone 717-394-6851



To Be Aware of Farm Safety Month

The month of September is designated as National Farm Safety Month. It's a time set aside to remind ourselves of the importance of safety. In a report just published by Dr. Dennis Murphy, Extension safety specialist at Penn State, for the period of 1980 through 1984, it shows that 236 people were killed in farm accidents in Pennsylvania during that period of time.

Some very interesting information is revealed in that report. The most hazardous month was July with 37 fatalities...I was surprised because I thought it would have been September or October, which had 27 in each month. The report also shows that Thursdays were the worst day of the week...and that's understandable, because if we're real busy on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, by Thursday our reflexes are a little slower and we are a little more careless.

An unfortunate part of the report shows that 24 children under 4 years of age were killed in farm accidents. This means that we, as parents, must be very strict in allowing these very young children around equipment.

The report also indicated that Lancaster County led the state in the number of fatalities from 1980

to 1984 with 18; York County was second with 10.

What this all means is that we must be "Safety Alert" at all times.

To Protect Show Animals

September, in Lancaster County, is Fair time. It is also a time to be concerned about the health of show animals. Fairs should be a place where we can exhibit our animals; they should not be a place for spreading diseases and other ailments. Be considerate of other exhibitors and of other show animals.

If your animals have any infectious or contagious problems, leave them at home; it's like keeping a sick child out of school to protect those who are healthy. If you do show, consult your veterinarian about necessary tests and protective vaccines.

When you return your livestock to the farm after the show, isolate them from other animals on the farm before introducing them to their herd mates.

To Check Feed Bins

We are coming into the fall season when we see considerable temperature change from day to night. This causes a lot of condensation and we see it on car windows in the morning. This same type of condensation takes place in the bulk feed bins on our farms. It causes the buildup of

molds on the bins and in the feed.

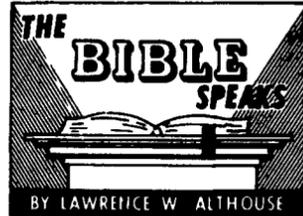
When feed bins are cleaned out, they should be inspected thoroughly, right down to the boot. Also, when you are taking feed out of the bin, keep a close watch for chunks of feed; they will tell you if a problem is developing.

After cleaning out the bin, it should be sprayed with a mold inhibitor and allowed to dry. You can use calcium propionate solution as the inhibitor, at the rate of two ounces per gallon of water for the spray. One of the best ways to prevent this condensation problem is to insulate the bin. The insulation will slow down the temperature fluctuation.

To Stop Fertilizing Trees and Shrubs

The time is here when we should not be applying any fertilizer to rose bushes, trees and shrubs. The season's growing period is about over and new growth should have a chance to harden before cold weather arrives. When we fertilize during the fall we encourage new growth, which will be tender, and will winter-kill in zero weather.

It is best to wait until early spring to apply any plant food to these types of plants. Mulching is a good practice to help conserve moisture and control weeds, but keep the fertilizer in the bag until the 1986 season.



THE MODEL
September 8, 1985

Background Scripture:
Philippians 3 through 4.
Devotional Reading:
Philippians 4:10-13.

When I was a boy and later a youth, John Wayne was just about everyone's role model. He portrayed a style of manhood that all of us admired and many of us tried to emulate. He was the ideal man, we thought.

It's no wonder that Jesus Christ didn't really appeal to us all that much. And, although it is true that some of that lack of appeal lay in the presumably unmasculine artistic portraits of him, it was more what he said and was, that seemed to lie at the heart of it. Unlike John Wayne, Jesus never prevailed over the "bad guys" with his fists or guns. In fact, he didn't even seem to prevail over the "bad guys." It was they who prevailed over him. Nor did the cavalry arrive in the nick of time to save him from Calvary (pun intended).

HAVE THIS MIND

On Sundays, of course, we gave lip-service to Christ, calling him Lord, Master, Saviour and a host of other names. But, when it came to solving problems and living with conflict, both personal and social, it was John Wayne to whom we

looked for the way in which we ought to behave. He was our model, not Christ.

Actually, I still have some trouble today in looking to Jesus instead of John Wayne. Of course, as a clergyman, I preach Christian love, extol peace, and exhort others to forgiveness and reconciliation. But last week something happened to reveal to me just what a hold John Wayne still has on me.

It was during the WA hostage crisis in Beirut, Lebanon. At the time, the announcement that the hostages were coming home. One of the TV commentators was asking a leading political figure if he thought the U.S.A. ought now to retaliate to teach the people of Lebanon a lesson. It was at that point that John Wayne took over my emotions and I responded in a manner that would have earned his approval.

But, no sooner had I felt this urge for revenge, than I realized that what I was feeling was a violation of my relationship with Christ. "Have this mind among yourselves which you have in Christ Jesus," counsels Paul. In other words, let your thinking and feeling be guided by what was in his heart and mind. And I realized that vengeance was not "the mind of Christ."

OTHERWISE MINDED

Paul says, "Let those of us who are mature be thus minded: and if in anything you are otherwise minded, God will reveal that also to you" (Phil. 3:15). In that brief moment, God did reveal to me that I was "otherwise minded"—still looking to John Wayne for my answers instead of Jesus.

I still revere John Wayne as an exciting actor and unique personality. But the model the world needs now more than ever is Christ.

ASA proposes \$50-an-acre 'FAIR' plan

ST. LOUIS, MO — U.S. soybean farmers are proposing an innovative and revolutionary new commodity program allowing soybeans to achieve a competitive position in world markets without endangering farmer profitability, according to the vice President of the American Soybean Association (ASA).

"Farmer delegates meeting in San Antonio at ASA's annual meeting believed it was time to make a change in our long-held position on the soybean loan program," said ASA Vice President and Missouri soybean farmer David Haggard. "These delegates approved a resolution directing the ASA Board of Directors to establish a final position on the soybean program in the 1985 farm bill. Priorities were given to an income enhancement program based on, but not limited to, a direct soybean acreage payment or a \$5.02 per bushel 'marketing' loan."

Haggard said the ASA Executive Committee has voted to support a program which, they believe, will achieve the objectives set forth by the delegates. He said the "Farm Acreage Income Restitution" or "FAIR" program, has three components and is quite simple.

"First, ASA calls for a 1986 federal payment of \$50 per acre to

be made to soybean farmers, prior to planting, based on their 1981-1985 average acreage planted to soybeans," Haggard said. "A similar payment would be made in future years regardless of prices and be phased down gradually."

Second, ASA seeks a soybean loan program established annually at a rate equal to 75% of the average price received by farmers for soybeans over the past five marketing years, excluding the high-and low-valued years. Unlike current law, ASA seeks no minimum loan rate. Third, ASA opposes the application of a set-aside or any other acreage control mechanism for soybeans. ASA will not agree to any program containing set-asides, he said.

"We believe this proposed program will do much to restore profitability to soybean farmers," emphasized Haggard. "It will allow soybean and soybean product prices to achieve levels which will expand U.S. exports and bring enormous financial pressure on our foreign competitors."

He admitted the "FAIR" program differs from ASA's past position. However, he noted it is consistent with the new realities facing soybean farmers today such as subsidized foreign competition, anemic foreign demand, and increasingly restricted markets.

"Our 'FAIR' program will ensure farmers an income from growing soybeans every year, while allowing prices to achieve competitive, market-clearing levels," said Haggard. "Unlike target prices and marketing loans, the cost of our program to the federal government will be known upfront since the payment rate and acreage on which payments will be made are fixed."

ASA has advanced for public discussion a \$50 per acre payment program for soybeans, wheat, feed grains, rice, cotton, and sunflowers. Haggard indicated ASA is not officially urging Congress to approve an across-the-board program because of ASA's firm policy of dealing only with soybeans. However, they do believe the "FAIR" concept for those commodities represents good, sound fiscal policy.

Haggard called the \$50 per acre program "innovative" and "revolutionary." "If applied to those commodities, 'FAIR' would be a 'commodity-neutral' program that supports the income of farmers, not the price of commodities," he said.

The program, he explained, would free farmers to put their land to the best use. It would allow farmers to consider the land's productive capability, growing



Farm Calendar

Saturday, September 7
Pa. Dairy Goat Association, 1985 Keystone Conference and Sale, Sheraton Inn, Milesburg.
Northwest District 4-H Dairy Show, 9:30 a.m., Meadville.
Mon Valley District 4-H Dairy Show, 1:00 p.m., Washington.
Open House, Sire Power, Inc., Tunkhannock.
State Egg Recipe Contest, 12 noon, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster.
Conservation Field Day, Charlton's Quarter Horse Farm

and Beatty's Dairy Farm, Asbury, N.J.

Monday, September 9
Bellwood Antis Twp. Fair, Bellwood; continues through Sept. 12.
Claysburg Area Farm Show, Claysburg; continues through Sept. 12.
Green Twp. Fair, Commodore; continues through Sept. 14.

Tuesday, September 10
Hunterdon County Sheep Breeder's Assoc. monthly meeting, 8:00 p.m., Extension Center, Route 31, north of Flemington.

Thursday, September 12
Penn State Crops Day, Rock Springs Agricultural Research Center, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 14
Researcher's Field Day, Rodale Research Center, Kutztown, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Monday, September 16
Pork Producers Educational Meeting, 8:00 p.m., Adams County Extension Office, Gettysburg.

Thursday, September 19
Sulbra Sell-A-Bration Sale, Troy Fairgrounds, Troy.

Friday, September 20
Ninth Annual Disaster Relief Auction, 7:30 p.m., Lebanon Area Fairgrounds.

Saturday, September 21
Ag Awareness Day, Hunterdon County, N.J.. Contact: 201-788-1338.

Indian Summer Festival, Indian Steps Museum, Airville, York County. Contact: 717-755-3777.

