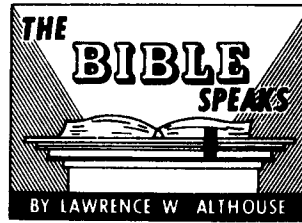


NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent
Phone 717-394-6851



NO LONGER CHILDREN
September 22, 1985

To Be Careful During Silo Filling

Two problems are occurring during this silo filling season as a result of the excellent growing year. One is overloading wagons causing broken spindles, twisted frames and bent axles. Corn silage is heavy this year and overloaded wagons crossing ditches and ruts in fields causes excessive strain on equipment. If your wagon is full when only half way around the field, change wagons; the "down time" making repairs is more costly than the time to change wagons.

The other problem is "silo gas." We are receiving a lot of calls concerning silo gas. These gases can develop from one to 14 days after the silo is filled. Most of these gases have a chlorine-laundry bleach odor. Some are yellow and some are colorless. Don't take any chances—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 into the barn. Be careful around recently filled silos.

To Beware of Frosted Chips

Colder weather means frost. In fact this is good news to many of us who have had enough of hot humid weather this summer. Livestock producers who have fields of

sudan-sorghum hybrids should keep in mind that when frost hits these crops they could be toxic to livestock for seven to 10 days following the freeze. After this period, and the plants are dead, they may be used safely. However, any growth coming from the plant after a killing frost might also be toxic.

Another frost hazard would be to permit livestock to graze alfalfa or clover stands while the frost is still on the plant. This can cause severe bloating. Allow the frost to melt and the plants to dry before grazing. Good management is needed on various forage crops after a killing frost.

To Control Weeds in New Alfalfa

Recent growing conditions have favored the growth of alfalfa and weeds. In many cases the broadleaf weeds will crowd out the small alfalfa plants, if not controlled. Early seedlings of alfalfa without a nurse crop need some weed protection.

One practice suggested in the Agronomy Guide is to spray with 2,4-D B when the weeds are one inch tall. This will knock out the broadleaf weeds without harming the alfalfa plants.

If the weeds are permitted to develop larger, they will be hard to

kill without hurting the alfalfa. Alfalfa seeding is an expensive practice; this investment needs protection by controlling the weeds. Many good stands of alfalfa have been ruined by excessive weed growth.

To Store Pesticides Safely

Most producers are about finished with their spray materials for the year. Many of these can be held over until next year with good results. However, it is always best to purchase only enough for one season at a time.

When storing spray materials, always keep them in their original container and away from children, pets and livestock. It's recommended to have a separate room or building for pesticide storage. Wettable powders are easy to store; however, emulsions and liquids may be harmed by freezing weather.

Producers are urged to follow the label instructions in this respect. It may be necessary to keep some of them in a heated building. Be sure they are not near feed supplies because accidents can happen. Pesticides kept in a room or building under lock is a good way to prevent costly mistakes and tragedies.

Harvesting, fall plowing underway throughout state

HARRISBURG — Harvesting activities for the Pennsylvania apple crop were about at the halfway point during the week ending September 15, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. Meanwhile, harvest of the Commonwealth's pear and grape crop continued on schedule.

According to the Service, five days were rated suitable for fieldwork. Activities for the week included harvesting potatoes, tomatoes, pumpkins, sweet corn, hay, corn silage and tobacco; and some fall plowing.

Topsoil moisture statewide was 41 percent short and 59 percent adequate. Northern region reporters rated soil moisture 30 percent short and 70 percent adequate. Southern reporters rated soil moisture supplies 36 percent short and 64 percent adequate.

Overall Pennsylvania corn crop condition was rated 45 percent excellent, 39 percent good, 13 percent fair and three percent poor. Statewide, four percent of the corn crop was reported in the silk

stage, 28 percent in dough, 58 percent dented and 10 percent mature. Last year at this time, corn was reported as six percent in silk, 44 percent in dough, 45 percent in dent and five percent mature. Northern reporters rated the crop as 50 percent excellent, 27 percent good, 18 percent fair and five percent poor. Central reporters rated corn as 44 percent excellent, 44 percent good, 10 percent fair and two percent poor. Southern reporters rated corn as 44 percent excellent, 40 percent good, 13 percent fair, two percent poor and one percent very poor. The harvest of corn silage was reported to be 18 percent complete statewide.

Statewide, the condition of soybeans was rated 36 percent excellent, 49 percent good, 13 percent fair and two percent poor.

The harvest of potatoes was reported to be 72 percent complete, compared to 52 percent complete last year at this time. Northern, central and southern region reporters indicate harvesting rates of 56, 80 and 77 percent, respec-

tively. Statewide, 86 percent of the tobacco was harvested, compared with 87 percent harvested at this time last year.

Statewide, 78 percent of third cutting alfalfa was harvested compared with 69 percent harvested at this time last year. Second cutting clover was 94 percent harvested, the same as last year. Fourth cutting alfalfa was rated 31 percent complete statewide compared to 32 percent last year. The quality of hay made during the week was rated poor by seven percent, fair by 57 percent and good by 36 percent of our reporters. The amount of feed being obtained from pastures was rated below average by 40 percent and average by 60 percent of our reporters. By the end of last week fall plowing statewide was about one-half complete. Throughout the Commonwealth fall planting of barley was 20 percent complete while winter wheat seeding had reached 15 percent complete by week's end.

Farm Calendar

- Saturday, September 21**
Ag Awareness Day, Hunterdon County, NJ, contact: 201-788-1338.
Indian Summer Festival, Indian Steps Museum, Airville (York County). Contact: 717-755-3777.
- Monday, September 23**
All-American Dairy Show, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg; continues through Sept. 27.
Bloomsburg Fair, Bloomsburg; continues through Sept. 28.
Reading Fair, Reading; continues through Sept. 28.
- Tuesday, September 24**
Ephrata Fair, Ephrata; continues through Sept. 28.
Pa. State Dairy Princess Pageant, reception-5:30, banquet-6:30, pageant-8 p.m.
Morrison Cove Community Fair, Martinsburg; continues through Sept. 26.
Ephrata Fair, Ephrata; continues through Sept. 28.
- Wednesday, September 25**
W. Lampeter Fair, Lampeter; continues through Sept. 27.
- Thursday, September 26**
Tri-Valley Fair, Hegins; continues through Sept. 29.
- Sunday, September 29**
National County Agents Meeting, Hershey; continues through Oct. 3.
- Wednesday, October 2**
Lancaster Conservation District monthly board meeting, 7:30 p.m., Farm and Home Center.
New Holland Farmers Fair, New Holland; continues through Oct. 5.
- Friday, October 4**
State 4-H Horse Show, Harrisburg; continues through Oct. 6.

Blake appointed

CARLISLE — Harris D. Blake, a businessman and civic leader from Pinehurst, N.C., was named associate administrator of the Farmers Home Administration today by Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block.

Blake brings a background in manufacturing, banking and business and industrial development to the second highest position at Farmers Home, the principal credit agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

He is president of Colonial Abrasives, a manufacturing company, and owner and developer of a shopping and professional center, an industrial park and a retirement village in Pinehurst, and formerly owned and operated a hardware and building supply business there. He has served on the board of the First Federal Savings and Loan Association, the Carolina Bank and the Moore County Economic Development Committee.

