

NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent
Phone 717-394-6851



To Maintain Tight Health Security

The Lancaster County poultry farmers got a scare last week when a flock in the northern part of the county was declared positive. Then a laboratory recheck found that it was H₁N₁ - a hog virus - so the flock was spared. Even though this flock was negative, the other ten flocks in the state were positive H₂N₂ Avian influenza. We can not relax on good health security.

Health security includes no visits to other poultry farms, even those of friends or relatives, padlock your houses so no unauthorized people can enter. It's very important to restrict movement of all vehicles - trucks or cars - entering or leaving your farm. Chicken crates are a real threat - be sure they are thoroughly washed and disinfected before using.

Avoid contact with all wild birds and waterfowl. Also, as a precautionary measure, install a foot bath with disinfectant and be sure you use it as you enter and leave the poultry house.

If there is a drop in production, a rise in mortality or sickness in

your flock, be sure to contact the State by using the toll-free A.I. hotline 1-800-932-0949. We all have a responsibility to protect our friends and neighbors and to our own farm.

To Recognize Lime For Weed Control

You have never heard us recommend lime for weed control, however, indirectly lime is important to obtain good herbicide weed control. Both research work and farm experience has indicated that herbicides are not as effective in sour soil. So, for best weed control with chemicals, the soil lime requirement must be satisfied.

Many poor weed control experiences have been reported on sour soils. A complete soil test will indicate the amount of lime needed. There are many other advantages to crop production in addition to better herbicide action.

To Keep Small Children Away From Machinery

The spring cropping season will be starting in another month. That means that a lot of farm machines will be put into operation and

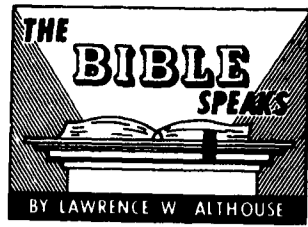
things will really be moving. Small children like to become a part of this action and ask to ride on machinery, or even operate some of the smaller tractors. It might take nerve to refuse them at times; however, for their own protection they should not become involved. Many serious accidents have happened because "Dad" or "Grandad" took them along.

Where there are small children, all machinery operators should be especially careful of their exact location. Farm machinery and small children do not mix.

To Take A

Correspondence Course

To become knowledgeable about a certain subject and continue with your normal job is a possibility. Penn State offers a number of correspondence courses in agriculture and related areas that should be of great help to everyone. These lessons are sent by mail and are practical at a very nominal cost. Details are available at any Extension Office in the state. A leaflet describing the various courses is available. Don't overlook this method of learning more about a special subject.



THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM?

February 16, 1986

Background Scripture:
Matthew 5:9, 38-48; Luke 27-36.
Devotional Reading:
Matthew 26:3-6.

As I write this piece, a recorded choir is singing, "Peace on earth; good will to men." According to the headlines in this morning's newspaper and the stories on the television news, peace on earth seems little more than an impossible dream that is no closer today than it has been for the centuries wherein people have dreamed that dream and declared it to one another.

The prophet Isaiah prophesied a day when swords would be beaten into plow-shares and people would "learn war" no more. Jesus declared "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God." But the history of the world, both before and after Isaiah and Christ, has been little more than a chronological account of warfare and wars seemingly unending.

SAID OF OLD

So, are the peacemakers always to be a small minority and is peace ever to remain an impossible dream?

There are many people today who believe that peace is an unobtainable ideal, that the best we can hope for and occasionally

achieve is an armed truce. The reason that we cannot have peace, they say, is that our enemies will not let us have it. If we were to unilaterally disarm our country, for example, would not the Soviets and their allies take advantage of our peace-making efforts to gobble up more countries, to subject more people? Wouldn't our military weakness encourage the very conflicts we are trying to avoid?

Often I ponder those very questions and it is hard not to repeatedly answer all of them with an unequivocal "yes." But, at the same time, I cannot believe that the words of Jesus would have dangled the vision of peace before our eyes only to add in fine print: "not applicable in the real world."

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Perhaps the key to this dilemma may lie in our failure to put into operation Jesus' teaching where we live. Maybe world peace will remain an impossible dream until we have demonstrated that it is neither a "dream" nor "impossible" in our personal lives, our neighborhoods, and our communities. It is not just that we have failed to love our national "enemies" - the Soviets, the Libyans, the Iranians, etc. - but that we haven't even made much progress in loving Democrats or Republicans, liberals or conservatives, Anti-Abortionists or Pro-Lifers and so on. In just about every area of our lives - perhaps even in our churches - we operate on a confrontational, win-or-lose, good guys vs. bad guys, eye-for-an-eye and tooth-for-a-tooth basis. After thousands and thousands of years, it still doesn't work. This is the real "impossible dream"!

Isn't it about time we give Jesus' way a real chance?

(Based on copyright Outlines produced by the Committee on the Uniform Series and used by permission Released by Community & Suburban Press)

Farm Calendar



Saturday, February 15

Pennsylvania Flying Farmers Valentine Banquet, Country Table Restaurant, Mt. Joy; call David Kruger, 867-2384.
Cumberland County Holstein Club Annual Meeting, South Middleton Firehall, Boiling Springs.

Monday, February 17

Adams County Beekeepers meeting, "Winter Management - Checking Honey Stores," 7:30 p.m., Penn State Fruit Research Lab.
Warwick Young Farmers meeting, 7 p.m., Warwick High School Ag Room, Lititz.
Kutztown Young Farmers meeting, Kutztown High School, 8 p.m. Topic: Alfalfa Production.

Tuesday, February 18

"Coping with lower milk prices," workshop, Bradford County Extension office, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Lancaster County Crops and Soils Day, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Lykens Valley Local of Inter-State District 7 meeting, 11:45 a.m., Kilinger Grange Hall,

Millersburg.

County-wide 4-H dairy meeting, Mercer County Extension Center, 8 p.m.
Regional Vegetable Growers meeting, PSU Fruit Research Laboratory, Biglerville.

Wednesday, February 19

Dairy Day with Atlantic, 11 a.m., New Vernon Grange.
Vegetable Growers Meeting, Rutter's Restaurant, 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.
McKean County dairy buyout program, 1:30 p.m., Extension center.

Thursday, February 20

Keystone Pork Congress, Penn Harris Motor Inn, Harrisburg, 8 a.m.
Draft Horse and Mule Sale, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.
Mastitis and milking equipment update, 9:45 a.m., Berks County Ag Center, Leesport.
Inter-State District 21 annual meeting, 6:45 p.m., Northern Bedford High School, Loysburg.

Friday, February 21

Pa. Holstein Convention; continues through Saturday, Pittsburgh Sheraton Inn.

Pa. Cattlemen's Conference, Allenberry Resort, Boiling Springs; continues through Sunday.

Mastitis and Milking Equipment Update, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Maryland Holstein Convention; Ramada Inn, Hagerstown, Md.; continues through Saturday.

Saturday, February 22

Simmental Association Annual Meeting, 3:15 p.m., Allenberry Resort, Boiling Springs.

Monday, February 24

Game Bird Conference, University Park; continues Tuesday.
Bucks-Montgomery Dairy Day, 10 a.m., R&S Diner, Hatfield.
Cumberland Cooperative Wool Growers, South Middleton Firehall, Boiling Springs.

Tuesday, February 25

Western Pa. Turf Conference and Trade Show, Pa. Turfgrass Council, Monroeville Expo Mart.
Berks County Extension Dairy Day, 9 a.m., Berks County Ag Center.

Wednesday, February 26

McKean County dairy buyout program, 1:30 p.m., Extension Center.

Thursday, February 27

Agronomy Day, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Fayette County Fairgrounds.
Estate Planning Meeting, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.
Lancaster County Conservation Tillage Conference, Farm and

Home Center.

Cumberland County Dairy Clinic, Penn Township Firehall, Huntsdale, 9:15 a.m.
S. Jersey Tree Fruit Growers Meeting, Silver Lake Inn, Clementon, NJ. Contact: Leslie Miller, 609-784-1099.

Friday, February 28

Cumberland County Crops Day, Cumberland County Extension Office, Carlisle.

Mastitis, milking equipment update slated

LANCASTER - Many changes, new ideas and new research findings have surfaced recently in the areas of mastitis and milk equipment. These two areas are of great economic importance to dairymen, as they affect both productivity and profitability of the herd.

Two in-depth meetings are scheduled to update farmers on mastitis and milking equipment. They will be held as follows:

Thursday, February 20, 9:45 a.m. at the Berks County Agricultural Center, Leesport. Cost will be \$6.00. For reservations, call the Berks County Extension Office; telephone 215-

378-1327.

Friday, February 21, 9:45 a.m. at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center. For reservations, call the Lancaster County Extension Office; telephone 717-394-6851.

Topics to be discussed include: mastitis control programs, back flushing, check valves, quad milkers, automatic take-offs, exotic forms of mastitis, milk recording devices, rancidity problems, low tests, teat dips, pre-dipping, dry treatments, cell count levels, new developments in equipment.

Speakers include Penn State Extension Specialists, Stephen Spencer and Lawrence Hutchinson, plus, local Extension Agents.

