

Lancaster Farming

OPINION

Service to Agriculture

Twenty-five years of service to agriculture. That's what Arnold Lueck, associate county agent from Lancaster has done. If you have a wilted alfalfa stalk or need to know which side of the house to plant a flowering shrub, you can always call the extension service and ask for Arnie. Arnie is the name he is affectionately called by his friends.

Lueck joined Penn State's Cooperative Extension Service in 1961 and was especially helpful in agronomy and horticultural programs. Helping farmers who grow corn, alfalfa, potatoes, tobacco, celery, grapes and apples. Lueck's programs also have been designed for home gardeners, 4-H clubs and agri business representatives. Lueck is well-known and well-received with his weekly newspaper columns and radio broadcasts.

With all of the fine effort this county agent has brought to agriculture, we want to, on behalf of the agricultural community, say a big thank you, Arnie.

Solute to Farmers

In 1984, one out of every forty-one Americans lived on the farm. That amounted to nearly 1½% of the total U.S. population. Back in 1920 when the farm population was first counted as a separate group, over 30% lived on farms. By 1950 the proportion had fallen to around 15%.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2.3 million farmers provide food and fiber for 271 million people—201 million in the U.S. and 70 million overseas. One farmer provides food and fiber for 116 people. That figure of 116 is up from 73 in 1970 and 46 in 1960. The average person in America eats 1,426 pounds of food per year. Three ounces a day more than 20 years ago. The most popular food in total pounds sold is whole milk, 123 pounds per person annually.

It would seem that the farmer is rather small when it comes to numbers in relation to population. But when it comes to producing food, us farmers look pretty large. In fact it probably wouldn't be out of place to solute ourselves as masters of food production in the world.

Farm Calendar

- Saturday, May 3**

Spring Sale, Pa. Shorthorn, Polled Shorthorn Association, Mercer 4-H Park.

Apple Blossom Festival, Gettysburg; continues tomorrow.

Md. Sheep and Wool Festival, West Friendship, Md.; continues tomorrow.

Berks County Dairy Princess pageant, Berks Ag Center, 7 p.m.

'Sale of Star Performers,' Pa. Polled Hereford Association, Bedford Fairgrounds; show, 9:30 a.m., sale, 1 p.m.

Goodville Fire Company Spring Ham Supper, 3 to 7 p.m., Goodville Fire Company, Rt. 23 between Blue Ball and Morgantown.

Monday, May 5

Accounting and Auditing Conference, Penn State University, sponsored by Pa. Society of Public Accountants; continues through Wednesday. Contact your local Extension office.

York County Farmland Tax Reassessment Meeting, Southeastern High School Auditorium, 200 Bowman Road, Hanover, 7:30 p.m.

Huntingdon County 4-H County Council, 7:30 p.m., Extension meeting room.
- Fauquier Junior 4-H Livestock Club show and sale, Fauquier Junior Fairgrounds, Marshall Va., 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 6

Berks County Sheep Club program, 6 p.m.

York County Farmland Tax Reassessment Meeting, Dover Area Intermediate School Auditorium, 4500 Intermediate Ave., Dover, 7:30 p.m.

Pa. PRV Task Force meeting, 7:30 p.m., Ephrata Senior High School.

Wednesday, May 7

Lancaster Conservation District Board meeting.

Southcentral Twilight Fruit Growers Meeting, 6 p.m., Earl Brown Orchards, Loganville.

Annual Meeting, Dairy and Nutrition Council, Pittsburgh Marriott, Greentree.

Huntingdon County DHIA director's meeting, 8 p.m., Extension meeting room.

Friday, May 9

Spring Steam Up, Rough and Tumble Engineers Historical Association, Kinzers; continues tomorrow.

Saturday, May 10

Spring Field Day, Pa. Polled

NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent



- To Practice Pesticide Safety**
- Pesticides are very important to our highly efficient agriculture. When used as directed, they repay our growers with higher, better quality yields at minimal risk to our safety and health.
- It's important to choose the correct pesticides and application equipment for your particular problem.
 - Be sure to read and follow the label directions. Make sure all coworkers do the same.
 - Without fail, use the recommended personal protective equipment to prevent harmful contact with chemicals.
 - Mix chemicals accurately and carefully. Clean up spills. Return unused materials to safe storage.
 - Triple rinse and drain empty

FARM FORUM

OUR READERS WRITE

Editor's Note: All letters to the editor must be signed to be considered for publication. If requested, the name will be withheld when published.

Dear Editor,

Your excellent article, "A Dairyman in Buyout Shares His Thoughts", should be shared by the nonfarmer people. Have you considered offering it to the Lancaster papers or the "Philadelphia Inquirer" that ran headlines on how much the big farmers will be getting, but no insight on what it involves?

Sue Lomborn
225 Lees Bridge Rd.
Nottingham, PA 19362

Hereford Association, Spring Bottom Farm, Fairfield.
Kraybill School Sale, 9 a.m., Kraybills Mennonite School, Mount Joy.

Sunday, May 11
Southwest Warmup Arabian Horse Show, Arden Downs, Washington.

Monday, May 12
Annual Meeting, Pa. Approved Dairy Lab Directors, Penn State University.

Tuesday, May 13
York County Farmland Tax Reassessment Meeting, Northern Middle School Auditorium, R2 Dillsburg, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 15
Lebanon County FFA banquet, Cedar Crest Middle School, 7 p.m.

containers into the spray tank.

- Clean the equipment when you have finished. Don't smoke or eat until you have washed and changed clothing.

- Store pesticides in their original labeled containers in a locked cabinet, room or building.

Let's have a safe growing and harvesting season this year.

To Prepare for Soybean Planting

Soybeans should be planted in warm moist soil. A thermometer will help you decide when is the best planting date. Special bayonet type thermometers work very well.

The ideal soil temperature is about 62°F. The reading should be taken at about 8 a.m. when the soil temperature is stabilized. The thermometer should be inserted at least two inches in the soil.

Many people planting soybeans will either end up with too many plants per acre or too few. This will happen because they will use the pounds per acre philosophy, which won't work for soybeans. Because soybean seed differs greatly in size, this also means they differ greatly in number of seeds per pound. For example, one variety may average 2,100 seeds per pound, while another variety averages 3,100 seeds per pound...that's a difference of 1,000 seeds per pound. So, if you plant a bushel of seed with 85 percent germination, that's a difference of about 48,000 plants per acre.

The only way to plant beans is by seeds per foot of row. If a grain

drill is used, three beans per foot of row is plenty. If a 30-inch corn row is used eight to nine beans per foot is about right

To Check Farm Ponds

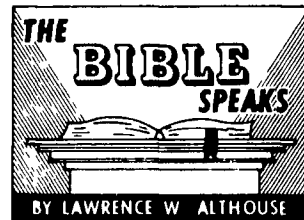
Many ponds will be showing both algae and weed infestation build-up as the weather gets warmer, and yes these pond plants will begin to grow. Permits are needed in order for the owner to use the proper material, and to protect livestock downstream from the pond. Before any ponds are treated in Pennsylvania with any chemical or fertilizer, the owner should obtain a permit from the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. Application for the permit is available from the Pennsylvania Waterway Patrol Office or from our Penn State Extension Office.

To Help Prevent Damping-off of Seedlings

Damping-off of seedlings is a common concern of plant growers. It may start with a single seedling and move rapidly through the flats or bed. Growers can prevent losses from damping-off by following good control or prevention practices.

Good damping-off prevention practices include the use of clean or treated seed, sterilized soil or disease-free plant media, clean containers, water and tools.

Watering plants in the morning when the temperature is rising will provide good drying conditions and also aid in preventing losses from those disease organisms that may be in the soil.



THE DEVIL TO PAY

May 4, 1986

Background Scripture: Matthew 12:22-32; Luke 11:14-15.
Devotional Reading: John 3:1-15.

I never heard much about the Devil when I was growing up. As a matter of fact, even when I was a theological student in seminary, references to the Devil were few and far between. But in the past two decades, the Devil, it would seem, has made quite a comeback. To be sure, there are some Satanic religious cults that have grabbed occasional headlines and the motion picture studios have worked the Devil and other demons for all they are worth at the box office.

DEMONIC P.R.

Actually, however, it is none of

the above who have brought the Devil to his current state of infamous reknown, but multitudes of unwitting Christians, who seem to spend so much of their time looking under their neighbor's bed for the Devil that God himself gets far less of their attention. Christians have found that warning others about the Devil is more fun than witnessing to the grace of Jesus Christ. They have found that there is no better "put down" to another person than to suggest or outright accuse them of consorting with demonic powers. And, as quite a few have found out to their financial gain, the Devil also sells books.

Ah yes, some may say, *that is the price we must pay for vigilance against the demonic, for we are safest from the Devil when we are most aware of his presence.* And thus they rationalize their tireless public relations efforts that keep the Devil alive and well in the popular consciousness. Thus, they justify their self-righteous attacks upon other Christians so that they might keep them from becoming "unwitting tools of the Devil."

"ONLY BEELZEBUL"

It is important to remember that Pharisees also tried to discredit Jesus by using the same kind of charge. When he healed a dumb demonic, they tried to counter the amazement of the people saying, "It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons" (Matt. 12:24). No other accusation ever brought so devastating a reply from Jesus. By robbing the Devil of his wretched human victims, says Jesus, he is actually plundering the Devil's "household" and evidencing the presence of the Kingdom of God in their midst.

Jesus goes on to utter some words that are probably the harshest he ever spoke: "...every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit...whoever speaks it against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come" (12:31-32). This is, for Jesus, the worst of sins—as one commentator puts it, "that malignant moral blindness which deliberately affirms that which is good is evil."

Thus, to condemn our neighbor and his faith as "of the Devil" may put us in the position of blaspheming God's Holy Spirit. Then we will really have the Devil to pay.

