



# OPINION

## Faith In The Future of Agriculture

Agriculture in Lancaster Farming territory is growing in importance. When compared to other areas of farm production, we have increased our share of the national market, and we have increased our dominance. That is because we have a lot of diversification. We have dairy, cattle, poultry, hogs, mushrooms, horticulture and even grains. We don't "put our eggs all in one basket." In addition we are close to large markets such as New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and other major eastern cities.

By taking advantage of these factors, the dairy, poultry and hog industries have all experienced substantial growth. In Pennsylvania for example the dairy industry ranks fifth in production nationally. Production of broilers, chickens and turkeys also ranks fifth. And egg production ranks fourth in the nation.

We hear much about how bad off the farmer is, and there are many problems. Recent figures show that maybe 20 percent of all far-

mers are in financial trouble. And we know how inherent problems are in farming as in any other business. But if these figures are correct we still have 80 percent of the farmers who are not in trouble.

We think a very encouraging indicator of faith in the future of agriculture comes with the building of a new feed mill in Mount Joy as reported in this issue of Lancaster Farming. This company says their customers are the kind of farmers who manage well and stay with the business side of farming.

Another encouragement came in the form of a little note to the editor from a farmer who said, "this note is not for publication, but I just want you to know that some of us farmers out here are still making money".

So while we may not hear as much from the good farmers who are doing all right, we know a lot of people have a great deal of faith in the future of agriculture in Lancaster Farming territory. And of course we do too.

## The Joys Of Being A Farmer Boy

Recently several samples of writing came to our desk entitled, "The Joys of Being a Farmer Boy". These samples captured the personal feeling many of us have had as we grew up on the farm. The accompanying letter said, "Our son Daniel who loves to read and write is 13 years old. He is an Amish boy from a family of eight boys on a 160-acre farm in Franklin County along the Blue Mountain. It seems like there is always something going on and we thought perhaps you would be interested in hearing some of the farm life. He is dependable in his schoolwork and chores."

Yes we were interested, and we thought our readers may get a good feeling from the boy's viewpoint too. So here is the first article in a series of six by Daniel Luke Fisher, son of Mr. & Mrs. Ben Fisher, RD 1, Newburg, Franklin County, entitled,

### "The Joys of Being a Farmer Boy"

"Giddap!" is a very common word on this farm since we farm with mules. Some of the mules are big, some are small. Some are shy, some are bold. We have nine altogether. There is Jake, Kate, Jenny, Jack, Mamie, Jill, Pete, Queeny, and Jane.

Jane is the one that Mom is always afraid will run away.

But there is one thing she won't do and that is run away with Mark driving. She does with Matthew but not with Mark. One time Mark was driving her and she started going real fast. He slapped

her so she would run away because he wanted some excitement. But she soon slowed down.

One time Jack and Queeny ran away for Mark. They headed straight for a telephone pole. Jack went on one side and Queeny on the other. They crashed right in the pole and the wagon tongue snapped.

We use Jill to haul manure out of the cow stable. We have a long rope connected from Jill to a fork in the cow stable. Dad hollers "All right!" I give Jill a kick in the ribs to get her moving. She slowly walks along until she feels the pull of the rope, then she starts going fast. She goes till the end of the trail which she made by herself by going along there.

When she is almost at the end of the trail she goes slower and slower till Dad hollers "Whoa!". Then she slowly turns around.

When the manure spreader is full, I jump off her back and hook her up with the other mules at the spreader.

One time Ben and Dad hooked up Mamie to the rope to see how well she pulls. She went along till she felt the pull of the rope. Then she went tearing down the meadow with Ben hanging on. He got her stopped though.

Working with mules is a very enjoyable thing to do.

We have already driven Mamie to school in the pony cart.

Sometimes we all go riding up to the mountain with mules and ponies and horses or whatever else is handy.

## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin  
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent



### To Refresh Pseudorabies Prevention Guidelines

Spring is a busy time for swine producers, but with recent outbreaks of a hot strain of swine pseudorabies, caution must be taken. It's a time when producers could become relaxed in swine disease prevention measures.

Control and prevention of pseudorabies in Lancaster County must be an ongoing program. Chester D. Hughes, Extension livestock agent, refreshes swine producers with these pseudorabies prevention guidelines for spring and summer for all herds:

- Isolate pigs from all other livestock.
- Allow no visitation in your hog house and don't visit others.
- Sanitizer and footbath, or clean boots and appropriate clothing provided for authorized visitors.

- Control stray animals.
- Pre-sort hogs for shipment to prevent hogs from entering truck and returning to pen.
- Haul pigs in clean, sanitized vehicles only.
- Dispose of dead pigs promptly, bury under one foot of cover, incinerate, or seal in bag and give to scavenger.
- Call vet if herd has nervous disorders or unusual problems.
- Eradicate infections—request eradication guidelines.
- Encourage everyone to adopt these practices—farmers and servicemen.
- Consider permanent identification system in your herd.

### To Do

#### Spring Pruning

Many plants and bushes require some corrective pruning to improve their appearance, to hold them to desirable size, and to remove damaged and weakened sections.

There is a time to prune and a time not to prune, and this varies from plant to plant. A good time for pruning spring flowering plants is after they've bloomed and before they start forming next year's flower buds. Pruning soon after flowering also gives more time for new growth to cover up that newly-pruned look.

### To Be Careful

#### With Weed Sprayers

Farmers and gardeners should keep in mind that many weed killer materials will stick in the equipment for years. This is especially true of all forms of 2, 4-D. Sprayers in which this material has been

used should be kept only for weed spraying, or very carefully cleaned. The use of very hot water and household ammonia (1 part of ammonia to 100 parts of hot water) is suggested; this mixture should be allowed to stand for 24 hours in the equipment and then sprayed out. Extreme care should be taken with this cleaning job after each herbicide treatment.

The safest method is to have separate sprayers for weed killers. Over the years I can recall a number of tobacco and vegetable plants that have been damaged because a sprinkling can or sprayer used last fall was not thoroughly cleaned.

### To Practice Lawn Mowing Safety

Lawn grasses are growing rapidly now. Bluegrasses push-up their seed heads, making cutting more difficult, clogging mowers, using more power to operate and causing more accidents.

Unsafe operation of power lawnmowers leads to 75,000 mowing accidents every year according to the National Safety Council. Unfortunately most of the injuries occur to the hands and feet of boys and girls.

Follow common sense safety rules in operating these power machines: wear sturdy shoes; keep hands and feet away from moving parts; never mow while the grass is wet from dew or rain. Always insist that the engine is shut off when servicing, adjusting or cleaning under the machine. Accidents cannot happen from moving parts...if there is no power available.

- Saturday, May 10**  
Spring Field Day, Pa. Polled Hereford Association, Spring Bottom Farm, Fairfield.  
Kraybill School Sale, 9 a.m., Kraybill's Mennonite School, Mt. Joy.  
W. Pa. Sheep and Club Lamb Sale, Mercer.
- 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.
- Wednesday, May 14**  
Regional 4-H Meeting, Danville, 9:45 a.m.  
Twilight Fruit Meeting, Sussex County, N.J.; call 475-8000 ext. 655 for details.  
District III Jersey Breeders Dinner Meeting, 7:15 p.m., Bird-in-Hand Restaurant.

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

**THE LANGUAGE THE SPIRIT SPEAKS**  
May 11, 1986

Background Scripture: Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-21; 13:1-12.  
Devotional Reading: John 16:12-15.

Many Christians don't know what to do with Pentecost. It is an experience they have never had. Furthermore, they're not even sure they would want it if it were offered them. Essentially, as presented in Acts 2, Pentecost is an ecstatic experience and ecstasy, particularly spiritual ecstasy, is a rather rare commodity in standard brand Christianity where there is a kind of common, unspoken understanding that, *if you feel some ecstasy coming on, take a deep breath and try to hold it until it passes.* Fearing the consequences of religious emotional excess, we have pretty well eliminated the

**Thursday, May 15**  
Lebanon County FFA Banquet, Cedar Crest Middle School, 7 p.m.  
Annual Meeting, Pa. Horse Breeders Association, New Bolton Center, West Chester.

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emotional dimension of religion in many churches.

### INSPIRED CONTROL

As a result, many Christians are bored by a religious lifestyle that so tightly reigns in all emotion that it is always "safe" and correspondingly impotent to lift us out or above ourselves. At the same time, we both covet the apparent power of the spiritually less inhibited and remain eternally vigilant lest anything, including the Spirit of God, causes us to lose control of our normal detached demeanor.

Is there no middle ground between these two apparent extremes? I believe Pentecost indicates that there is. That which makes Acts 2 a Pentecostal experience is not that the disciples of Jesus were "out of control" with religious ecstasy, but that they were under the precise inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The experience was not one of chaos, but of an inspired order. This was not a case of each worshipper "doing his own thing," but doing God's "thing" under the direction of the Spirit.

Furthermore, many people have a picture in their minds of Pentecostal Christians speaking ecstatically in unintelligible sounds or tongues. But, if you read carefully Acts 2 you will find that the tongues in which these people were found speaking were not unintelligible tongues but bona fide languages that could be and were understood by many people in the vicinity. No less than three times the writer of Acts tells us "each one heard them speaking in his own language" (2:6,8,11) and goes on to list the different languages that were recognized.

### INSPIRED POWER

The essence of the Pentecostal experience, therefore, was not ecstasy for its own sake or exhibitionism, but power to witness to the saving grace of God. The "tongues" were intended, not to point to those who uttered them or to say, "Look what we can do!" but to point to God and say "Look what He has done and is doing!" The Spirit had the worshippers speak in intelligible tongues so that others could be edified, not mystified.

In other words, Pentecost gave the disciples the power to speak of God in Christ to people in words they could understand.

