



# OPINION

## He Knows The Importance Of Agriculture

During the interview with the Lt. Gov. Wm. Scranton this week he mentioned that Pennsylvania agriculture was the number one industry in the state. Of course, we knew that. But we were glad to know that he knew, too. In addition, Scranton said he considered agriculture the great civilizing force in history. "If you neglect ag and its affect on culture, you are really neglecting the roots of society," he said.

He looks at ag land preservation not only as a necessity to maintain food production and to pass farming onto the next generation, he also thinks ag land is a natural resource that benefits all people in the state.

Of course the state leader claims to be only a mere politician and not a prophet because he doesn't know how long the farm economic crisis

will last. He thinks maybe the overall economic climate has an affect on the farm situation, too. His humanity can be forgiven when predicting the future because no one else seems to agree on where biotechnology and the volatile economic forces will take us either.

When you get to the bottom line, Scranton's scholarly study of the needs of society in relation to agriculture constitutes far more than political expediency. He recognizes that a strong and growing agriculture is not only good business but also helps provide a social climate that enhances life for everyone in Pennsylvania.

For this man who aspires to be the next governor, we really must say Bill Scranton knows the importance of agriculture to Pennsylvania.

## Reg. Penna Ag Dept.

**YORK** - When traveling in another state, have you ever seen the notation "Reg. Penna. Dept. of Agri." on a package of cookies or maybe a snack item like potato chips or pretzels. If you have, you probably have wondered what it meant or why it was there.

It means the bakery that made the cookies or snack item is licensed or registered to sell its product in Pennsylvania says Joan Lamberson, Penn State Extension Home Economist.

That explanation usually prompts another question: "Why does the notation appear on packages sold in other states and even in other countries?"

Bakers find it doesn't cost much to have the notation printed on all packages. It's easier than having a special label for products shipped exclusively to Pennsylvania. It's even a sort of status symbol for some firms since there are customers who recognize its significance.

In the early 20th century, bakeries were usually neighborhood businesses. But as modern transportation and marketing broadened and the scope of the bakery business to a national and even international level, it became

necessary to reassure consumers that they were getting wholesome bakery products. As a result, the Pennsylvania Bakery Law was enacted in 1933.

The law stipulates that bakeries must be licensed to sell their products in Pennsylvania, no matter where the bakery is located in Pennsylvania, another state, Canada or even a country overseas. It affects not only those baking bread and rolls but also cookies and crackers, spaghetti and macaroni, pretzels and potato and even snacks made from cornmeal.

The license required that the firm be regularly inspected and that the plant and employees meet specified standards for cleanliness.

It would be impossible for Pennsylvania food inspectors to travel to all the plants outside the state, so working agreements are made with other states and countries to do the inspecting.

Registration does not imply approval of the product itself, but the label can assure you that the product is made in a plant that meets specified standards of cleanliness.



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin  
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

### To Combine At The Proper Speed

We are in the last stages of barley harvest, and in a few weeks, the winter wheat crop should be ripe. Both of these crops require mechanical harvesting equipment and good weather. From the amount of volunteer grain I've seen growing after barley and wheat harvests, it is evident that too much grain is being left in the field.

I am concerned that high combine speed might be part of the reason that grain is thrown out with the straw. The manufacturer recommendations should be followed in this respect. Also, there are times when the grain may be too tough to combine. This is often

the case when the crop is quite weedy. The important thing is to have the combine adjusted to the best of your knowledge and then drive at recommended speed. You'll need every bushel of grain and every bale of straw from your crop.

### To Plan For Summer Alfalfa Seeding

It may seem early to be thinking about the late summer seeding of alfalfa; however, in another month this practice will be at hand. One of the first steps in planning for this legume seeding is to have the soil tested. If it needs lime, then the application should be made as far as possible ahead of the seeding. Alfalfa requires a neutral soil (7.0 pH); too many farmers are still guessing at the amount of lime needed.

The investment in seed and labor is going up; therefore, good advance planning is most important. In this part of the state the summer seeding should be made in late July through the first part of August. That time will be here shortly.

### To Prepare For Fire Protection

Our barns are filling up with new crops of hay, straw and grain so we need to be concerned with fire protection. We urge farmers to give some thought to water supplies for fighting fires. Many farmers indicate that their fire

company would be unable to supply adequate water; this increases the risk of serious fire losses. Farms with streams nearby should have plans developed to move the fire engine within 25 feet of the water. Owners of ponds should have all weather driveways to the pond. There have been cases where buildings burned while the fire truck was mired down in the mud trying to get to the pond. It's a good idea to inform your local fire company of the sources of water supplies for fighting fires. A good water supply for fighting fires is good insurance against severe losses.

### To Consider Lightning Rods On Shade Trees

How many times have you driven past a pasture field or exercise lot and noticed dozens of cattle or other livestock grouped together under one or two large trees. During severe thunderstorms, livestock will gather under these trees. If lightning strikes the tree, many of the animals will be killed. A number of farmers in the county can attest to that. For the protection of valuable livestock, we suggest that some of these individual trees be fitted with a lightning rod system. If there is a woodlot or a number of trees in the pasture, it may not be practical.

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### Sunday, June 29

Governor's School of Ag, University Park.  
Pa. Shorthorn Field Day, Richard Peoples Farm, Volant.  
Pa. Greenhouse and Allied Industries Conference, Penn State University; continues through July 1.

### Monday, June 30

Grain Meeting, PennAg Industries Association, Conestoga Resort, Lancaster; call Dr. David Brubaker at 717-733-2238.

### Wednesday, July 2

Lancaster Conservation District Board Meeting.  
NW Pa. Regional 4-H Dairy Overnighter, Mercer County 4-H Park.  
Hunterdon County Board of Ag Meeting, Extension Center, 8 p.m.

### Saturday, July 5

Hickory Ridge Antique Farm Show; continues through July 6, Horace Potter residence, Route 113, Milford, Del. For information call 302-422-9308.

### Sunday, July 6

Youth Institute, PAFC, Juniata College; continues through July 9.  
Summer Youth Camp, Pa. Farmers Union, Camp Kanesatke; continues through July 10.

### Monday, July 7

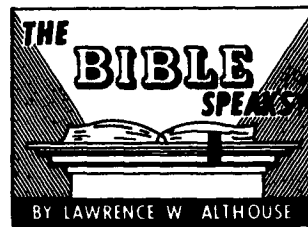
Berks County Youth Conservation Leadership Program, Camp Joy; continues through July 11.

### Tuesday, July 8

Pa. Lamb and Wool Crafts Festival, Penn State Ag Arena; continues through July 10.  
Central Pa. Judging Contest School, Huntingdon County, noon to noon; continues through Wednesday.

### Wednesday, July 9

Pa. State Lamb Cook-off Contest, 10 a.m. to noon.



**Background Scripture:**  
Jeremiah 36.

**Devotional Reading:**  
Jeremiah 17: 5-10.

Our denomination has a very fine weekly newspaper. Nevertheless, I often feel discouraged when I read it. What bothers me is not that it is filled with differences of opinion among the members of my denomination, but that there is

Adams County fruitgrowers meeting, Rice Fruit Co.  
Delegate Meeting, Milk Marketing Inc., Ohio State University.  
NY Farm Bureau Dairy Policy Forum, Morrisville College, Morrisville, NY.

### Thursday, July 10

Western Judging School, Crawford County; continues through July 11, noon to noon.

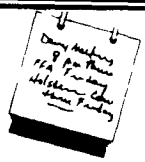
### Friday, July 11

Keystone Ram and Ewe Show and Sale; continues through July 12, State College.

### Saturday, July 12

Vermont Sheep Sale, Addison Company, Field Days grounds, New Haven, Vt. Contact Michael Clandon, 802-545-2249.  
Regional 4-H Demonstration Day, Sullivan County High School, 9:30 a.m.  
District III Jersey Picnic starting at 11 a.m. at Dreisbach's Long Meadows Farm.

## Farm Calendar



### Saturday, June 28

Crawford County Dairy Princess Pageant, Raymond Anthony Farm, Meadville.  
Berks County Wool Pool, Reading Fair Livestock Building, 7:30

### a.m. to 3 p.m.

Pennsylvania Mountain Dairy Goat Association meeting, 1 p.m., Grace Episcopal Church, Honesdale.  
Kutztown Folk Festival, Kutztown; continues through July 6.



almost no dialogue between those who hold differing viewpoints. On every issue there appears to be but two camps, and all of us are expected to join one of the two and fight to prevail.

### MAYBE TURN

In our meetings, we do not really listen to each other, except to meet our opponents' arguments with a better one of ours. We applaud when we want to hear and we find ourselves becoming indignant when we hear something contrary to our position.

The trouble with all this, I believe, is that I've never known a single faction, group or party that had all the truth in its corner. Nor have I ever known one that was totally in error. No group has ever had a corner on God's revelation. It may disturb us to realize this, but God speaks to all of us - even, maybe particularly, our opponents!

Therefore, when we have differences of conviction in the church - and we will always have these - instead of simply choosing up sides and fighting to defeat our opponents, it would be to our advantage to listen to each other, for God can speak to us even through someone who disturbs and upsets us.

This was the problem that Jeremiah the Prophet faced. Because King Jehoiakim did not like Jeremiah's prophecies, he forbade Jeremiah to speak to him. Jeremiah could have taken the attitude that he'd sit back and let the King find out in time that his message had really been from God.

### THE PENKNIFE

But Jeremiah's purpose was not to prove that he was right, but to persuade Jehoiakim and his people to change their ruinous ways while there was still time. We win, not when we have "the last laugh," but when God is able to speak through us to another.

So Jeremiah, debarred from going to the temple, found another way to try and reach Jehoiakim with the message of God: Baruch, his disciple was not debarred, so he could take the message to the king. "It may be," said Jeremiah, "...that everyone will turn from his evil way" (36:7).

But Jehoiakim and his ministers did not want to hear the word of God, they wanted to hear the word of approval. So, they burned the scrolls. Only later, when it was too late, did they realize that, while you may burn the scrolls, you cannot destroy the truth.