



OPINION

You Are Welcome

Pennsylvania Agricultural Secretary Richard E. Grubb reports two open letters of thanks. One from Delaware State Ag Secretary William Chandler, Jr., and one from Thomas Irvin, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

Chandler says, "There are no words to describe the feeling a farmer gets when he sees his crops dying from a severe drought. It's a feeling that gathers in the pit of your stomach and weighs you down every day. In the midst of the worst drought in Delaware in a century, many of you have managed to lift the spirits of a few Delaware farmers in a way that only a good soaking rain could rival. You've reached out with free hay, trucks and encouragement to help our farmers fight the dry weather and continue to feed their livestock. On behalf of these farmers and all Delawareans, I want to say thanks. The hay that you have given maybe gone in a matter of days or weeks, but the gesture of concern for your colleagues in Delaware will not soon be forgotten."

Irvin says, "Record-high temperatures on drought conditions continue to cause multiple problems for Georgia crop and livestock producers. However, the offers of assistance we have received from across this country have given us an opportunity to work toward long-term solutions for our problems. We continue to be grateful for the outpouring of concern from farmers and other citizens, departments of agriculture, corporations and numerous other companies. I am writing today to inform you of Georgia's continuing need for hay to feed our livestock and to again ask for your help. We would certainly appreciate any assistance you can give us in spreading the word about Georgia's continuing hay needs. We understand, as well, that with time hay donations will by necessity expire. And we, of course, will work with you and your producers in obtaining hay

for sale. I would like to stress, however, that this is not the first year in recent times that Georgia producers have faced a drought. For seven of the last nine years, our producers have suffered from severe weather in the form of either droughts, freezes or some very untimely heavy rains. This combination has left our producers in the worst financial shape in the southeast. Again I speak for all Georgians in thanking you and your farmers for the tremendous generosity shown to our state's producers during this severe crisis. We know that with time and help from our friends like you, Georgia agriculture will recover. Your contributions to that recovery will not be forgotten."

Grubb, in making announcement of these open letters, said that Pennsylvanians should also know that the department has received informal expressions of appreciation for their generosity from other drought-affected states. Several thousand tons of hay and trucks to haul it south have been donated through the department, farm organizations, civic clubs, business and groups of private individuals. Hay pledged through the department's hotline has been received by farmers in South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Maryland, Delaware, Florida, Virginia and Alabama.

Many people in Lancaster Farming Territory have contributed to this generous outpouring of benevolence. Many have done so quietly and without regard to any personal gain or publicity.

Paul Brubaker of the Mennonite Disaster Service summed up the attitude of many farmers who made contributions of hay and funds to the haylift. Brubaker said, "Our fellows keep on working to help. But they don't look for very much publicity."

So all we can say on behalf of farmers in response to these letters of thanks is a sincere "You are welcome. We are glad if we can help a little."

cultivated Basil--Ocimum basilicum — and other varieties of basilicum that are annuals and valuable food seasonings. These plants are annuals and present no weed threat.

The importance of identifying a plant by the correct Latin name to avoid this kind of confusion cannot be over-emphasized.

Back to the pasture problem. Sounds like pasture rotation, fertilizing, mowing, reseeding are needed. The weeds are just indicators of a problem with the soil.

Barbara Steele
Alloway Gardens
Littlestown, PA

P.S. Basil, ocimum basilicum is wonderful minced on garden fresh tomatoes. We will send you some recipes to redeem its bad press!

*The Audubon Society
Field Guide to Wildflowers



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Be Alert For Silo Gas

We are fast approaching silo filling time; in fact many farmers are servicing their equipment now. This is one of the best methods of harvesting the corn crop to obtain maximum feed nutrients. With our large tower silos, the danger of poisonous gases becomes more important. We urge our farmers to discuss this hazard with their employees and all family members. These gases can develop from one day to 14 days after the silo is filled. Most of the gases have a chlorine-laundry bleach odor and irritates the eyes and respiratory system. Some are yellow and some are colorless. Don't take any chances — warn all your people of this danger.

Never enter a party filled silo without running the blower for at least 15 minutes. These gases are heavier than air and will come

down the chute and into the barn. Be careful around recently filled silos.

To Prepare For Local Fairs

We are rapidly approaching the time for local fairs. These times should be happy events — but once in a while they are not because planning was not done ahead of time. This is the time to take necessary precautions to help prevent the possibility of taking disease to the fair with your animals or bringing infection home to your farm.

Many fairs require health charts and specific tests or vaccinations for animals and poultry. Be sure to read the health requirements carefully. And, it doesn't hurt to be more strict than what the regulations may require.

Animals or poultry with any form of ailment should be left at home.

When animals or poultry leave the fair and go home, it's important to have a place where you can isolate them and observe them closely for a period of time before returning them to their herdmates. If in doubt, consult your veterinarian for advice.

To Keep Stand-By Generators In Order

The value of stand-by generators was very evident this summer with the many power failures from lightning and high winds. The important thing is to have a generator that is in good working condition. We never know when we

will have storms (rain, snow, ice or wind) that will take away our regular power source.

Highly mechanized farmers are urged to test their generators and be sure they are in top condition. If the generator is old, or not in good condition, it might be wise to invest in another one. Some losses have been very high due to the lack of electricity for a short period of time. Planning for emergency action when electric power is off is very good management.

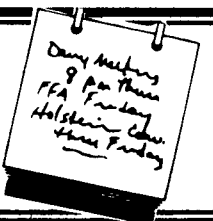
To Fertilize Alfalfa

The fall of the year, after the removal of the last cutting, is a good time to topdress existing alfalfa stands. The application of a phosphorus-potash fertilizer (according to a soil test) in the fall will strengthen the alfalfa roots and result in higher yields next summer. Nitrogen should not be needed on established alfalfa stands because alfalfa is a legume and produces its own nitrogen. Some growers topdress with fertilizer in the fall and again after the removal of the first cutting in the spring.

This should result in maximum yields with a healthy stand. When alfalfa plants are well fed and treated for insect injury, they should be able to stand weather adversities. Alfalfa plants are heavy feeders on both phosphorus and potash. Unless these elements are replaced each year, the plants and yield will suffer.

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Farm Calendar



Saturday, August 23
Southeast District 4-H Horse Show, Berks County 4-H Center, Leesport.
Pork Fest Recipe Contest, Black Angus Restaurant, Adamstown.

Sunday, August 24
Sullivan County Fair, Forksville; continues through Aug. 30.
West End Fair, Gilbert; continues through Aug. 30.

Monday, August 25
Elizabethtown Community Fair, Elizabethtown; continues through Aug. 30.
Indiana County Fair, Indiana; continues through Aug. 30.

Tuesday, August 26
Jamestown Community Fair, Jamestown; continues through Aug. 30.
Wattsburg Fair, Wattsburg; continues through Aug. 31.
Allentown Fair, Allentown; continues through Sept. 1.
Greene-Dreher/Sterling Fair, Newfoundland; continues through Sept. 1.
Flemington Agricultural Fair.

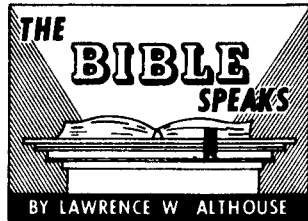
Wednesday, August 27
Big Knob Grange Fair, Rochester; continues through Aug. 30.
Great Stoneboro Fair, Stoneboro; continues through Sept. 1.

Thursday, August 28
South Mountain Community Fair, Arendtsville; continues through Sept. 1.

Saturday, August 30
Corn Festival, Shippensburg Main Street, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. For

information call Rose Dillner, 717-532-8155.

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DOES GOD DELIVER?
August 24, 1986

Background Scripture: Daniel 3.
Devotional Reading: Daniel 6:10-18.

Survival is one of the principal values in our society today — that is, doing whatever one has to do at whatever cost to get through a crisis. All kinds of compromises and surrenders are blessed in the name of "survival."

Now, I'm not against survival, as such, but neither do I believe it is the highest of all values. Actually, in the long run, none of us permanently survive in this earthly life. Yes, let's survive as long as we can in this situation and that, but not at the cost of our integrity in the sight of God.

BUT, IF NOT

That's one of the things that

makes the story of Daniel so provocative for us: it is a story of survival vs. loyalty. Faced with what Daniel and his friends faced, many of us would have said, "What the heck, if it comes to that, a little idolatry can't be all that harmful if I remain true to God in my heart." Or: "I can serve God better, if I survive!" But Daniel and his friends — Shadrack, Meshach, and Abednego — decided that loyalty to God was more important than earthly survival. (Actually, we might say they were interested in long-term, rather than short-term survival.)

Now, the sticky point is that Daniel and his friends survived because they were faithful and loyal to God. Thus, we may be led to falsely assume that being loyal is the way to survive. Unfortunately, we know that it doesn't necessarily work that way. There are lots of examples of people who have suffered a great deal because they have tried to remain loyal, rather than compromise their faith. The chief example: Jesus.

DELIVERANCE

We are liable to miss the key to Daniel and his friends: they did what they did, not because they were assured of surviving, but because they could not bring themselves to sacrifice their loyalty to God for the sake of escaping the fiery furnace: "... be it known to you, O King, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image you have set up" (3:18). Even if they were to die a horrible death, they would not compromise, for the "deliverance" they would receive from God would be of a much higher order than their physical deliverance from the furnace.

It would be the deliverance that counts in the long run — the deliverance of eternity.

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FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

Dear Editor
In reference to Gail Stull's letter in the Farm Forum August 9 issue concerning basil being a problem weed.

It seems she is making reference to Wild Basil—Satureja vulgaris—*description rose-purple flowers, mingled with hairy bracts that give them a woolly appearance, are in a dense rounded cluster at the top of the square hairy stem and in smaller clusters in the upper leaf axils. Flowers, June-Sept. Habitat—Roadsides, pastures, thickets.

I know of no nursery company that sells this plant.

Nurseries and herb farms do sell

