

## Cheap Food And Fall Political Races

America's 2,328,000 farmers provide the food and fiber for 201 million people in the U.S., plus another 70 million in other parts of the world. No other country has this kind of production efficiency.

The most recent U.S. Department of Agriculture figures indicate that it costs a farmer \$517.98 to raise enough food for one person for a year. This comes to a production cost of \$139.5 billion to feed 271 million people.

According to Dean Belt, University of Delaware Extension Agricultural Agent, one U.S. farmer now grows enough food for 116 people. "We are the best fed nation in the world," Belt says. "And at the same time, we spend only 15 percent of our after-tax income on food—much less than in most other countries. As consumers, Americans are very fortunate that farmers are able to produce the variety of foods they do for such a low cost."

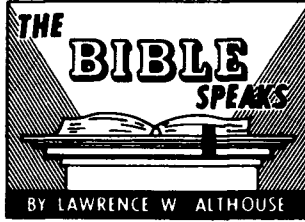
For every dollar Americans spend for food, however, the farmer gets only 27 cents. The rest of that dollar, goes to support the many jobs made possible by the farmer. It takes 13 million people to market and retail the food and fiber farmers produce. It requires an additional 5.4 million people to sell the seeds, equipment and other

farming inputs and to provide the services such as transportation and storage used by farmers.

A loaf of bread is one way to illustrate the farmer's current economic plight. A 54-cent, one-pound loaf of white bread contains 5.1 cents worth of wheat, lard, soybean oil, corn syrup and dairy products. That's all the farmer gets from its sale. The rest of the money goes to pay for manufacturing, marketing, transportation and advertising.

With all the talk about government wanting to help the farmer in the midst of financial crisis, you can't help wondering where the political heart really lies. Representative Jim Jeffords, R-VT, last week told delegates to the Milk Marketing Inc.'s mid-year meeting in Columbus, Ohio, that President Reagan nor congress would support any supply management program that could possibly increase food prices to consumers.

Jeffords pointed out that 435 congressional and 33 senate seats are up for election this year. You get the definite impression that cheap food for the consumer is a lot more important to at least some of our politicians in Washington than a fair income for our farmers' production efficiency.



**WHO'S IN CHARGE?**  
August 31, 1986

**Background Scripture:** Daniel 7 through 8.  
**Devotional Reading:** Daniel 9:14-19.

When we were children, we probably never wondered about "Who's in charge?" We assumed someone was in charge of life and the universe, because that's the way the world seems to be.

But, as we get older, we may begin to wonder if our first impression was, in fact, on target. Is there someone or some thing in charge, and, if so, who or what? Give this question enough thought and you will likely consider one or more of the following possible answers:

1. God's in charge.
2. Human beings are in charge.
3. Nature's in charge.
4. Fate's in charge.
5. Nothing is in charge.

Only answer number one is really satisfying to me. If people are in charge of the universe, that is, in light of our ingenious capacity for failure, very frightening indeed. Nor is it any more reassuring to think that "Nature" might be in charge, or "Fate" (for who's in charge of "Fate"?). Worst of all is the thought that nothing or no one is in charge, that the world is stumbling

along on pure chance.

### FRIGHTENING OPTIONS

Of course, it's not just a matter of who is "in charge" of this universe, but that even greater issue that goes beyond the present moment: is there a plan, a purpose and some fulfillment to which we're headed? This is not just a matter of intellectual curiosity and speculation. For, what we believe about the answers to these questions has a great deal to do with how we live life right now. If there's no purpose to all of this, then why try? But, if quite beyond my own efforts and meaning, God has an eternal purpose for us and the whole of creation, I am freed to live on a higher level in the here and now.

### THE END TIME

That's why from time to time we need people like Daniel to find and share a vision that looks beyond the present moment and even beyond our own time and place: "Understand, O son of man, that the vision is for the time of the end" (8:17). For, no matter how obscure the symbols in the prophet's vision, the message is clear: God is in charge and the end of all things is in his hands.

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## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

### To Control Johnsongrass

This sorghum-like grass is a problem on many fields in this part of the state. There are cases where nothing is being done to control this weed; for those I would remind you that Johnsongrass is listed as a noxious weed in Pennsylvania. In corn there is little that can be done at this time of year except cut the seed-head off and burn them. It'll require treatment at planting time.

However, in other fields such as small grains, where the growth of Johnsongrass reaches 2½ to 3 feet - in the boot stage - the plants may be sprayed with Roundup. These plants are very heavy seed producers; a few plants allowed to go to seed this fall will mean hundreds of plants next summer. Johnsongrass is fast growing and will crowd out most farm crops. We urge landowners to make every effort to eliminate Johnsongrass

from their farm. The 1986-86 Agronomy Guide lists control information.

### To Be Safe During This Busy Season

We are entering one of the busiest and most hazardous times of the year... silo filling and corn picking time. Blend into that time wheat and barley planting and the last cutting of alfalfa. This means a lot of farm machinery will be on our highways during semi-dark or dark hours.

Slow moving vehicles such as farm equipment traveling on highways present a real traffic hazard. The motorist must recognize that a tractor traveling at 10 to 15 miles per hour is almost standing still compared to a 55 mph car. Most highway drivers have never driven a farm machine on the highway and simply do not realize how slow they do travel.

Proper identification and warning is very important. Let's keep alert this busy fall season both on the highway and in the fields.

### To Mow or Not To Mow Alfalfa

Each year we receive a lot of calls as to whether alfalfa should be cut the first part of September or not. According to crop authorities it is not just a simple yes or no question. If you have left one of your cuttings go into full bloom, then you do not need to be concerned; however, if you have not, then do not cut the first two weeks of September. The reason for this is, it's the period when the plants are storing food in

developing rhizomes for next year's growth. To disturb this development will result in less rhizomes and less growth next year. The final cutting can be made in late September or early October. On stands that have been established this spring, from which one or two cuttings have already been made, it's best to allow it to stand; this will give a little better winter protection.

The application of a phosphate-potash fertilizer this fall is a good practice. Use your soil results as a guide on rates of application.

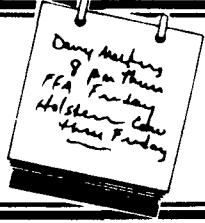
### To Protect Yourself From Mosquitos

If you enjoy being outdoors but hate being eaten alive by mosquitos and biting flies, Dr. Clarence Collision, Extension Entomologist at Penn State, has some good advice. It's a chemical called Deet and it can be the most personal insect repellent.

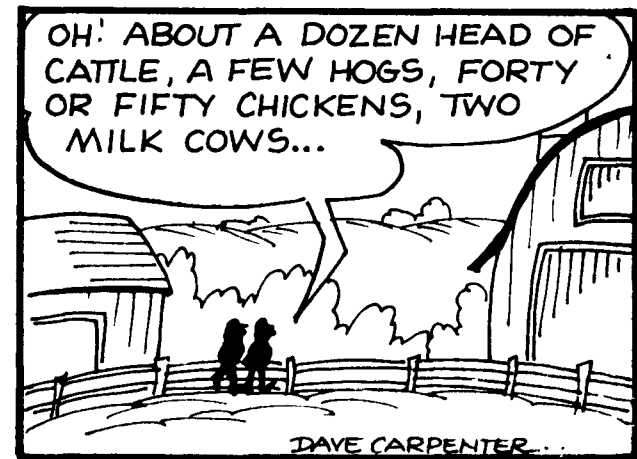
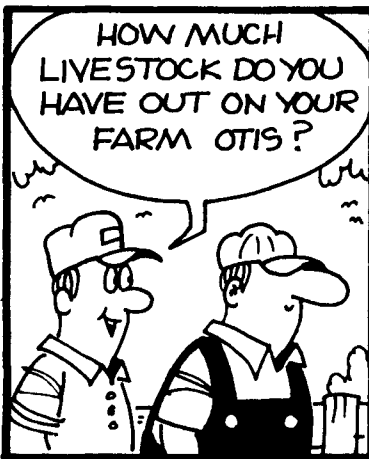
For best resistance, look on the label for a Deet concentration of at least 50 percent. Aerosols can be applied to clothing, while foams and lotions can be used directly on the skin. Lotions have the best repellent properties. If you are going to be out in a deep woods area where the population of biting insects is very high, lotions would be best.

Repellents containing Deet can be safely applied to the skin, however, repellents can be irritating so be especially careful when you are protecting children and avoid getting lotions or sprays in eyes or mouth.

# Farm Calendar



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| <p><b>Saturday, August 30</b><br/>Corn Festival, Shippensburg Main Street, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. For information call Rose Dillner at 717-532-8155.<br/>Juniata County Fair, Port Royal; continues through Sept. 6.<br/>Peach Harvest Festival, Maple Lawn Farms, New Park.</p> <p><b>Sunday, August 31</b><br/>Spartansburg Community Fair, Spartansburg.</p> <p><b>Monday, September 1</b><br/>Cambria County Fair, Ebensburg; continues through Sept. 6.<br/>Ox Hill Community Fair, Home; continues through Sept. 6.<br/>Waterford Community Fair, Waterford; continues through Sept. 6.<br/>West Alexander Fair, West Alexander; continues through Sept. 6.</p> <p><b>Wednesday, September 3</b><br/>Lancaster Conservation District Board Meeting.<br/>Dallas Area Fall Fair, Dallas; continues through Sept. 7.</p> <p><b>Thursday, September 4</b><br/>Pa. Holstein Championship Show, 9:30 a.m. Ag Arena, Penn State.</p> <p><b>W. Md. Ag Field Day, Research Education Center, Keedysville; reservations advised. Call 301-791-2298.</b></p> | <p><b>Friday, September 5</b><br/>30th Annual Thurmont and Emmitsburg Community Show, Catoctin High School, Thurmont, Md.; continues through Sept. 7.<br/>York Interstate Fair, York; continues through Sept. 13.</p> <p><b>Saturday, September 6</b><br/>Open House, Sire Power Headquarters, Tunkhannock; contact DuWayne Kutz at 717-836-3127.<br/>District 4-H Horse Show, Hughesville Fairgrounds, 8:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>Sunday, September 7</b><br/>108th Annual PennAg Convention, Seven Springs Resort, Champion; continues through Sept. 9.</p> <p><b>Monday, September 8</b><br/>Bellwood Antis Farm Show, Bellwood; continues through Sept. 11.<br/>Green Township Fair, Commodore; continues through Sept. 13.</p> <p><b>Monday, September 9</b><br/>Claysburg Farm Show, Claysburg; continues through Sept. 12.<br/>Albion Area Fair, Albion; continues through Sept. 13.<br/>Recreational Vehicle Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg; continues through Sept. 14.</p> | <p><b>Wednesday, September 10</b><br/>Lebanon County Flower Show, 4 to 10 p.m., Lebanon Valley Exposition Building, Cornwall and Evergreen Roads, Lebanon. Continues Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.<br/>Greenhouse Growers School, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, Wednesday afternoons; continue through Sept. 29.<br/>Berlin Brothers Valley Fair, Berlin; continues through Sept. 13.<br/>Williamsburg Community Farm Show, Williamsburg; continues through Sept. 16.<br/>Soil Aeration Technology Demonstration, Hathorne Farms, Stanley, N.Y.</p> <p><b>Thursday, September 11</b><br/>Farm City Council Kick-Off Banquet, Wilson College, Chambersburg.</p> <p><b>Saturday, September 13</b><br/>Weekend horse ride in Blue Mountains, sponsored by Central Berks Riding Club. For flyer call Gene or Beverly at 717-366-1131.</p> |
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## Extension Economist To Speak

**HONESDALE** - The speaker for the annual dinner meeting of the Wayne County Cooperative Extension Association scheduled for Sept. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Bethany Methodist Church Hall will be H. Louis Moore, agricultural economist, Penn State University.

A milk punch reception will be held from 7:30-7:45 p.m.

Additional activities will include the election of seven new members to the Extension executive committee and distribution of the annual report. Robert Muller Sr., president, of the Extension Executive Committee will conduct the meeting.

All persons interested in Extension work are welcome to attend