



OPINION

A Reminder We Can't Escape

The only redeeming value of losing the life of a 13-year-old boy on an upset three wheeler is what we can learn from this tragic accident. Someone said you can't lose your life on a three wheeler. But it isn't so.

A Lancaster County youth was killed last Saturday evening when an all-terrain vehicle he was operating flipped on a small hill in a field. State Police said the autopsy showed the boy died from traumatic chest injuries. He was riding on a 100-acre farm of a neighbor between cut corn and hay fields when he drove up a short bank between the fields and the vehicle flipped end over end. The boy had permission to be riding there. But he wasn't wearing his helmet.

It's a sad, sad story. And our hearts go out to the family. But we mention it here as a reminder

again that we must treat all farm equipment with respect. ATV's have become part of farm life. They are economical, but powerful. Sometimes they act in place of tractors to haul a load of hay or carry a farmer to tend his fences. And when the farm work is finished, the ATV becomes an RV (recreational vehicle) that provides transportation to the fishing hole or goes along to the hunting camp in the mountains.

As we grieve with the family this week, we have a feeling of loss so great that it provides a reminder we can't escape. We must rededicate ourselves again to self-discipline. A self-discipline that does not allow ourselves to get so absorbed in our work or play that we forget to respect our ATV as a farm machine that has the capacity to add grief as well as pleasure to our lives.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Salute 4-H

National 4-H Week runs through the week of Oct. 5 to 11. I wish to commend the 3,567 members, 550 volunteer adult leaders, 47 teen leaders and professional youth workers for their accomplishments and service to Lancaster County.

Through 4-H projects and activities, youth from all social and economic backgrounds, both rural and urban, demonstrate that they can make a difference in food production, conservation of our natural resources, improve economic understanding, and in the formulation of future career decisions.

As a result of the fine exchange

programs, 4-H also contributes to international understanding and increased world food production. Four-H provides an important pathway to the future for many youth.

To Manage Horizontal Silos

Most of our permanent silos are filled, but we do have some livestock and dairy producers that need to store silage in temporary structures. In many cases this is a trench or a bunker silo, mostly above ground. In these cases, it is very important to keep out excess water and air from the silage mass. This will require tightening down the plastic cover week by week as the silage settles. Also, surface water should be drained away from the silage area. There are cases where the black plastic is flapping in the wind during fall months. This will usually result in large amounts of spoiled silage.

To Beware of Grazing Hazards

Dairy farmers who are grazing their milking herds in woodlots, or in pastures with oak trees, should be on the alert for fallen acorns. Our Veterinary Science people tell us that acorns are somewhat toxic to cattle and will dry up most cows for the rest of their lactation. We are aware of many oak trees in pastures, and in most years there will be a pretty good acorn crop.

If the cows start eating acorns, then the milk flow will be reduced

drastically. Either cows should be removed from the area, or someone should pick up the acorns before the cows are turned out daily.

To Store Apples Properly

This is apple picking season and whether you grow apples or just like to eat them, there's some information on how to store them.

Remember that cool apples will keep longer. Ideally, they should be stored at 33° Fahrenheit at 90 percent humidity and in dim light or darkness. Since most people can't provide these ideal conditions, the next best thing is a family-type refrigerator. Just put the apples in a plastic bag, then close the bag loosely or punch a few holes in it so the air can circulate.

Now as to picking, it's a good practice to store the fruit in shade as it's picked, then allow it to stand in the orchard overnight to cool. Then, place the apples in storage early in the morning before the temperature rises too much.

If you leave apples in a packing shed or in piles under the tree for one week, you'll shorten their storage life by about five weeks. So keep apples cool, maintain good air circulation during storage and your apples should keep a long time.

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Farm Calendar



Saturday, October 4

Lancaster County Pomona Grange legislative dinner, Witmer Fire Hall, 6:30 p.m. For tickets (\$6.50 each) call Everett Kreider at 717-786-1545.

National Apple Harvest Festival, South Mountain Fairgrounds, Arentsville, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.;

continues Oct. 5 and Oct. 11 to 12.

Falmouth Goat Race, Falmouth, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, October 6

Manheim Community Fair, Manheim; continues through Oct. 10.

Annual Conference, State Conservation Commission and PACDD, Holiday Inn, Johnstown; continues through Oct. 8.

Tuesday, October 7

Holidaysburg Community Fair, Holidaysburg; continues through Oct. 10.

Pa. Association of Farmer Cooperatives annual meeting; contact Kathy Gill at 717-232-7232.

Pesticide License Update Training Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Blue Ball Elementary School.

Wednesday, October 8

Unionville Community Fair, Unionville; continues through Oct. 11.

Thursday, October 9

Pa. Friends of Agriculture Foundation, Hershey Convention Center.

York County Hazardous Waste Collection Days, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., PennDot Facility, N. George and I-83, Exit 10; continues tomorrow.

York County 4-H Achievement Night, 4-H Center, 7:30 p.m. Fall Feeder Calf Sale, Mercer Livestock Auction, 7 p.m.

Friday, October 10

Maryland Egg Council Annual Meeting, 140 Village Center.

State 4-H Horse Show, Farm Show Complex; continues through Oct. 12. Contact James Gallagher at 814-865-1362.

Unionville Fair Dairy Show, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 11

Berks County Sheep Tour; contact Clyde Myers at 215-378-1327.

Ox Roast, Witmer Fire Company. Maryland Shorthorn Association Calf Sale, Frederick Fairgrounds, 7 p.m.

Unionville Fair Beef Show, 9 a.m.

Sunday, October 12

Mason/Dixon Angus Sale, Rocky Forge Farm, Hagerstown, Md., 1 p.m. Contact Dr. Joseph Eisenbaugh at 301-797-4078.

Monday, October 13

Lancaster Farmer's Association Annual Meeting, Country Table Restaurant, 7:30 p.m.

Fulton Grange 66 meeting, Fulton Grange Hall, Oakryn. New officers will be installed.

Tuesday, October 14

Pennsylvania Farm Women Day. Dairylea Cooperative, Inc. annual meeting, Syracuse; call 315-476-9101.

Thursday, October 16

Dillsburg Community Fair, Dillsburg; continues through Oct. 18.

Bedford Farm Bureau Co-op Association annual meeting, Bedford. Contact: Gerald Miller, 814-623-6194.

Pa. Veterinary Medical Association annual meeting, Pocono Hershey Resort, White Haven; continues through Oct. 19. Call 717-233-7720.

Penn National Horse Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg; continues through Oct. 25. Contact Corby Rider, 717-236-1600.

Lebanon Manure Management Field Day, Hoover Farms, at intersection of Routes 322 and 934, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. To register, call Ken Winebark, 717-274-2801.

Friday, October 17

Uniontown Poultry and Farm Produce Show, Uniontown; continues through Oct. 19. Green Dragon Annual Dairy Cow Show and Sale.

Saturday, October 18

Pa. Shorthorn Breeders Autumn Classic; Waynesburg; contact Richard Peoples, 412-533-4473. Discovery '86 Club Calf Sale, Lebanon Fairgrounds, 1 p.m.

FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

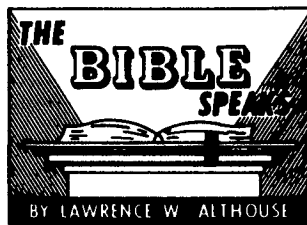
To The Editor:

In recent months your paper has featured "pro-farm" candidate for Governor, Wm. Scranton, at least twice on its front page. We are offended, even though we have traditionally voted Republican and usually support the Republican ticket.

You should be aware that Mr. Scranton is "pro-choice" (read, "pro-abortion"), or anti-life. Since when can an anti-life candidate for public office be construed as pro-farm? The blood, sweat and tears of the American Farmer are dedicated to LIVING things - our crops and animals, not to mention our families, born and unborn!

You must be aware that the farm families who are your readers have to be among the sane majority of Americans who know that abortion is nothing less than murder. Mr. Scranton's opponent, Bob Casey, knows that abortion is murder and is strongly and openly opposed to it. It looks to us that Mr. Casey, as the pro-life candidate, is the truly pro-farm candidate.

Jim & Barbara Barlow
Meadow Bend Farm
Orbisonia, PA



THE YEAR OF JUBILEE October 5, 1986

Background Scripture: Leviticus 25

Devotional Reading: Leviticus 19: 9-18

The year of jubilee is one of the most interesting and unique concepts in the Old Testament: "And you shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants: it shall be a jubilee for you..." (25:10a). Every fifty years was to be a year of jubilee, a year in which the people are to return to their original homes, in which families shall regather, in which servants and slaves shall be given their freedom and family properties be reclaimed.

RETURN TO THE FAMILY

One of the purposes of the year of jubilee was to undergird the family

life of the nation and a unique concept of property: "...each of you shall return to his property" (25:10b). The land of Israel was given by God as an inheritance for the families of Israel, not as a possession for financial exploitation. The strength of Israel's social and economic structure was to be a strong bond between the land and the family. Actually, Leviticus encouraged people to redeem their land even before the year of Jubilee.

But the spirit behind the year of jubilee is also concerned with ending exploitation of the poor and unfortunate. Slaves and servants are to be freed in the year of jubilee - "proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants." People, who because of financial necessity, sell their family homestead shall receive it back in the year of jubilee.

THE JUBILEE SPIRIT

Best of all, one doesn't have to wait until the 50th year to make these necessary changes. There is a deep concern for the welfare of the powerless and unfortunate. "And if your brother becomes poor beside you, you shall not make him serve as a slave..." (25:39). In other words, although the year of jubilee was a special time set aside to eliminate exploitation, the spirit of jubilee needed to be kept even in the non-jubilee years: "You shall not wrong one another, but you shall fear your God; for I am the Lord your God" (25:17).

Thus, the year of jubilee was for everyone, not just the fortunate few. And it was never to be limited to an occasion every fifty years. We observe Christmas just one day a year, but the purpose of Christmas is to motivate our days for the rest of the next twelve months. So it was with the jubilee. In the heart, every year should be the year of jubilee.

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