



OPINION

Support Friends of Agriculture

BY EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

A lot of people have had a hand in developing the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation. And many more people will help reach a goal to establish a \$1 million endowment that will earn income to subsidize ag research and informational projects. The board of directors for the newly formed foundation, as reported last week, includes an elite group of persons in the agricultural, research and agribusiness community. They listed the following types of programs that may be supported by the foundation.

—Provide grants for studies on methods of providing clean water, clean air, and soil conservation and for preparation of educational materials to disseminate the findings.

—Provide grants for research on animal health and diseases which threaten the livestock industry, plant disease and other production problems and to develop programs to disseminate the results and findings of such research.

—Provide grants for research into and development of waste disposal methods to curb or eliminate pollution of underground and surface water systems, and develop programs to educate the public on the problem and potential solutions.

—Develop media programs for radio and television and prepare printed materials for educational seminars to inform and educate the public on agricultural issues, and to sponsor seminars and speakers.

—Sponsor educational and informational activities and provide financial assistance to school-aged youth organizations such as, 4-H, Future Farmers of America, and sponsor conferences such as, youth camps, to develop interest in agricultural pursuits and awareness of opportunities among young persons.

—Disseminate information to the

public on job career opportunities in agriculture through seminars, printed materials and announcements on radio and television.

—Provide grants for studies to economic structures and the economics of agriculture to develop information valuable to the agricultural and industrial community for development of agricultural methods, mechanization, products and marketing.

—Develop programs designed to preserve farmland.

—Fund scholarships for students in higher education in agricultural areas, particularly animal health, plant disease, marketing and environmental aspects of farming.

—Sponsor research and analysis of present forms of taxation as it affects the economics of agriculture and to develop alternate methods of taxation with regard to the agricultural industry in Pennsylvania.

—Preservation of agricultural industry for the year 2,000, including allied industries.

It's obvious this effort deserves the monetary support of everyone who has an interest in the future of agriculture in Pennsylvania, in the nation and in the world. While the Pennsylvania Farmers Association initiated the idea, they opened it up so that a large cross section of agriculture and agbusiness leaders will have a hand in administrating the foundation. Already the funds have begun to flow into the treasurer.

Some suggested ways to invest in the future of agriculture through this foundation include: outright gift, bequests, deferred gifts, charitable remainder trusts, lead trust, and life insurance gifts.

Whether it be through one of these ways or by some other creative plan that you may devise, we think a great number of people will want to make contributions to the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Graze Cautiously

We receive many phone calls concerning the damages of pasturing forage crops after being frosted. All of the permanent grasses such as bluegrass, orchardgrass or bromegrass can be safely grazed at any time of the year; this is also true of any of the small grain cover crops such as rye, wheat or barley. All of these are not toxic when frozen and usually do not present any bloating problems.

However, the legumes such as clover and alfalfa should be grazed very carefully. They are not toxic after being frosted, but will cause severe bloating if consumed while the frost is on the leaves. Allow the frost to thaw, and the plants to dry off before turning in the herd or flock.

Also, any of the sudan grasses or sorghum hybrids should not be grazed for at least a week after being frozen. Neither should the new growth, after being frozen, be consumed.

To Reduce Egg Breakage

Egg breakage is costing poultry producers a great deal. You would be surprised how much. Some poultry producers do not realize how many eggs they are losing because they do not keep an accurate record of them. In studies where this has been checked carefully, the percentage of eggs broken range from 2 percent to five percent up to 20 percent.

With a flock of 30,000 layers averaging 70 percent production, a loss of 4 percent is 84,000 eggs or 7,000 dozen a year. This loss comes to \$3,500 when eggs sell for 50 cents per dozen.

Check the nests or cages for needed repair. Often we find eggs being broken right in the cages. Check the egg trays. If these are bent, they can break many eggs. Careful handling will reduce breakage if eggs are gathered by hand. Trying for too much speed in gathering may cause more loss than a little extra time.

With mechanical gathering, check the escalators to be sure they are timed properly and are not breaking eggs. Check the orientors to be sure eggs are not piling up. This is an egg cracker on many farms.

To Be Careful Around Manure Pits

This is the time of year that many liquid manure pits will be cleaned out and spread on the land; the crops have been harvested and the ground is open enough to absorb much of the liquid; this is necessary rather than to apply it on frozen ground. A pass over the field with a disc will reduce the possibility of odors a great deal.

When these pits are emptied there is a danger of poisonous gases being present. If the mixture is agitated before being moved then good ventilation must be provided above the pit. Also, never go into a pit without a gas mask or some type of respirator. Keep in mind these gases can be explosive as well as poisonous to man and animal. Special care is needed in and around manure pits.

To Control Mice and Rats

As the weather turns colder, mice and rats seek shelter and migrate from the outdoors to the indoors — and they may choose your home.

When nights become chilly, mice and rats move into garages, storerooms and barns. And if there is food in the area, they're likely to set up housekeeping there until colder weather drives them into your house.

Mice can crawl through holes and cracks as small as a dime. They can enter where pipes go through the wall. And some are so bold, they'll run through an open door while you're entering the house.

If you find signs of mice activity, there are two good ways to get rid of them. If there are just a few mice, a trap is a good remedy. Bait the trap with bacon, peanut butter or cheese and set it near a wall so that the trigger is pointed towards the wall. If a large number of mice are present, than baits are more effective. The bait should be put in bait stations so that children or pets cannot get to it.

The Cooperative Extension Service is an affirmative action, equal opportunity educational institution.

Extension Office, Chestertown, Md.

Wednesday, October 22

Plant Propagation Seminar, Stoneboro Nurseries, Stoneboro, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$60 registration fee.

"Rural People and Places: A Symposium on Typologies," Grantville; continues through Oct. 24. For information contact Al Luloff, NERCRD, 814-863-4650.

Thursday, October 23

Bucks County Holstein Association's Barn Meeting at Jim Byers, Doylestown. Topic: Barn Ventilation.

Agway annual meeting, Syracuse; continues through Oct. 24. Contact Richard Arnold at 315-477-6506.

Adams County Holstein Banquet, 7 p.m. at Hainey Firehall.

Hunterdon County Farm Bureau Resolutions Dinner meeting, Ringoes Grnge, 7 p.m. For reservations call 201-788-1338.

Friday, October 24

Texas Longhorn Breeders Seminar, Sheraton Inn, Gettysburg; continues through Oct. 25.

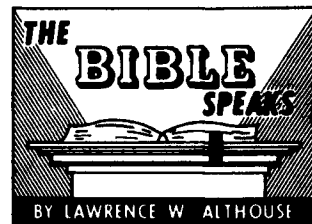
Penn State Ag Festival; continues through Oct. 25. Contact Betsy Dupuis at 814-355-2768.

Columbia County DHIA meeting, Orangeville Masonic Hall, 11:45 a.m.

Saturday, October 25

Pa. Simmental Association Sale, Green County Fairgrounds. Contact: Adeline Angevine, 814-966-3762.

(Turn to Page A31)



BLESS THIS HOUSE
October 19, 1986

Background Scripture: 2 Samuel 7

Devotional Reading: Isaiah 60:19-22

King David's encounter with God in 2 Samuel 7 is an interesting experience based upon a play on words. David begins to feel conscience-stricken that, while he, as King of Israel, dwells in a beautiful dwelling of cedar wood, the Lord still has no permanent home among them but the tent or tabernacle which the people of Israel carried with them in the wilderness and on into the promised land.

THE HOUSE OF DAVID

David resolves to build a house for the Lord, but, through Nathan, God informs him that he shall concentrate, not upon a house for the Lord, but upon his own house or family which God shall bless and make into a great dynasty: "And your house and your kingdom shall be made secure forever before me" (7:16).

What an honor and privilege for David and his generations! If God were to make that promise to any

of us, we would be on the proverbial "cloud nine."

But there is more here than privilege and honor—there is also God's purpose and heavy responsibility for David and his progeny. God is selecting David, not to lift him above all others, but because he has a purpose to fulfill through David. If the honor is great, the responsibility is even greater.

You and I may not be earmarked for greatness as David was, but nevertheless God blesses each of us and our own "houses" for the same reason: he has a purpose to fulfill through us. So, when we ask God to "bless this house," it is with the understanding that blessing carries with it responsibility.

"I WILL CHASTEN"

And, along with the blessing and responsibility, there is also an accountability. God says of David's son, Solomon, "I will chasten him with the rod of men..." David and his descendants will not be above the law, but, like everyone else, they will be held accountable by God. So we, too, must realize that, if God blesses us and our house, he also, like a father, holds us accountable when we do wrong. In fact, because we are closer to God, we will need to be even more sensitive to the ways in which we please or displease him.

But, when we are chastened and reproved by God, let us remember his promise to David: "but I will not take my steadfast love from him" (7:15). Even when we stray, God still offers his love and blesses our houses.

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Farm Calendar

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.

Sunday, October 19

Open Gate Farm Tour Day, Lehigh County.

Monday, October 20

Farm City Week begins. National Association of Extension 4-H Agents, national conference, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center; continues

through Oct. 25. Contact Donald Tanner at 717-385-3431.

United Egg Producers annual meeting, Scottsdale, Ariz.

Tuesday, October 21

Plant Propagation Seminar, Erb Brothers Nursery, Lancaster, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$60 registration fee. Contact Pa. Nurserymen's Association, 1924 North Second Street, Harrisburg, Pa. 17102; 717-238-1673.

Kent County, Maryland, DHIA meeting, 7:30 p.m. Kent County

