



OPINION

Beware Of Rabies

Between January 1 and October 17, 1986, residents in nearly 30 Pennsylvania counties have submitted a total of 463 rabid animals to the Department of Agriculture. That compares with 450 total cases for all of 1985. As you probably know, rabies is a deadly disease carried by animals. Often wild animals effect domestic animals who in turn pass the disease on to farm families.

Philip Johnson of Garret knows first hand about rabies. Johnson is quoted in the Adams Electric edition of Penn Lines as follows.

"It sounds fairly simple until it happens to you." After the family dog killed a rabid raccoon last October, four Johnson family members had to undergo treatment, a series of five shots at a total cost of over \$1,000.

"If I had happened to think, I would have realized right away that something was wrong," Johnson now says of the incident that Friday evening. "We knew the dog had probably licked all of us after he killed the coon. We also knew we all had scratches on our hands, because we'd been cutting firewood and doing farm chores that day."

"By the time we knew the coon was rabid and had all the information, almost 10 days had passed—the limit they said we could wait before treatment," Johnson says. "We decided, 'Let's get the shots started.' You can't take a chance like that with the whole family."

The Johnson family learned that everyone—including health-care professionals—should know that:

One, rabies can be contracted from contact with the saliva of a rabid animal for up to two hours after it is dead. The virus can enter either through bites, cuts or scratches on the hands or other parts of the body.

Two, you have from seven to 10 days after exposure to rabies virus to begin treatment. There is no blood test to detect exposure, and treatment must begin before symptoms are noticed. Symptoms may appear from 12 days to one year after exposure, and vary from depression to erratic behavior, from a dry mouth to foaming. It is most often fatal.

What precautions can people take? Health officials say:

- Be extremely cautious around animals acting in a suspicious manner: normally shy animals can lunge and bite even when apparently paralyzed. Never approach a wild animal, especially if it appears to be acting "friendly" or dazed.
- Suspected rabid wildlife should be killed and buried. Wear gloves when touching the carcass to avoid contact between the animal and your skin, eyes, nose or mouth.
- If anyone has been exposed to the suspected rabid animal, submit the carcass as soon as possible to the nearest health department. Place the carcass, with head intact, in a heavy duty plastic bag inside a metal container, and keep the specimen cool and away from children and pets until it reaches the nearest health department.

According to Dr. Ernest Witte, director of the Division of Acute Infectious Epidemiology of the Pa. Department of Health, this wave of rabies, which started in Florida in the 1970s and moved north, is expected to continue to the north and east across Pennsylvania.

"It won't taper off in the winter months, though fewer incidents may be reported. In fact, it may run for several more years," Dr. Witte says. The last rabies epidemic to hit Pennsylvania wildlife, in the 1950s, affected mostly foxes. The current, greater epidemic affecting Pennsylvania's large raccoon population is alarming because raccoons by nature are more likely to wander into populated areas and come in contact with people and pets.

Only one death from rabies, that of a young boy last year, has been reported in the state since 1952. Dr. John Cable, a veterinarian with the state Department of Agriculture, emphasizes that vaccination for pets is a valuable barrier between people and rabid wildlife. Even though the vaccine is not 100-percent effective in preventing rabies in an individual animal, it has been extremely important in control of the disease.

So if you suspect that you, any member of your family or any of your livestock or family pets have been exposed to rabies, act immediately. Don't take any chances. It can happen to you. So beware of rabies.

86 years old, born and lived here all my life. There are a few other farms in the county. The Hunsberger Farm in Plumstead Township, owned by George Hunsberger and his wife, is also a Century Farm.

Yours Sincerely
Alvin F. Moyer

Mr. Moyer:
The list of Century Farms in last week's issue was not meant to be a comprehensive list of all Century Farms in the state. It listed only farms added to the list during 1986.
Editor.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Be Careful Around Flowing Grain
A major hazard of stored grain is to become covered up and smothered by it. It is very dangerous to be standing in a grain bin when it begins to flow. It takes only a few seconds for an unloading auger to remove enough grain for a person to start sinking into the grain.

Never enter a grain bin without first "locking out" all the power source; also, never enter the bin without another person present. Children should be warned about entering grain bins because of the danger of "bridging" of the grain or the shifting of large areas. All employees should be alerted to the

hazards of flowing grain.

To Consider Attending No-Till Conference
"No-Tillage: The Key To Profitable Farming," is the theme of our 1986 Mid-Atlantic No-Till Conference scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 17 at the York Fairgrounds.

The program committee has arranged for prominent speakers to cover such timely topics as: New Sprayer Technology; Take Home Weed Control Programs; Economics of No-Till; Diseases of Corn; Creating the Environment For Successful No-Till Forage Establishment. The keynote speaker, Dr. Earl Butz, will speak on, "There Is Still A Rainbow In Agriculture."

There are a great many commercial exhibitors with representatives eager to greet and help you. The program starts at 9 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m.

Tickets and program details are now available from County Extension offices.

To Be Careful When Cleaning Manure Pits
Many manure pits will be emptied at this time of year; it's an opportunity to clean out the pit before cold weather arrives. When this volume of manure is agitated there is greater danger of toxic and explosive gases being released. Every precaution should be taken. If animals are housed above the pits, maximum ventilation should

be provided. When the pit is empty or partially empty, no one should enter it without a respirator or gas mask. Dangerous gases may be present. Also, no smoking or open flames should be nearby. These pits are the modern way to store manure, but they do present a hazard to both man and animal.

To Appreciate Harvest Completion
Once again we have come to the end of another growing season and the end of the harvest.

The 1986 year was in general favorable in most areas for field, orchard and garden crops and this has meant good production of food and feed. Some neighboring counties cannot say the same.

The harvest is now 95 percent plus complete. There now comes a good feeling of satisfaction when all is safely gathered in. And it all brings rewards of a feeling that you've done your best.

Rewards from crop production come as a result of a choice selection of seeds and plants; of careful preparation of the seed-bed; of applying soil nutrients, tilling soil and weeding; of cooperation from weather's rain or sunshine and of owner or manager inputs. Harvest time follows. A time of joy and thanksgiving should now prevail.

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

Contact H. Travis McPherson, 301-645-3903.

Wednesday, December 3
Lancaster Conservation District Board Meeting.

Chester County Fall Homemaker's Day, Dilworthtown Presbyterian Church, 1385 Birmingham Road, West Chester, 9:30 a.m.

Insurance Coverage for Farm Families, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., York County Extension office, Pleasant Acres Road, York.
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Farm Calendar

Saturday, November 22
Huntingdon County DHIA Annual Banquet, Ladies Auxiliary Building, Shade Gap, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, November 24
Tax Reform Meeting, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m., and York County 4-H Center, Bair, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, November 25
Pa. Grassland Council Annual Forage Conference, Penn State.

Lebanon County DHIA Banquet, Prescott Fire Hall.
Agriculture-Industry Banquet, Four Seasons Restaurant, Landisville, 7 p.m. Century Farm Families will be recognized.

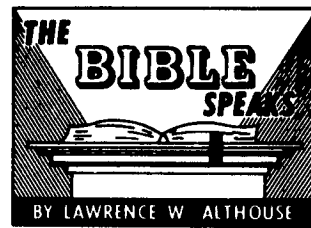
Friday, November 28
Christmas '86 Arts and Crafts Spectacular, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg; continues through Nov. 30.

Saturday, November 29
Mercer County Holstein Banquet, Steese's Restaurant, 8 p.m. Contact the Extension office.

Monday, December 1
Superior Calf Sale, Harrisonburg, Va.
National Agricultural Aviation Association annual convention/expo, Acapulco, Mexico; continues through Dec. 4.

Tuesday, December 2
Delaware State Grange Convention, Capital Grange Hall; continues tomorrow.

USDA "Outlook '87" conference, Washington, D.C.; continues through Dec. 4. Contact Diane Decker, 202-786-1494.
Southern Maryland Crops Conference, Mechanicsville Fire Hall, Mechanicsville, Md.



CHARGED TO BUILD
November 23, 1986

Background Scripture: Ezra 1:1-14; 6:14-16; Nehemiah 4 through 6. Devotional Reading: Nehemiah 2:17-20.

As a pastoral counselor, I have often noted that many people suffer from a deep sense of unaccomplishment. They have never really failed in much, but neither have they attempted much either. It is as if by failing to attempt anything, they have guaranteed themselves an absence of failure in their lives. Often, however, they are nevertheless beset by feelings of failure because they have not accomplished anything.

FEAR OF FAILURE
As this is true in general, it is true spiritually. Many people have little sense of spiritual accomplishment because they have seldom, if ever, ventured

spiritually. There has been little from those early years when they made their basic Christian commitment. And so they come to feel spiritually stagnant and unfulfilled.

So, in every department of our lives God charges us to build something. It may be a local church or a project in outreach. It may be a vocation through which you can minister or it may be an avocation which permits you to witness. But, regardless of what the project may be, God wants you to build something.

There were, of course, practical reasons for the returned exiles to Jerusalem to rebuild the city walls and the temple. The city could not be secure so long as the walls lay in ruins and the temple needed to be re-established as the center of Jewish worship. But even apart from these practical reasons, the returned exiles needed to build something. They needed the challenge and the experience of accomplishment.

OBSTACLES! OBSTACLES!
The obstacles to their success were great. The walls were in ruins. The workforce was relatively small. Their enemies did all they could to discourage and hinder them. Everything, or almost everything, seemed against them. Except that Cyrus, the Persian king, himself believed that the Lord "charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem..." (Ezra 1:2). Furthermore, there was inspiring leadership in both Ezra and Nehemiah.

But, most of all, it was God himself who charged them to build the walls and the temple. Although their enemies tried to thwart them, "When our enemies heard that... God had frustrated their plan, we all returned to the wall, each to his own work" (Nehemiah 4:15).

With God, as in all things: nothing ventured, nothing gained.

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FARM FORUM

OUR READERS WRITE

Dear Sirs:
In looking over the list of Century Farms in Pennsylvania I was disappointed not to see any listed in Bucks County.

My wife and I have a plaque from the government. Our farm is known as the Moyer Homestead Farm. It is listed.

My grandfather purchased this farm 1870. Four generations have lived and farmed that farm. I am

