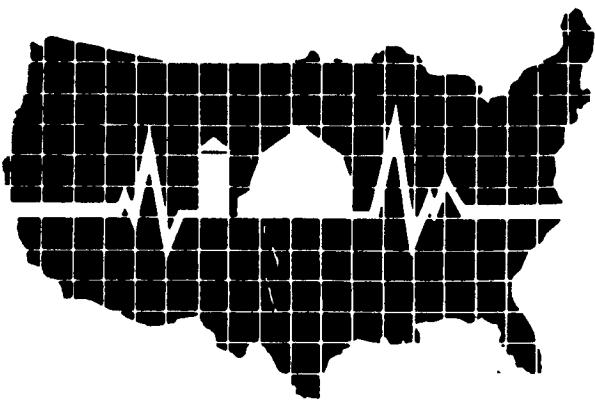




OPINION



AGRICULTURE America's Heartbeat And The First Day of Spring

Before you get the next issue of Lancaster Farming, it will be spring. March 20, you know, is the day all farmers' minds turn to plowing and planting. But that's not all that happens on March 20.

As usual the Congress of the United States and the President have officially recognized this day as National Agricultural Day. And if agriculture should be saluted in the nation, it should also be done in Lancaster Farming Territory. As our new Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Boyd Wolff said this week, "Agriculture is the Commonwealth's leading industry and provides \$35 billion in economic activity and is a significant source of jobs for rural and urban residents.

Across America, agriculture provides 20 percent of the gross national product of \$3.3 trillion. The agriculture-day slogan is "Agriculture: America's Heartbeat", and the theme is "The Business of Food and Fiber." The observance is held annually on the first day of spring, a tradition that has been going on since 1973. Agriculture is America's leading industry and the largest single source of jobs, just like it is in Pennsylvania.

Another way to say it is that agriculture provides employment for one out of every five job holders in Pennsylvania. From those who labor in the fields to others who process foods in city-based plants. The industry of agriculture is an economic lifeline for thousands of rural Pennsylvania communities and the several million people who live in them. It is the source of essential food and fiber for Pennsylvanians wherever they live.

Here are some facts about Pennsylvania agriculture that you might like to know. It's 53,000 farm families annually produce \$4 billion in crops and livestock. The agriculture and food industry employs nearly 1.2 million persons. The most current data on farm product marketing shows

that Pennsylvania ranks 17th in the nation. Pennsylvania's share of agricultural cash receipts in the northeast now stand at 40 percent. The net income per farm averaged \$13,115 in 1985. Farm production expenses were estimated at approximately \$3 billion.

Farm land in Pennsylvania totals 8.7 million acres according to the most recent confirmed data. The averaged size farm is 150 acres, and the current per acre value of land with buildings included is \$1450.

Pennsylvania is the nation's fifth leading producer of milk churning out seven percent of the nation's supply from its 14,000 commercial dairy farms. Production in 1985 was a record high 9.98 billion pounds, which was valued at \$1.33 billion.

The latest data available shows inventories on Pennsylvania farms of 1.9 million cattle and calves, 780,000 hogs and pigs and 93,000 sheep and lambs. The total value of livestock inventory is \$1.1 billion. The gross income from the marketing of animals was \$420 million in 1985. The value of poultry production in Pennsylvania was \$417.8 million in 1985, the latest year for which data was available. Cash receipts were estimated at \$409 million. The Commonwealth ranked third in the nation in the number of layers and in egg production.

The production value of Pennsylvania's principle field and forage vegetable and fruit crops was \$1.4 billion in 1985. The marketing of those crops resulted in cash receipts of \$923 million. Pennsylvania ranks in the top 10 nationwide in the production of 12 different crops: mushrooms, corn for silage, apples, grapes, peaches, tart cherries, rye, tobacco, pears, sweet cherries, oats and all hay.

Any way you look at it, agriculture is America's heartbeat. And what's true of the nation is even more true in Pennsylvania.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Prevent Water Pollution

The quality of our water supplies is very important; in most cases it should receive more attention. Many people have wells with high bacteria count and/or high nitrates. Both of these are undesirable for both domestic and livestock consumption. When feedlots and barns are cleaned out this spring, every effort should be made to incorporate this manure into the topsoil just as quickly as possible. With liquid manure, the soil injection type of applicator does an excellent job. With other types of surface spreaders, the manure should be disked or plowed into the topsoil soon after application; this is especially true on slopes above water supplies. The application of fertilizers warrants

the same attention; mix it with the top soil very soon after application. Also surface water should be directed away from wells or any other water supply.

To Control Wild Garlic

We may like onions on our hamburgers and in other foods, but very few of us like onion-flavored milk. This can easily happen on dairy farms where wild garlic plants are allowed to grow. Many pastures are infested with wild garlic. One of the best times to start control measures on this weed is early spring when the young plants are 4 to 8 inches high. An application of 2,4-D will knock them down. Follow the label for directions. When this is applied around the middle to latter part of March, little damage is done to any legume in the area. If garlic plants are allowed to mature each year, the pasture area will become so contaminated that dairy cows cannot utilize the grass.

To Care For Horses

Many horses and ponies are neglected this time of year. When they are kept in a stable for long periods of time, such as during the winter, they can get out of condition and they may develop some bad habits. But you can avoid this by following good management practices.

Your horses are natural athletes and need the daily workout to keep their muscles, feet and legs in good condition. Twenty to 25 minutes on the end of a long line is one of the

best ways. Just let the horses run circles around you. This keeps him from getting fat and developing weak feet and legs.

Don't feed moldy, dusty or dirty hay or grain to horses; this could result in respiratory problems. Free choice of clean water, salt and minerals should be provided. Good care now will help bring good performance during the rest of the year.

To Control Mice in Orchards

Now that the winter weather is almost gone, our fruit growers should take a look at the newly exposed grass and sod in their orchards. If there are runways at the surface of the grass, it is a good sign that there are plenty of mice in the orchard even though a mouse baiting program may have been followed last fall.

The mice have used up their stockpiles of stored food and are now looking for a fresh supply. At this time of the year they will move quickly onto bark and roots of fruit trees.

Fruit growers should rebait their orchards as soon as possible if there are fresh mouse signs.

For growers who put out bait stations in the orchard last fall, it will be a simple matter of replenishing the rodenticide — treated bait under all the stations. You must remember that the mice are hungry and can do a lot of damage to fruit trees between now and the time that other plants start to grow in the spring.

Farm Calendar

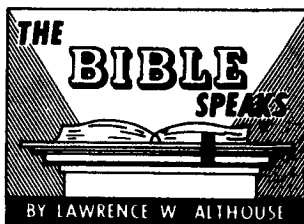
Saturday, March 14
Annual Meeting, Pa. Ayrshire Breeders Association, Holiday Inn, Grantville.
Delaware Ag Industry Dinner, Clayton Hall, University of Delaware. Call: 800-282-8685.
Northeast Regional Christmas Tree Growers Meeting and Trade Show, Split Rock Ledge, Galleria, Lake Harmony, Pa., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Berks County Guernsey Breeders Annual Meeting, Shartlesville Grange Hall, 11 a.m.
Maple Sugar Festival, Hibernia Park, Chester County, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tioga-Bradford Jersey Club, Alba Church, noon.

Monday, March 16
Egg Marketing Order Meeting, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.
National Agriculture Week; continues through March 21.
Maple Sugaring Festival, Hashawha Environmental Appreciation Center, Carroll County, Md., 1 to 5 p.m.
Horse Symposium, Extension Center, Route 31, Flemington, 8 p.m.
Forage Machinery Workshop, Greene County Fairgrounds, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuesday, March 17
Franklin County Beekeepers' Meeting, County Administration Building, Chambersburg, 7:30 p.m.
Ephrata Area Young Farmer

monthly meeting, Ephrata High School Ag Department, 7:45 p.m.

N.J. State Board of Ag Open Hearing, Extension Center,



GIVEN FOR YOU
March 15, 1987

Background Scripture: Luke 22:1-23.
Devotional Reading: John 11:45-53.

A month ago we were visiting for the first time on the island of Jersey in the English Channel. One day, as we were touring an old fort that had been turned into a large recreational complex, we talked to one of the complex's officials. I've forgotten how, but our conversation induced the man to reminisce about his experiences during the Nazi occupation of Jersey and the other Channel Islands during World War II. He told us that, after he had been sent off to a concentration camp, his mother had taken in one day a Russian prisoner who had escaped from a nearby prison compound. Despite the danger of being shot had the Nazis discovered it, she hid

Route 31, Flemington, 9 a.m.
Schuylkill County Beekeepers meeting, Schuylkill Mall, Frackville, 7 p.m. For information call 717-385-3431.

Forage Machinery Workshop, Westmoreland County, Lone Maple Sales and Service, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Huntingdon County Dairy Market Meeting, Raystown Country Inn, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

(Turn to Page A31)

the Russian escapee until the surrender of the German forces on V-E Day.

BEFORE I SUFFER

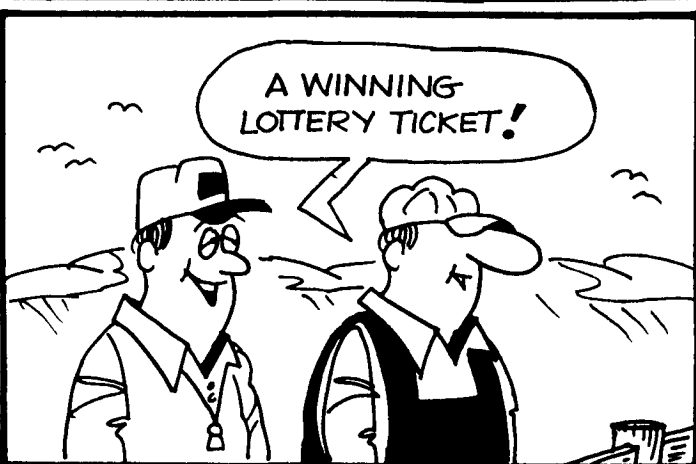
The story was not only interesting to me, but very thought-provoking as well. This woman risked her life for a man she hadn't known and whose language she couldn't even speak. It occurred to me that I had forgotten the valiant sacrifices people had made during World War II. Looking back from the standpoint of our own era, I couldn't help wondering how much self-sacrifice people might risk if we faced similar circumstances today. I may be wrong in this perception, but it seems to me that we live in a day when most people will stand up for the right only when it can be done without risk to one's life or well-being. The code prevalent in our world today seems to be one of "self first; others only if it doesn't cost too much."

Both by his teachings and his life, however, Jesus teaches us that the essence of responding rightly to God is our willingness, if need be, to sacrifice ourselves for others. This is apparent, not only on Good Friday, but also Maundy Thursday. "This is my body which is given for you" (22:19), he said. I don't believe Jesus wanted to suffer or that he sought it. But, neither did he shrink from it when it became necessary.

THIS DO

Thus, he gave us one of the most sublime of all sacraments, "Holy Communion," and we receive it "in remembrance" of him and what he did for us. He asked us, through his disciples, to "Do this" and we do — again and again. But the bread and the cup that we receive at the "Lord's supper" are meaningless unless, by this communion with him, we too are willing to give ourselves in self-sacrificing love to whatever cross he call us.

(Based on copyrighted Outlines produced by the Committee on the Uniform Series and used by permission. Released by Community and Suburban Press.)



DAVE CARPENTER