



OPINION

Not For Capital Gains

From time to time we get reports that food supplies are being damaged by contaminated fallout from industrial and nuclear operations. This week The Deutch Press Wire reported that in Bangladesh more than 65,000 bags of powdered milk imported from Poland have been destroyed because a harmful level of radioactivity was detected. Officials say the milk was contaminated by fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

Another report on our desk indicates that contaminated milk from Chernobyl has been sold to unsuspecting customers in other foreign countries. In addition, while much research has been done to disassociate any link between cancer and low dose radiation, yet the reports that keep coming back to show more incidences of cancer around nuclear installations in Britain. And in

Oklahoma a company won permission from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to test a fertilizer product made from the filtered liquid waste taken from the company's low level radioactive fuel waste pools.

While we don't have first-hand knowledge of any of these reports, yet we have no reason to doubt them. And we mention the reports here to remind us again that all segments of the population need to be conscious of our tendencies to pollute the air and water around our modern civilizations. If farmers over apply manure to their fields, they can cause down stream pollution, too.

So let's set up some personal and company guidelines for ourselves. Let's say to ourselves, "I won't pollute the part of the environment that has been entrusted to me with any thing for any reason. Especially not for capital gains."

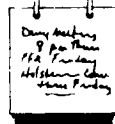
FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

SPRINGTIME

Striped fields of barley and of rye,
Are greening 'neath the April sky.
Deep-delved earth with beauty Spring endows
She follows close upon the plows.
The showers come in desarray
Drab dregs of winter washed away.
Last season's leaf is brought along
By brook that sings her ancient song.
Veiled willows hold a warming nest
For robin as a welcome guest.
The very air seems dewey wine
As petals from the stem untwine.
So God in splendor walks the earth
And once again it knows rebirth.

Gail Redheffer Stull
Willow Street

Farm Calendar



Saturday, April 18
Little International Livestock Show, Penn State University, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
NW Pa. All-Breed Calf Sale, Fairgrounds, Meadville, 12:30 p.m.

Monday, April 20
Wayne County Milk Marketing Meeting, Tom Jurchak, Clifford Firehall, Clifford.

Tuesday, April 21
Ephrata Area Young Farmer Association monthly meeting, planning questionnaire and FFA slave auction.
Poultry Sales and Service Conference, Keller Conference Center, Penn State University; continues through April 22.

Lancaster County Co-op Day, Farm and Home Center, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Pa. Feeder Pig Show/Sale, New Holland Sales Stables; show, 4 p.m.; sale, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 23
Annual Fundraising Banquet, Pa. Poultry Federation, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center.
Lancaster County Ladies Day Out, tour and luncheon, 9 a.m.
Wayne County Beekeepers Meeting, Extension office, Courthouse, Honesdale.

Friday, April 24
N.J. State Holstein Calf Sale, Warren County Fairgrounds, Harmony, 7 p.m.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Clean Pastures Before Turning Animals On Them

A careful check of pastures before turning cows into them can be time well spent. Trash, broken glass, and wire may produce bad udder and foot injuries. So remove or bury the debris.

Nails sticking through boards may produce serious puncture wounds in feet. Old farm implements should be hauled away; cows seem unable to resist stepping through old discs or harrows, often with disastrous results.

Fertilizer and fertilizer bags are deadly; especially those containing nitrates. Cows will eagerly kill themselves eating it.

In spite of laws, we still have a few people who will pitch a bagful of junk out of their cars while they drive along our highways. A walk

through your pasture fields before turning your cows out, is time very well spent.

To Practice Strict Sanitation
Livestock and poultry producers must take a special effort to prevent contagious diseases. Many of these infections are brought home by the owner, or with the purchase of a new arrival. There are a number of infections that can be spread very easily from farm to farm.

In this part of the country, where the density of poultry and livestock is so great, producers should be alert to the possibility of spreading diseases. When returning from another farm, or public place, different clothes and footwear should be used. Stray dogs, cats and wild birds should be controlled as much as possible. New purchases should be segregated and tested before mixing with the home herd or flock. In many cases vaccination should go along with very strict sanitation practices. Every producer should give attention to the prevention of disease through good management and the use of good sanitation practices.

To Understand Persistent Weed Problems

Just how persistent do we have to be in order to control weed problems? Well, the answer to this question comes from weed scientists who ran germination tests on weed seeds.

They report that 29 percent of Johsongrass seed germinated after being buried for 3½ years;

morning glory 74 percent after 5 years; pigweed 66 percent after 40 years and dock 52 percent after 50 years. They further reported that 51 of 107 species tested still had live seeds after 20 years.

The reason these seeds remain in the soil for such a long period without sprouting is apparently related to environmental conditions. According to weed experts, some seeds need just the right combination of moisture, temperature, and nutrients before they will germinate. This explains why we may suddenly be faced with a weed problem we thought was cured several years ago.

To Manage Poultry House Equipment

General management of poultry house equipment is important in maintaining a comfortable environment for chickens and turkeys. Defective equipment should be repaired or replaced promptly, especially if it is involved with the delivery of feed or water to the birds.

Rusty or bent cages will allow some birds to escape and may trap or injure other birds. It can also cause an increase in cracked egg shells. All sharp edges on the poultry equipment must be removed to avoid injuries. Rusty and decaying feed bins are another problem; they allow moisture to seep into the feed, resulting in mold and sick birds.

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

Saturday, April 25
Witmer Fire Company Ox Roast, noon, Witmer.
NE Regional Seminar, "Women in a Changing World," Bloomsburg University, Bakeless Center, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Penn State Dairy Expo, Ag Arena, 8:30 a.m.
Wayne County Holstein Club Sale, Wayne County Fairgrounds, Honesdale.
Cook College Ag Field Day, New Brunswick, all day.

Sunday, April 26
4-H Capital Days, Harrisburg; continues through April 28.
Pa. Flying Farmers monthly meeting at Bruce and Nancy Younker's, Bethel. For more information call 717-867-2384.

Monday, April 27
Pfizer Research Conference, Indianapolis Convention Center, 1:30 to 5 p.m.
PFA Women's Spring Conference, State College.
State Grange Banquet, Marriott-Harrisburg, 5 p.m.

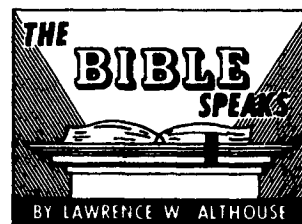
Wednesday, April 29
Lancaster County FFA Ag Mechanics Contest, Solanco High School, 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 30
Adams County Homemaker's Day, Cashtown Firehall, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Friday, May 1
Delaware Food Festival, Felton Firehall, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call 1-800-202-8685 for information.

Saturday, May 2
Md. Sheep and Wool Festival, Howard County Fairgrounds, W. Friendship Md., off I-70, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Continues

tomorrow, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sheep auction, May 3, 3 p.m. Pa. Shorthorn Association Spring Sale, Mercer.



THE SUPERSTITION OF REASON

April 19, 1987

Background Scripture: Luke 23:50 through 24:12.
Devotional Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11.

If I have been addicted to anything in my life, it has probably been to reason. I don't mean that there is anything wrong with reason; in fact, there are lots of people whom I wish were more reasonable and lots of situations in life in which I would like to see reason prevail more often.

No, the problem is not with reason per se, but with me. I have asked of reason what often it cannot give. There have been times when I have forgotten the limitations of reason and tried to understand what is forever beyond my powers of reasoning. My reluctance to acknowledge this, in fact my stubborn resistance against this realization, has subjected me to a superstitious passion for reason that has sometimes been my undoing.

AN IDLE TALE
Of course, I'm in good company with my superstitious belief in reason. There are lots of people just as addicted to it as I am — often with pretty much the same consequences. And, although I can't take any real satisfaction in it, I can't help feeling a bit relieved to know that the twelve disciples of Jesus also suffered from the same addiction. When the women from Galilee returned from Jesus's tomb with the news that Jesus was risen and that this had been attested by an angel whom they encountered there, the disciples reacted the way any good church officials would react: "these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them" (Luke 24:11). How strange that today there are still many people who would deny that women should serve as priests and ministers, despite the fact that it was the women who alone initially accepted the reality of Jesus's resurrection.)

Why did the disciples — the male disciples, at least — reject the resurrection news as "an idle tale" and refuse to believe it? Particularly in the light of some of Jesus's own words which had suggested that he would rise again?

BEYOND REASON
The answer must surely be that the disciples of Jesus, like many of us, were addicted to reason. And because the report of the women seemed to contradict their reasonable minds, they could not accept it. Of course, they were wrong — the resurrection does not contradict reason, it goes beyond it. That shouldn't really be hard for us to accept, for, when we really think of it, there are lots of experiences in life that, although not irrational, are surely super-rational: love is super-rational phenomenon, so is loyalty, courage and faith. So, although we must avoid living irrationally, we must not impoverish our lives by failing to accept and embrace the realities that carry us beyond the superstition of reason.

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