

OPINION

Ag Fun Days

What would life be like on the farm, in the rural communities or even in the cities of Pennsylvania without the research and experimental work that has been done by our agricultural colleges and Extension services? That question cannot be answered because even our wildest imaginations could not conceive how bad it would be.

But we do know, on the other hand, that a lot of credit for the advancements in crops, animals, machinery, forest products, water quality, food science, rural development, acid rain and horticulture must go to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experimental Stations.

So it's fitting that the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experimental Station should

be held next week during Ag Progress Days at Rock Springs.

While those who attend these "ag fun days" will get a chance to peak into history at the displays of historical machinery and antique items, they'll look into the future, too. That's evident from the show theme--The Agricultural Scientist: Working For A Better Tomorrow. From research plots, to live machinery demonstrations, to about 300 exhibitors showing the latest in farm equipment and computer technology, all roads lead to Ag Progress Days next week.

As general manager Joseph Harrington says, "Each year gets bigger and better." From what we've seen so far, we'll have to agree with that statement.

NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Apply Lime When Seeding Small Grains

Preparation is being made for fall wheat and barley seeding. This is an excellent time to apply lime. A soil test will indicate how much per acre, if needed. This is doubly important if you plan to seed a grass-legume mixture next spring.

Many times a clover or alfalfa producer will wait until spring to have lime applied to his field. This is not the best way to obtain a good stand. Lime needs up to six months to react to the soil and correct the acidity.

If soil needs lime, it should be worked into the topsoil when the small grain seedbed is being prepared. Legume seedings are costly; be sure the soil is between 6.8 to 7.0 pH so they have a good chance to survive.

To Apply For Gasoline Tax Refund

I would like to remind our farmers that application for the Pen-

plex, Harrisburg.
Non-Point Source Pollution Symposium, Annapolis, MD, Holiday Inn
Western Pennsylvania Potatoe Growers' Meeting, Francis Griffin Farm, Prospect, Butler Co., 6:30 p.m.

sylvania Liquid Fuel Tax Refund should be filed before September 30.

Farmers may apply for a 12 cent per gallon refund on all liquid fuels used in non-licensed tractors when used off the highway for agricultural purposes, or non-licensed power farm machinery used for actual farm work. This includes fuel used in all auxiliary engines on balers, elevators and other stationary equipment.

The liquid fuel tax is for all farm production fuel used between July 1, 1986 and June 30, 1987.

The people who have not already received applications should apply by writing: Board of Finance and Revenue, Room 409 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120 or by calling 717-787-3365.

Remember, applications received after September 30 will not be honored; they must be filed on time. The time to do it is now.

Keep in mind -- this is not money the State is giving you -- it is money you already paid; you are just applying to get it back. It may not seem like much but 12 cents per gallon on 5,000 gallons is \$600.00.

To Use Equipment Safely

We are fast approaching the harvesting of nearly 200,000 acres of corn in Lancaster County. This harvest is the result of a big investment of time, effort and money. A good yield depends on your farming skills, land resources and a smile from Mother Nature. But whether it's free from a costly mishap depends on how well you prepare your equipment and how safely you and your help run that

equipment. Here are some suggestions:

- * Operate and maintain all machines according to the operator's manual.
 - * Keep all shields in place.
 - * Shut off the power before unclogging or servicing. Wait until all parts have stopped.
 - * Adjust ground speed to field and crop conditions.
 - * Use caution on highways with SMV signs in place.
 - * Keep children and non-workers off and safely away from harvesting equipment.
 - * Look up as well as to the front and back when driving, moving or positioning tall equipment near overhead power lines.
- Safely requires practice...let's practice it every day.

To Plan Winter Cover Crops

This is a good time to give some thought to a winter cover crop on land that has been tilled this past season. The seeding of ryegrass, bromegrass, or winter grains following the harvesting of the main crop this fall, will help reduce soil erosion.

In addition, a cover crop adds organic matter when it is incorporated into the soil next spring. Cover crops are especially helpful on slopes and hillsides where water erosion is a problem. Just a word of caution, some herbicides used on corn (atrazine) may prevent growth of any grain or cover crop this fall.

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

Farm Calendar

Saturday, August 15
Northeast District 4-H Dairy Show, Harford Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.

Schuylkill County 4-H, FFA livestock sale, 6:30 p.m., Schuylkill Fair.

National Red and White Dairy Cattle Association, Mount Jefferson, Wis. Continues through Aug. 17.

Ephrata Young Farmers Ice Cream Social, Woodcrest Retreat, 6:30 p.m.

Virginia Angus Field Day, Wehrmann Angus, New Market, 10 a.m.

Monday, August 17
Schuylkill Co. Grain Marketing Meeting, Gratz Fire Hall, 7 p.m.
Cameron Co. Fair, through August 22, Emporium.

Carbon Co. Ag Fair, through August 22, Lehighton.
Franklin Co. Fair, through August 22, Chambersburg.

Washington Co. Ag. Fair, through August 22, Washington.
Huntingdon Co. Fair, through August 23, Huntingdon.

McKean Co. Fair, through August 23, Smethport.

Tuesday, August 18
Ag Progress Days, through August 20.
Huntingdon Co. Holstein Show, Huntingdon, 9 a.m.

Elk Co. Fair, through August 22, Kersey.
Lancaster Co. 4-H Fair, Solanco Fairgrounds, through August 20.

Lawrence Co. Farm Show, through August 22, New Castle.

Perry Co. Fair, through August 22, Newport.

Cumberland Co. 4-H Pig Round-up at Carlisle Livestock Market.

Wednesday, August 19
Perry Co. Holstein Show, Newport, 9 a.m.

Boar Sale, Meat Animal Evaluation Center, Penn State, 6 p.m.

Thursday, August 20
Washington Co. Holstein Show, Washington, 7:30 p.m.

District FFA Dairy Show, Mannheim Fair Grounds, 9:30 a.m.

Pennsylvania Seedmen's Summer Meeting, PSU Agronomy Farm, Rock Springs.

Friday, August 21
Southeast District 4-H Dairy Show, Kutztown Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.

Saturday, August 22
Northwest PA Championship Holstein Show, 9:30 a.m., Whitneyville.

Central PA Championship Holstein Show, 6 p.m., Huntingdon.

Cattlemen's Field Day, Greystone Manor Farms, 9 a.m., Lancaster.

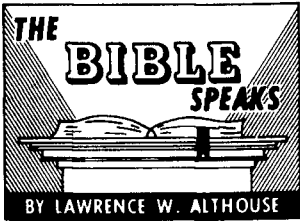
Warren County Holstein Sale
Monday, August 24
Crawford County Fair, through August 29, Meadville.

Somerset County Fair, through August 29, Meyersdale.

Westmoreland County Fair, through August 29, Greensburg.

Fulton County Fair, through August 29, McConnellsburg.

Tuesday, August 25
South Central District Dairy Show, 9 a.m., farm Show Com-



CONFORMED OR TRANSFORMED?

August 16, 1987

Background Scripture: Romans 12.

Devotional Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.

I have a lot of trouble complying with Paul: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind." Some of my friends -- and others -- who may tend to think of me as something of a nonconformist, may find it difficult to believe me when I confess that I have great difficulties in "not being "conformed" to this world." If there are some places of conflict between faith and the world where I have been successful in not conforming,

there are nevertheless many other places where I have allowed the world to set the standards and call the shots.

WHO MOULDS WHO?

J.B. Phillips translates this as: "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within..." Too much of my life has been moulded by the world; too little by God. For example, Paul counsels the Romans to "Love one another with brotherly affection" (12:10), but the world counsels selectivity and economy of loving. "Bless those who persecute you," says Paul. But society encourages a different kind of response. "Repay no one evil for evil," Paul writes. But the world makes it clear that if you fail to do so you will be regarded as weak and dishonorable and a natural target for anyone. In fact, the Christian message in regard to enemies is really at cross-purposes with the world: "...if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink." (I have a hard enough time helping those who are

WE SHALL OVERCOME

Paul is really out of step with the world -- which we persist in calling "the real world"-- when he says: "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (12:21). What the world says is that we must "fight fire with fire" and no unto others as they have already done unto us. Otherwise, says the world, they'll win out and establish their values in place of ours. Do you catch the irony of what the world says to us? In order to preserve our values, we must fight the enemy with their values. But, is we use their values to defeat them, then will we have preserved our own?

Actually, if these values from God are what we hold them to be, why do we not entrust ourselves and our destinies to them? If Paul is right about what God asks of us -- how to respond to our enemy and to those who practice evil -- why do we assume that we can meet the problem of crime only on the world's terms: violence for violence? If Paul is right, why do we try to meet the threat of war with the weapons of war? Why do we assume that Christian principles won't work when we are dealing with people who are not Christian?

The reason that the world and Christian teaching are in conflict is the Christians have too often, like me, let the world do the moulding. Christ came to transform the world and each and every one of us is also called to let God transform us from within.

So we are called to be the moulders, not the moulded.

NOTE: Rev. Althouse will lead a 9-day tour of the Holy Land, March 11-20, 1988 with an optional extension to Greece. If interested, contact him at: 1st United Methodist Church, Ross & Harwood Sts., Dallas, TX 75201.

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