



# OPINION

## Important Person

So there you have it. Ag Progress Days. A chance for us to see the agricultural scientists at work. And a chance for the scientists to showcase what goes on at Rock Springs when the thousands of people who jam-packed Main Street of Ag Progress City are back home on the farm.

You might have been an exhibitor and contacted good prospects for future sale. One said that the crowd was smaller (not by much) on opening day. But more serious buyers were present.

We know a lot of children had a good time eating ice cream and hamburgers and carrying around a free balloon. Advertisers were giving away more things this year, at least that's what we heard.

Of course, you could meet people. Governor Casey was there. And so was Dr. Bryce Gordan, president of Penn State University. But more importantly, your next door neighbor from across Pennsylvania was there.

When all of the dairy farm fami-

lies that won the Dairy of Distinction award got together for a group photograph on Thursday, you had a cross section of friendly Pennsylvania dairy farmers all together in a special way, because it happened at Ag Progress.

Oh yes, we had a complaint. Two ladies, sisters in fact, stopped this editor and said they wanted it reported that there weren't as many activities of interest for ladies this year. We asked them if they had seen the chef demonstrate how to prepare pork, lamb and veal. Yes, they had seen that. But they still wanted more. So, here you have it sisters. Your complaints have been reported.

But mostly there were no complaints. Just a good three days of summer ag festivities in the number one agricultural state at the number one agricultural college research farm attended by the number one very important person--you! And we suppose plans are already underway for next year's event.



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin  
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

### To Prepare For Local Fairs

We are rapidly approaching the time for local Fairs. These times should be happy events -- but once in a while they are not because planning was not done ahead of time. This is the time to take necessary precautions to help prevent the possibility of your taking disease to the Fair with your animals or bringing infection home to your farm.

Many Fairs require health charts and specific tests or vaccination for animals and poultry. Be sure to read the health requirements carefully. And, it doesn't hurt to be more strict than what the regulations may require.

Animals or poultry with any form of ailment should be left at home.

When animals or poultry leave the Fair and go home, it's impor-

tant to have a place where you can isolate them and observe them closely for a period of time before returning them to their herdsmates. If in doubt, consult your veterinarian for advice.

### To Be Alert For Silo Gas

We are fast approaching silo filling time; in fact many farmers are servicing their equipment now. This is one of the best methods of harvesting the corn crop to obtain maximum feed nutrients. With the dry conditions in some areas, we need to be aware of the increased danger of poisonous gases, known to farmers as "silo gas". We urge our farmers to discuss this hazard with their employees and all family members. These gases can develop from one day to 14 days after the silo is filled. Most of the gases have a chlorine-laundry bleach odor and irritate the eyes and respiratory system. Some are yellow and some are colorless. Don't take any chances -- warn all your people of this danger.

Never enter a partly filled silo without running the blower for at least 15 minutes, and never work alone. These gases are heavier than air and will come down the chute and into the barn. Be careful around recently filled silos.

### To Determine Fertilizer Needs

The early fall months are good times to do soil testing and learn what plant nutrients will be needed for the 1988 cropping season. When the plant nutrient needs are known for this fall, some of them can be applied to the soil, and

others can be ordered. Be sure to include the nutrient value of manure when planning your fertilizer needs. The appropriate nutritive values of the different manures are listed on page 22 of the 1987-88 Agronomy Guide.

With fall application, the plants will have time to absorb some of the plant nutrients and strengthen it for the winter. This is especially true with alfalfa and some of the perennial grass crops. When soil tests are made in the fall, the land owner has more time to locate and deal for his lime and fertilizer needs.

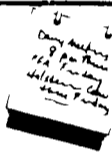
### To Keep Stand-By Generators In Order

The value of stand-by generators was very evident this summer with the many power failures from lightning and high winds. The important thing is to have a generator that is in good working condition. We never know when we have storms (rain, snow, ice or wind) that will take away our regular power source.

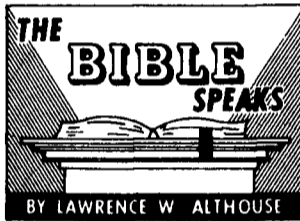
Highly mechanized farmers are urged to test their generators and be sure they are in top condition. If the generator is old, or not in good condition, it might be wise to invest in another one. Some losses have been very high due to the lack of electricity for a short period of time. Planning for emergency action when electric power is off is very good management.

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

## Farm Calendar



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| <p><b>Saturday, August 22</b><br/>Northeast PA Championship Holstein Show, Whitneyville 9:30 a.m.<br/>Huntingdon Co. Fair, through August 23, Huntingdon.<br/>McKean Co. Fair, through August 23, Smethport.<br/>Central PA Championship Holstein Show, Huntingdon, 6 p.m.<br/>Cattlemen's Field Day, Greystone Manor Farms, 9 a.m., Lancaster.<br/>Warren County Holstein Sale</p>   | <p>Western Pennsylvania Potatoe Growers' Meeting, Francis Griffin Farm, Prospect, Butler Co., 6:30 p.m.<br/>Nutrient Management Workshop, Lancaster Farm &amp; Home Center, 9 a.m.<br/><b>Wednesday, August 26</b><br/>Northwest PA Holstein Show, Meadville, 9 a.m.<br/>Schuylkill Co. Grain Marketing Meeting, Penn State Campus, Schuylkill Haven, 7 p.m.<br/><b>Thursday, August 27</b><br/>Berks Co. Holstein Sale, Reading.<br/>Wye Field Day, Queenstown, MD.<br/>Dauphin County No-til Soybean Tour, meet at Sweigard Brothers Equipment, Halifax, 6:30 p.m. Teters Farm Supply, East of Millersburg, 8 p.m.<br/><b>Friday, August 28</b><br/>Lebanon County Holstein Club Sale, Lebanon Fairgrounds.<br/>PA State Plowing Contest, Blaine Rentzel Farm, 1 mile north of Manchester.<br/>Centre County Grange Fair, Centre Hall, through September 3.</p> |
| <p><b>Sunday, August 23</b><br/>Crawford County Fair, Meadville, August 23-29.<br/>Somerset County Fair, Meyersdale, August 23-29.<br/>Westmoreland County Fair, Greensburg, August 23-29.<br/><b>Monday, August 24</b><br/>Crawford County Fair, through August 29, Meadville.<br/>Somerset County Fair, through August 29, Meyersdale.<br/>Westmoreland County Fair, through August 29, Greensburg.<br/><b>Tuesday, August 25</b><br/>South Central District Dairy Show, 9 a.m., farm Show Complex, Harrisburg. Fulton County Fair, through August 29, McConnellsburg.<br/>Non-Point Source Pollution Symposium, Annapolis, MD, Holiday Inn</p> | <p><b>Saturday, August 29</b><br/>PA State Shorthorn Show, Hookstown Fairgrounds.<br/>Maryland State Fair, through Sept. 7.<br/><b>Monday, August 31</b><br/>Nitrogen Management Field Day, Francis Mains Farm, 9:30 a.m.</p>   |



## LOVE & ORDER

August 23, 1987

### Background Scripture:

Romans 13.

### Devotional Reading:

Titus 3:1-8.

If your morning paper were to announce — on good authority! — that the world would come to an end in one week's time, you can be sure that one of the immediate results would be looting and other forms of public lawlessness. Whenever a community is faced with some kind of disaster — flood, earthquake, tornado, riot, war — order breaks down quickly and people are tempted to take what they can take and do what they can do — regardless of what either the law or conscience may dictate. Disorder seems to be one

of the everpresent potentials that lurks just beneath the surface of every civilization.

Sometimes it is assumed that freedom by itself is an ultimate condition for human existence. The extreme form of this aspiration is called "anarchy." Although few people today would opt for anarchy, there are many who would like to see society move in that direction. Others grudgingly admit the necessity of some kind of order, but only as a barely necessary evil.

### GOD'S ORDER

Christians have often found themselves on differing ends of the spectrum, some strict adherents of an authoritarian order, others suspicious and resentful of all but the barest minimum of order. The former cite passages in the New Testament such as Romans 13: "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God" (13:1). Paul makes a very powerful case for Christian civil obedience, even going so far as to state that "author-

ities are ministers of God..." (13:6). What Paul is saying, therefore, is that order is of God. God ordains systems of order in the world so that there can be peace and stability in daily life. Chaos and anarchy are evils which are to be avoided at almost all costs.

I will not dispute Paul's argument, nor his conclusion: order is essential if God's purpose is to be fulfilled. But what about evil authorities? What about an unjust government? And what if the order is in conflict with God's will and purpose? Shall Col. Khadafy be supported by the people of Libya because he is, as the duly constituted ruling authority, "God's minister"? Shall we meekly obey when it requires us to violate our conscience?

### ORDER & FREEDOM

Actually, the choice is not really between freedom and order, but of finding a happy medium between the two. If order is of God, so is freedom. If obedience to authority is ordained by God, so is faithful opposition. Jesus was basically a law-abiding man, but when his call from God conflicted with the political order, there was no doubt about his highest loyalty.

The ideal is a combination not of law and order, but of love and order. For the motive behind order is love. Laws and commandments are intended to make love manifest. As Paul writes: "The commandments are summed up in this sentence, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." And Paul concludes: "Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law" (13:9,10).

Neither freedom nor order are paramount, but love is:

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

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