



OPINION

Portrait Of A Farmer

This word portrait of a farmer has surfaced a number of times over the years. The latest time in the September issue of the Jersey Journal edited by our Adams County correspondent Ginger Myers. While the original author is unknown, we think it is fitting over this labor day weekend that you take a look at yourself again. The farmer is a unique member of the labor force in Pennsylvania. We think you will enjoy this portrait of a farmer. Author unknown.

Farmers are found in fields plowing up, seeding down, returning from, planting to, fertilizing with, spraying for and harvesting if. Wives help them, little boys follow them, the Agriculture Department confuses them, city relatives visit them, salesmen detain them, meals wait for them, weather can delay them, but it takes Heaven to stop them.

When your car stalls along the way, a farmer is considerate, courteous, inexpensive road service. When a farmer's wife suggests he buy a new suit, he can quote from memory every expense involved in operating the farm last year plus the added expense he is certain will crop up this year. Or else he assumes the role of the indignant shopper, impressing upon everyone within earshot the pounds of milk he must produce in order to pay for a suit at today's prices.

A farmer is a paradox — he is "overallled" executive with his home his office; a scientist using fertilizer attachments; a purchasing agent in an old straw hat; a personnel director with grease under his fingernails; a dietician with a passion for alfalfa, animals and antibiotics; a production expert faced with a surplus; and a manager battling a price-cost squeeze. He manages more capital than

most of the businessmen in town. He likes sunshine, good food, state fairs, dinner at NOON, auctions, his neighbors, Saturday nights in town, his shirt collar unbuttoned and, above all, a good soaking rain in August.

He is not much for droughts, ditches, thruways, experts, weeds, the eight-hour day, helping with the housework or grasshoppers. Nobody else is so far from the telephone or so close to God. Nobody else gets so much satisfaction out of modern plumbing, favorable weather and good ice cream.

Nobody else can remove all those things from his pockets and on washday still have overlooked five "steeples," one cotter key, a rusty spike, three grains of corn, the stub end of a lead pencil, a square tape, a \$4.98 pocket watch and a cupful of chaff in each trouser cuff.

A farmer is both Faith and Fatalist — he must have faith to continually meet the challenges of his capacities amid an ever-present possibility that an act of God (a late spring, an early frost, tornado, flood, drought) can bring his business to a standstill. You can REDUCE HIS ACREAGE, but you can't RESTRAIN HIS AMBITION.

Might as well put up with him — he is your friend, your competitor, your customer, your source of food and fiber, and self-reliant young citizens to help replenish your cities.

He is your countryman — a denim-dressed, business-wise, fast-growing statesman of stature.

And when he comes in at noon having spent the energy of his hopes and dreams, he can be recharged anew with the magic words: "The Market's Up."



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Protect Show Animals
September, in Lancaster County, is Fair time. It is also a time to be concerned about the health of show animals. Fairs should be a place where we can exhibit our animals; they should not be a place for spreading diseases and other ailments. Be considerate of other exhibitors and of other show animals. If your animals have any infection or contagious problems, leave them at home; it's like keeping a sick child out of school to protect those who are healthy. If you do show, consult your veterinarian about necessary tests and

protective vaccines. When you return your livestock to the farm after the show, isolate them from other animals on the farm before introducing them to their herdmates.

To Fertilize Alfalfa Stands
The fall of the year is one of the best times to apply phosphorus and potash to established alfalfa stands. Many growers will top-dress the field after the last cutting is removed. In addition, the stand can be fertilized next spring after the first cutting is removed. When the plants are fertilized in the fall they will be stronger next summer.

Since alfalfa is a very heavy feeder of both phosphorus and potash, these elements must be replaced for top yields. If the area is to be grazed in the fall instead of removing the final cutting, the fertilizer should be washed down with a rain before allowing livestock on the field; also bloating may result if grazed soon after application. Use the application rates as recommended on your soil test results.

To Check Stored Grain
Farmers should check all their stored grain at this time of year because heating of stored grain can

be a symptom of insect activity or just too much moisture. In either case, the heating problem should be corrected before the grain is ruined. If grain requires pest control materials (as listed on page 66 of the 1987-88 Agronomy Guide), it should be done while the air temperature is still fairly high or above 60 degrees F. If it's moisture, then check for possible leaks in the roof. We have too much money invested in the seed, fertilizer and labor to lose it in storage.

To Stop Feeding Trees and Shrubs
The time is here when we should not be applying any fertilizer to rose bushes, trees and shrubs. The season's growing period is about over and new growth should have a chance to harden before cold weather arrives. When we fertilize during the fall we encourage new growth, which will be tender, and will winter-kill in zero weather.

It is best to wait until early spring to apply any plant food to these types of plants. Mulching is a good practice to help conserve moisture and control weeds, but keep the fertilizer in the bag until the 1988 season.

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

- Annual meeting, 6:30 p.m. New Jersey Holstein Barn Meeting, William Petit Jr., Vincentown, 8 p.m.
- Bradford County Dairy Day, 4-H Building, Troy Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.
- Capon Conference, Thrift Inn, Warrendale, 8 a.m.
- PFA Farmer Fundraising Luncheon and tour of New Bolton Veterinary School, Kennett Square, 10:30 a.m.

Friday, September 11
Fall Holstein Championship Show, Ag Arena, PSU
York Fair, September 11-19.
New Jersey Holstein Barn Meeting, Dale Petterson, Alloway, 8 p.m.

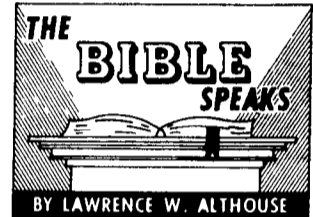
Saturday, September 12
Autumn Harvest Classic II Sale. Spring Bottom Polled Hereford Farm, Fairfield.
Berks County Pond Management Meeting, 4-H Community Center.

Sunday, September 13
National 4-H Nutrition Leader Forum, National 4-H Center, Chevy Chase, MD., continues through September 17.

Penn Ag Convention, State College, through September 15.

Monday, September 14
Poultry Servicemen's Seminar, Lancaster
PFA Cambria Co. meeting, 7 p.m. New Germany Church Hall.
Atlantic Dairy Coop District 20 Curryville-Cresson Local meeting REA Bldg. Martinsburg.

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HOMO SAPIENS' FAMILY TREE
September 6, 1987

Background Scripture: Genesis 2:4 through 3:24.
Devotional Reading: Psalm 8.
"Whose side of the family do you take after?" Almost all of us have been asked that question at some time in our life. I look pretty much like my father, but I have traits of both my parents.

In a sense, we might say that this is also true of the whole human race. In the Book of Genesis, Adam is presented as deriving from two sources. On the one hand, Adam is of the earth, the created order — "then the Lord formed man of dust from the ground..." (2:7a). And later in Genesis 3 God says to Adam and Eve, "In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (3:19).

OUT OF THE DUST
There is nothing particularly unique about this view of human nature. Few would dispute that we are made of the stuff of nature — material finite and temporal. Furthermore, when we are referred to as having come from dust and bound to return to it, it would seem we have been assigned to natural boundaries, that pretty thoroughly

circumscribe our potentialities and destinies.

But the writer of Genesis tells us that there is something else to our inheritance that takes us beyond the "dust" of matter. For God "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being" (2:7b). It was God's own spirit that transformed Adam from "dust" to "a living being".

Thus Adam, it would appear, had two inheritances: the "dust" of nature and the divine breath of God. It is this second inheritance, obviously, that is both unique and controversial in the world. There are lots of people who do not believe that homo sapiens is anything but "dust," let alone possessing a divine nature. While they would acknowledge that homo sapiens is related to the earth, from which they came, they would deny that we are similarly related to God by the presence of his "breath" or Spirit within us.

MISERY AND GRANDEUR
The Judao-Christian view of humanity has always emphasized both inheritances and to see in this duality the root of our human moral dilemma — that we are frequently torn between these two natures: one that would lift us up, the other that would pull us down. Thus, we have tended to think of these as our "higher" and "lower" natures.

But we must remember that these terms — "divine" and "human," "higher" and "lower" — are only relative. Genesis does not present Adam's "dusty" inheritance as evil, low or miserable. Genesis is reports that Adam was made in God's image and pronounced it "very good" (1:31). Thus, it is closer to the Genesis view of creation to characterize our earthly nature, not so much as "evil," but as "finite". Obviously the evil people do arise out of that finitude, but we are not by our human nature condemned to be evil. Evil is what we do with what God gives us.

Instead of thinking of human nature, then, as depraved and doomed to destruction, Christians need to witness to our God-given divine potential of homo sapiens' often-maligned family tree.

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Farm Calendar

- Saturday, September 5**
Southwest District Dairy Show, Martinsburg, 9 a.m.
- Mon Valley District Dairy Show, Washington Co. Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.
- Northwest District Dairy Show, Crawford County Fairgrounds, Susquehanna Co. Holstein Show.
- Tuesday, September 8**
New Jersey Holstein Barn Meeting, William Terhune, Belvidere, 8 p.m.
- Atlantic Dairy Co-op District 4 Meet, English Family Restaurant, Westover, MD., 7 p.m.
- Eastern Lancaster County Adult Farmer Private Applicator License Training, Leola Produce Auction, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 9**
Veterinary Nutrition Forum. Speaker - Dr. Peter Van Soest.
- New Jersey Holstein Barn Meeting, William Teets, Cokesbury, 8 p.m.
- Veterinary Nutrition Forum Dinner Meeting, Host Town, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, September 10**
York County Pesticide Recertification, Extension Room, 7:30 p.m.
- Schuylkill County Ag Extension

