



OPINION

The Life You Save

As the farmer lay there gasping for breath, images came to mind of two acquaintances, one dead and the other in a wheel-chair. "It's happened to me!" he thought. A screwdriver across the starter terminals had let his stalled tractor come alive again, running over him and on across the field.

Bypass starting...circumventing safe starting procedures, wiring around neutral start switches, shorting across the starter solenoid terminals...is a major safety concern. Like tractor overturns, bypass starting can be an unnecessary cause of death or serious injury with agricultural machinery. It's not a problem unique to agriculture or to agricultural tractors. Virtually any piece of powered equipment can be bypass-started...thus endangering people.

Too often the operator stands beside the engine...in the path of the drive wheels, for example...when the bypass start is attempted. This is a dangerous practice. If the transmission has not been shifted to neutral or park, the tractor or other machine can start in gear and run away. Such a runaway can result in serious injury or death to anyone next to the machine or in its path.

Some operators...the lucky ones...have escaped unharmed because the machine...particularly a dry clutch machine..."nudged" them just as the bypass start was being attempted. And a dry clutch machine left in gear may move a little, yet not start. This is not like machines with hydraulic clutches, which may be in gear, start and not move...at least not right away.

After the engine starts, hydraulic pressure begins to build up in the transmission. When the pressure is high enough to engage the transmission clutches, the machine will lurch forward (or backward, if in reverse) and run away. The delay in machine movement will end with surprising suddenness.

Manufacturers continue to develop products which surpass those of the past in many ways. In the days when engines were started with a crank, an operator could be run over by a machine started in gear. This elbow-wrenching task easily lost favor as electric starters became more common. Electric starters also made starting in gear easier. Manufacturers devised systems, such as those with neutral start switches, to prevent starting in gear. But none of them can withstand the inventive attack of someone intent on bypass starting a machine.

Manufacturers are doing their part by going forward with new designs like engagement override valves and similar devices. To prevent accidents it is also essential that operators improve in the safe use of current machinery. Owners and operators must maintain safety features in good working order and never circumvent them. You must always start the engine only from the operator's seat with the transmission in neutral or park. You must NEVER start the engine while standing on the ground. Following the machine manufacturer's instructions for safe starting will help you stay healthy and alive!



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Evaluate Farm Records

The 1987 cropping season is about over and soon it will be time to summarize your farm accounts and be reporting to the IRS. In addition to the need of good farm records for tax reporting purposes, I'd like to suggest these farm records be used for future farm

Franconia.

Berks Co. FFA Leadership Training Conference, Conrad Weiser H.S., 4 p.m.

Delmarva Beef Cattlemen's Field Day

Lancaster Co. 4-H Dairy Awards Banquet, Country Table, Mt. Joy, 7 p.m.

Wayne Co. 4-H Achievement Night, Pleasant Valley Grange, Honesdale, 6:30 p.m.

4-H Dairy Awards Banquet, Country Table Restaurant, 7 p.m.

Friday, October 23

Adams Co. Poultry Assoc. Fall Banquet, Inn 94, Crosskeys Dairymen Mid Atlantic Div. Luncheon mtg., Sheraton Inn, Gettysburg, 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 24

PA Simmental Assoc. Show/Sale, Green Co. Fairgrounds, Waynesburg Show 10 a.m., sale 1 p.m.

Monday, October 26

PA State Grange Convention, Butler, Oct. 26 through 29.

Central Susquehanna Local of Atlantic Dairy Coop Annual Dinner Mtg., Follmer Evangelical Lutheran Church, Milton, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 27

Atlantic Dairy Co-op Mtg., District 31, Stockerton Memorial Hall, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 28

Atlantic Dairy Co-op Mtg. Dist. 34, Prescott Fire Hall Co., Lebanon, 7 p.m.

Thursday, October 29

Lanc. Co. Poultry Assoc., Annual Banquet, Olde Hickory Inn, 6:30 p.m.

Lebanon County Holstein Club Banquet, Schaefferstown Firehall, 7 p.m.

Agway Annual Mtg., Syracuse, NY, Oct. 29-30.

Del/Maryland Plant Food "Crop Protection Assoc. Annual Mtg., Ramada Inn, Annapolis, MD, 8:30 a.m.

Bux-ment Atlantic Local Co-op Mtg., Dist. 31 at Plain & Fancy Restaurant, Quakertown, 7 p.m.

planning and in making major farm decisions.

When time permits and as the outside work winds down this fall, it is a good idea to spend some time in your office and do some "pencil pushing" regarding the most profitable parts of your farming business. Your records of success or failure of the various enterprises are the best guide to future expansion or termination.

To Graze Cautiously

We receive many phone calls concerning the damages of pasturing forage crops after being frosted. All of the permanent grasses such as bluegrass, orchardgrass or brome grass can be safely grazed at any time of the year; this is also true of any of the small grain cover crops such as rye, wheat or barley. All of these are not toxic when frozen and usually do not present any bloating problems.

However, the legumes such as clover and alfalfa should be grazed very carefully. They are not toxic after being frosted, but will cause severe bloating if consumed while the frost is on the leaves. Allow the frost to thaw, and the plants to dry off before turning in the herd or flock.

Also, any of the sudden grasses or sorghum hybrids should not be grazed for at least a week after being frozen. Neither should the new growth, after being frozen, be consumed.

To Inspect Heating Systems

With colder weather upon us, we'll be using different types of heating units. In order to prevent the potential for fires and other problems, we suggest that all chimneys and flues be checked for

cracks and places where sparks can escape.

In this part of the country, tobacco sheds have stoves to provide comfort for the winter job of stripping tobacco. Many of these have been in operation for years and may need some attention. The mortar around pipes and between bricks may have fallen out; in some cases a repainting job with mortar will make the system much safer.

Don't take chances with a faulty system; it could start a major barn fire or the fumes could cause suffocation.

To Control Mice and Rats

As the weather turns colder, mice and rats seek shelter and migrate from the outdoors to the indoors -- and they may choose your home.

When nights become chilly, mice and rats move into garages, storerooms and barns. And if there is food in the area, they're likely to set up housekeeping there until colder weather drives them into your house.

Mice can crawl through holes and cracks as small as a dime. They can enter where pipes go through the wall. And some are so bold, they'll run through an open door while you're entering the house.

If you find signs of mice activity, there are two good ways to get rid of them. If there are just a few mice, a trap is a good remedy. Bait the trap with bacon, peanut butter or cheese and set it near a wall so that the trigger is pointed towards the wall. If a large number of mice are present, then baits are more effective. The bait should be put in bait stations so that children or pets cannot get to it.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, October 17

PFA Wyoming/Lackawana Co. Meeting, Methodist Church, Lake Winola, 7 p.m.

PA Forestry Association Regional Meeting, French Creek State Park, 12:30 p.m.

Monday, October 19

Christmas In October, 19-20, Farm & Home Center, 9-2:30.

Agri-Land Preservation Clean & Green Taxation, York 4-H Center, Bair Station, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 20

York Co. Sewage Sludge Meeting, Extension Service, 1 p.m.

Atlantic Dairy Coop, Dist. 37, Southern Cove Fire Hall, Loydsburg, 6:45 p.m.

Wednesday, October 21

York Co. Holstein Annual Ban-

quet, St. Matthews Luthern Church, York, 7 p.m.

Northumberland Co. Nutrient Demonstration Mtg., 7 p.m. at Robert Truckenmiller's farm, 1 mile east of Dewart.

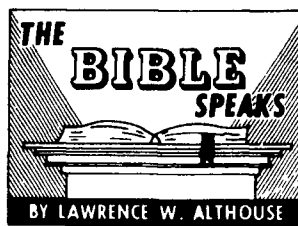
District III, Jersey Dinner Mtg., Bird-in-Hand Restaurant, 7:15 p.m.

York County Holstein Banquet, St. Matthews Luthern, W. Market St., York, 7 p.m.

Thursday, October 22

National Meeting on Poultry Health & Condemnations, Sheraton Fountainebleau Inn "Spa, Ocean City, Md., through 23rd.

Southeastern Poultry Assoc. Banquet, Heritage Restaurant,



A GOD WHO LAUGHS

October 18, 1987

Background Scripture: Genesis 21:1-7; 22:1-19.

Devotional Reading: Romans 12:1-8.

Our usual perception of the Old Testament patriarchs is that of grimly serious, flinty-eyed men. One does not expect and rarely finds even the slightest element of levity in their stories.

Abraham, however, is an exception to the rule, for laughter seems to play an important part in his story. You will remember that in last week's text, when God reiterated to Abraham his promise of a male heir, "Abraham fell on his face and laughed" (17:17). God's promise seemed that incredible. Later, when Sarah heard God make his promise to Abraham, she too "laughed to herself, saying,

"after I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" (18:12). God, of course, heard Sarah laugh and asked Abraham: "Why did Sarah laugh...Is anything too hard for the Lord?" "HE LAUGHS"

According to God's promise, however, Sarah, who thought herself too old and barren, did conceive and bear Abraham a son and, according to God's instruction, they named him Isaac, meaning "he laughs." (Probably the name means that, although Abraham laughed at God's promise, Isaac is the living proof of that promise. But it also might mean that God laughs at our lack of faith.)

When Isaac was born, Genesis reports Sarah's reaction: "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me" (21:6). This is a merry passage, for Sarah realizes that the joke has been on her. As Sarah puts it, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would suckle children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age" (21:7).

SILLY DISBELIEF

We think of disbelief as a very serious matter in the eyes of God, but we rarely regard it as just plain ridiculous. Yet, they are this, too. It is silly for us to regard our own wisdom as superior to that of God, yet, often, that's exactly what we do. Surely God must laugh at our human pretenses and childish arrogance. When you think of it, what could be more uproariously funny than our bumbling efforts to go on our own power alone?

If we are really honest with ourselves, we will have to admit with Sarah that often the laugh is on us.

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

