



# OPINION

## Which Accident Has Your Number On It?

It's so simple. Just touch the starter terminals and you don't have to climb back up on the tractor. Maybe you're just working on it... maybe you want to save a little time. No big deal. Right?

Sure! No big deal, unless you forgot this is a recipe for death. Picture the situation again; you're standing in front of a tire that measures, say, five feet high. It's on the business end of a power train that may produce hundreds of horsepower, enough to pull a moldboard plow through the earth. You're maybe two feet away from it when the engine fires. The tractor cranks, no movement, the engine starts, then it leaps ahead. Your body is the only thing in its way.

Now, which would you prefer to save, your time or your life? Simple question, yet each year many farmers fail the quiz. They're not youngsters who just started last week, either. No, they're people who've been on tractors for years. Oh, sure, they've all had some close calls — they can tell you about them. But they always came through — maybe until this time.

Some accidents, you squeak through. Some are minor and

require only first aid. Other may require professional medical attention. Yet, many bypass start injuries result in the victim's death... a high price to pay.

Remember the times you got by — like the scrape with the rusty nail; or even working around moving equipment with the shields off. It turned out OK, but what could have happened? And now as you stand in front of that big wheel and reach out with your screwdriver, is this the accident that has YOUR number on it?

We work with our machines so much and so long, they become part of our lives. The more familiar we are with machines, often times the less fear we have. We forget how big they are and how lethal they can be. We're with them all the time and we think we're friends, but the fact is, they really don't care. If we give them a chance, they can kill us.

So next time you may be tempted to stand in front of that big wheel and grab the screwdriver and touch those terminals, listed to that inner voice that yells, "No"! Pay attention! If you don't, you may be wasting a lot more than time.

## Farm Calendar

- Saturday, November 7**
- North America International Livestock Expo, through November 20. Louisville, Kentucky.
- Nittany Lion Fall Classic, 11 a.m., Ag Arena at Penn State Univ.
- Bucks County Holstein Meeting, 6:30 p.m., St. Matthews Church, Keller
- Berks Co. Beef & Swine Banquet, Kutztown Grange Hall, 7 p.m.
- Monday, November 9**
- Pennsylvania Farmers Union Convention Dinner, 6 p.m., Sheraton, West Middlesex
- Wayne County DHI Meeting, 7:45 p.m., Stonehenge Restaurant, Seelyville
- National Grange Convention, Syracuse, New York
- Poultry Management Seminar, Holiday Inn (North), Lancaster
- Tuesday, November 10**
- Cumberland County 4-H Beef & Lamb Round-Up, 9 a.m., Carlisle Livestock Market
- Pennsylvania Brown Swiss Association Annual Meeting, 11:15 a.m., Carlisle
- Lackawanna County Extension,

- Farm-City annual meeting, Best Western, Scranton, 7:30 p.m.
- Dairy Nutrition School, Manheim/Mt. Joy area, sponsored by Lancaster County Extension Service; 9:45 a.m., Kreider's Restaurant, Rt. 72, 1 mile south of Manheim, class continues November 24 and December 8
- Sullivan County Dairy Feeding Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Wharburton Farms
- Wednesday, November 11**
- Dairy Nutrition School, 9 a.m., Berks County Ag Center, Leesport
- Wayne Co. Dairy Feeding Meeting, Randy & Jean Price, Abrahamsville, 1 p.m.
- Thursday, November 12**
- Cumberland County DHIA Banquet, 6:30 p.m., South Middleton
- Pennsylvania Egg Marketing Association, 7 p.m., Olde Hickory Inn, Lancaster
- Center County Holstein Meeting, 7 p.m., Logan Grange Hall, Pleasant Gap

(Turn to Page A23)



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin  
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

### To Appreciate Farm-City Week

Each farmer is a very important person. While we have more farmers than ever before, the growing population demands more food. Never have so many persons been so dependent on so few.

Farm-City Week is being observed November 20 through 27 to bring a better understanding of problems existing between the rural and urban segments of our society. Some people may think that agriculture is a diminishing industry, but this is not true. There are fewer farmers but each farmer is

now producing enough food to feed 116 people, 80 in the United States and 36 overseas. In Russia that ratio is one to ten.

Approximately 15 to 17 million U.S. jobs, and about 25 percent of our economy is based on agriculture. We need to maintain a strong agriculture.

### To Exercise Dairy Cows

I know that many of our dairy farmers keep their milking cows confined to the stall barns much of the time. This is easy to do when you are short of labor during the winter months. In order to have a healthy herd, the cows should be allowed outside to exercise daily unless severe weather conditions exist. The exercise will not only keep their feet and legs in better condition, but will permit the cows in heat to be detected; this is often a problem when cows are kept confined too much of the time.

If the herd is turned out for 15 to 30 minutes each day, the time involved will be very worthwhile. You'll find very few days when the weather will interfere.

### To Mulch Strawberries

Winter injury has been a problem in strawberries for a number of

years. Crown injury can be reduced by applying mulch to protect them for the winter. The best time for application is from mid-November to mid-December. The exact date depends on weather conditions. But a good rule of thumb is to apply mulch when the temperature begins to stay around 20 to 25 degrees F. If it drops to 15 degrees or lower, unprotected strawberry crowns could be injured. In any case it's a good idea to mulch the plants after they have been exposed to a few good freezes. Mulching is a very good practice to insure a better crop next summer.

### To Adopt Winter Driving Habits

The hazards of winter driving are many, and drivers should change their habits when roads become icy or snow covered. Most importantly, be patient and reduce your speed to allow more time for braking the car or truck. Winter or all season tires should be mounted soon to give extra protection. Batteries should also be checked and kept in top condition. We must be aware that cold weather puts extra stress on all parts of the car. Always be alert to recognize road conditions and drive accordingly.

## FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

Editor:

Now is the time for all dairy farmers to act. For too long we have been (and are) efficient experts in the field of production, with absolutely no thought or concern about marketing.

Today we are the victims of our own single-mindedness. We set helplessly by and bemoan our fate. We allow the politicians to treat the dairy surplus as a "national problem."

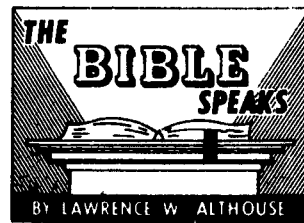
The very future of the dairy industry of the Eastern U.S. is in our hands—yours and mine. If you like having your future determined by others—continue sitting and moaning. A few of us in Northern New York have had it. We hope you will join us.

We organized as the Atlantic States Dairy Farmers and all 20 states we speak as one. Never in the history of dairy have we been able to do this. Now that we are down and badly bruised, we MUST act. The consequences of not acting are all too familiar.

The plan of action we have devised after consulting with our representative to the house and with Senator Leahy, chairman of the Senate Ag Committee, and others astate politically is this:

Goal 1 - Stop the 50 cent deduction slated for January 1, or as much of it as possible. And at the same time plant the seed, logically, that this "surplus" is an area or regional problem. Also we feel we must hammer on the fact we, you and I, of the Atlantic Region are responsible producers producing a product for a market in our own area. This campaign will continue

through most of November. We have been told by many in the known politically that we must FLOOD the desks of our congressional people with letters to get their attention. The budget is



SEEING THE FACE OF GOD  
November 8, 1987

Background Scripture: Genesis 32:3; 33:1-11.

Jacob named the place "Peniel," which means "the face of God." For it was here at the ford of the Jabbok River that Jacob had experienced a life-changing experience with God. Wrestling all night with a mysterious and unknown "man," Jacob later concluded that it was God himself whom he had encountered at that lonely place.

What bewildered Jacob was that he was still alive to contemplate what had happened, for he had always been led to believe that, if he saw God face to face, he would die. But he hadn't died; he was very much alive.

Who was that man with whom he wrestled: God, a messenger from God, or, as some commentators have suggested, himself? We don't know and it really doesn't matter, because Jacob was convinced that in some way he had

everything—that's OK, but don't penalize us for the errors of others, we are saying.

Goal 2 - will be more long ranged. That is to have a dairy bill with regional or area support pricing that adds to the areas that are producing responsible amounts of milk and lower support pricing

(Turn to Page A23)

been in the presence of God. And, instead of being dead, as he expected, he was alive as never before in his life.

### A CHANGED MAN

Another question over which some have argued is whether it was this experience at Peniel that changed Jacob, or was it simply a culmination of the change that had already been taking place? I believe the Peniel experience may have put the finishing touches on Jacob's change, but he had been in a process of change ever since he first left home. The dream which we call "Jacob's ladder," his experiences with Laban in Haran, his obedience to God's promise, "Return to your country and to your kindred, and I will do you good" (32:9) — all of this was part of a gradual, but certain change from Jacob the Supplanter to Israel the man of God.

### MY BROTHER, ESAU

In deciding to return to his home and his brother Esau, Jacob showed faith, courage and contrition. To be sure, he was fearful that his brother would seek to do him harm, but it is evident that Jacob realizes how wrong he was and wants to make amends.

One cannot help thinking that Esau must also have changed during these twenty years. Despite what Jacob had done to him, he was willing to forgive and forget. He could rightly regard Jacob as his enemy; instead, he calls him, "my brother" (33:9).

Jacob had had a number of encounters with God and at Peniel had even caught a glimpse of what he decided was God's face. But he was to see God's face again and this time it would be the clearest image of all. Looking at Esau, his reconciled brother, he said: "truly to see your face is like seeing the face of God."

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

