



# OPINION

## Pocketbook At The Heart

Many people give of their time, talents and money to help make youth programs and projects a success. That was evident at this year's Farm Show. Maybe you saw the county agent who worked with 4-Her's. Or the vo-ag teacher who worked with the chapter members. The adult leaders who gave a word of encouragement or a shoulder to cry on if things didn't work out. We salute everyone who helps with youth programs in one way or another.

Especially notable this year were the buyers at the Junior Livestock Sale who gave record prices for some of the champions. The Foxes, Danny George, Hatfield and Willie The Butcher. All spend large sums of money for their champion purchases. And

those who bought all the other entries should also be applauded.

Of course you might say it's good business advertising to buy a champion. And it is. And if you only saw these buyers once a year at the Farm Show, you might begin to suspect the purchase is purely a business transaction. But you see these buyers again and again. At the county fairs, and at the FFA and 4-H sales across the state. So you begin to realize it's more than just a business transaction. And when you get to know the people involved, you learn that these successful business people simply love young people and they use this way to express their support of the junior programs. You might say they put their pocketbook where their heart is located. That's true love. Thanks!

### Farm Calendar

**Saturday, January 23**  
Delaware Farm Rescue Class, Carlisle Fire Hall, 9 a.m. Milford, DE.

**Monday, January 25**  
Del Mar Dairy Day, Hartly Fire Hall, Del., 9 a.m.  
Deadline for delivering water samples to Adams Co. Conservation District Office for group testing ration.  
Adams Co. Corn Day, York Springs Firehall.

**Tuesday, January 26**  
PA State Horticultural Mtg. Hershey Convention Center. Through the 28th. Call Patti Levis 717 428-2070.  
Farm Builder Conference, Berks Co. Ag Center, Leesport, 26-27th.

Lanchester Pork Day, Farm & Home Ctr., 9:30 a.m.  
Northeast Winter Dairy Management School, Holiday Inn, Newburg, N.Y. Through 27th. call 607 255-2196.  
Annual Mtg. PA Veg. Growers Assoc., Hershey Lodge and Convention Ctr. Call Wm. Troxell, 717 473-8468.

Ground Water and Agriculture Presentation, Ephrata High School, 7:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Call Charles Ackley for more information, 717/733-1468.

**Wednesday, January 27**  
York Co. Corn Clinic, 4-H center, 9 a.m. Call John Rowchl 757-9657.

Farm Builders Conference, Berks Ag Ctr.

Mt. Joy Farmers' Co-op Ass'n annual mtg. The Gathering Place (formerly Hostetler's Banquet Hall) Mt. Joy.

**Thursday, January 28**  
Cecil Co. No-Till Breakfast Schaefer's Corral House Restaurant, Chesapeake City, Md.

York Co. Ag Award Night, Rutter's East. Call 848-4000.  
DHIA-An aid to feeding udder health and culling (Manheim-Mt. Joy area) 10 a.m.-3p.m.  
Dairy Goat Meeting, Fry's Nursery, Ephrata, 7:30 p.m.  
Northeast Dairy Management School, Holiday Inn, Oreonta, N.Y. Through Jan. 29. Call 607 255-2196.

Small Fruit Mtg., 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Host Farm, Lancaster. Call Tom Becker, 757-9657.  
Corn/Soybean Yields-Pesticide Update-Galen Kop. Kennard Dale H.S., 8 p.m. Call Ralph Travis 717 382-4871.  
Lancaster Co. Farm & Home Foundation Annual Mtg., Farm & Home Ctr., 6:30 p.m.  
Cumberland Co. Corn Clinics, Penn Township Firehall, Hunsdale, 9 a.m.

**Friday, January 29**  
DHIA, an aid to Feeding, Udder health and culling (Quarryville area) 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Saturday, January 30**  
York Co. 4-H Beef Banquet, Seven Valleys Fire Hall, 7 p.m. Cathy Wise 717 757-9657.

**Monday, February 1**  
PA Nurserymen and Allied Industry Conf., Through Jan. 5. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call Tom Becker, 757-9657 for info.

Pesticide Exams, all categories. 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Lancaster

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## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

### To Exercise Dairy Cows

The importance of turning out the dairy herd each day from stanchion or comfort stalls should not be overlooked. As we expect more production per cow, the stresses are greater, and if not given exercise, more breeding problems will result. Dairy farmers with free-stalls have the opportunity of observing heat periods all the time. However, cows that are confined to stalls present a problem with heat detection. There are very few days that the weather is so bad that the milking herd should not be turned out for a few minutes. If the dairyman is alert and observing, cows that are in heat can be observed and bred. Exercise might help the herds with breeding problems.

### To Be Sure Ponds Are Safe

Over the last couple weeks I've noticed a lot of people, both young and old, ice skating on farm ponds. It's good exercise and an excellent sport. But, be sure you are prepared in case of an accident. Owners should be certain that rescue equipment is handy and not in the barn or garage several blocks away. Wooden ladders, boards and other items can be shoved out to the person in the water if needed; it should be large enough to distribute the weight of the person making the rescue. A rope is also a good item to pull people out with. Skating is a very enjoyable winter sport. Don't be the victim of an accident that could have been prevented.

### To Recognize Stress in Farming

Life can become so hectic ... too much to do ... on the run. You've been on the tractor in the barn almost nonstop since sunrise and there's too much on your mind to notice the stunning sunset. Farming is still full of the best in life. Probably many of the reasons you wanted to be a farmer or live on a farm are the very things you don't pay much attention to anymore.

It's more than machinery or livestock, bills or market fluctuations -- it's a way of life which in itself holds much to be desired and

appreciated.

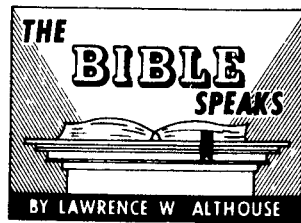
We must not let the excessive stress on the farm interfere with our home and family life. Medical research estimates as high as 90% of today's illness and disease is stress related. Farming is one of the most stressful occupations today. We must admit stress before we can deal with it. Most importantly, take time to "smell the flowers". And say to yourself -- just for today, I will live through the next twelve hours and not try to tackle all life's problems at once.

### To Prune Shade Trees

Winter is a good time to prune the shade trees on your property because the trees are dormant and won't be affected by the trimming as much. The bare limbs let you see where and how much to prune. And it's easier to reshape tangled and low-hanging branches.

Most trees need thinning when they approach maturity. But, corrective pruning is important when trees are young. While the young tree is growing it's important to remove a branch starting in the wrong position because this branch could change the whole tree structure.

Pruning consists mostly of cuttings that train the tree ... but it generally involves more and more thinning out of weak and dead wood as the tree matures. There is a saying that "as the branch is bent, so will the tree grow." With pruning, the results are even more drastic, for a limb which is cut will not grow back. So it's important to know the proper method of pruning before you start. The pruning of dormant shade trees while they are young will determine to a large measure, the beauty and health of a tree in later years.



### THE POWER TO HEAL

January 24, 1988

#### Background Scripture:

Matthew 8: 1 through 9:34.

#### Devotional Reading:

Matthew 12: 22-28.

What a parade of people, human needs and mighty acts Matthew presents to us in the eighth and ninth chapters of his gospel. It starts with Jesus cleansing a leper. Then there's a Roman centurion asking for healing for his paralyzed servant. We see him heal Peter's mother-in-law "lying sick with a fever," cast out demons from the possessed, raise a man who has been paralyzed, cure a woman with a hemorrhage, restore the sight of two blind men and the speech of a dumb man, and raise from the dead Jairus's daughter. And then, just so we won't get the impression that that is all Jesus did, Matthew tells us he "healed all who were sick" (8:16).

The crowds were impressed and Matthew tells us they "marveled, saying, 'Never was anything like this seen in Israel'" (9:34). Finishing that passage, I was struck with something that previously had eluded me. After this recital of mighty works by Jesus, Matthew closes with the response of the Pharisees: "He casts out demons by the prince of demons" (9:34)! Incredible! Jesus did all these wonderful acts of compassion and the best the Pharisees could manage was an accusation that Jesus was in league "the prince of demons." Talk about seeing "the log" in someone else's eye! Talk about "sour grapes"! They couldn't dispute his results, so they attacked his authority, Sound familiar?

### WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

Actually, the Pharisees opposed Jesus for two reasons: what he taught and what he did. His teaching they regarded as "dangerous," but what he did was even more threatening: his actions supported and confirmed his words. No wonder the people were saying that he taught as one with authority "and not as the scribes." The Pharisees had made their religion one of ruler and regulations— words; words and more words, Jesus; on the other hand, was presenting religion as something more powerful than words.

Yet, despite all these mighty works, Jesus' purpose was not to impress people with what he couldn't do. In fact, he often downplayed his acts of healing and help: "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to the people" (8:4). What motivated Jesus was his compassion for people in need.

### DEEDS, DEEDS, DEEDS

We might say that his compassion was no respecter of persons. He healed the lowest members of society— lepers'. He healed the enemy— the centurion's servant. He healed the spiritually untouchables— the demon-possessed. He forgave a sinner— the paralytic. Broken bodies, broken minds, broken spirits— he healed them all. He even healed a man with broken relationships, a tax collector named Matthew. And just so there would be no misunderstanding about associating with these "disreputable" people, Jesus said: "For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners" (9:13b).

That is why Christianity of all religions of the world is essentially a healing, saving faith. For Jesus Christ came, not alone to tell us the truth, but to be the truth of God— healing our brokenness wherever and whenever and in whomever he finds it.

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