



OPINION

None Of Us Will Rest

To look out your bedroom window in the middle of the night and see your barn on fire is one of the most fearful events that can happen to a farmer. The barn is the center of farm family activity. The animals you love are housed there, and the year's crops. And the expensive tractors and other machinery. In addition, the barn represents a wealth of family and community history. The old date stone somehow gives you a sense of belonging. Your roots are thus defined.

And to lose all this emotional and economic wealth in a sizzling, steaming, smoking, crackling, roaring inferno is about all a farmer can take--if it's an accident. If the fire is set by an arsonist it's intolerable.

That's what's happening in the back mountain area of Luzerne County. Twenty barn fires since May have area farmers and volunteer firemen reeling.

Now a group of farmers and property owners are meeting regularly to keep informed and provide support for those who have been hit. This group has faced the problem, not only of the unsolved crimes, they also find little information available to help them know what to do. So they are doing

what they can under this difficult situation.

If you are in an arsonist-known area of activity, block off parking spaces around barns and other buildings whenever possible, they say. Use anything available, like logs, wagons or barbed wire. And remove farm machinery from barns and cover them with tarps to minimize losses if the barn burns. Keep the path of the farm pond open and free from snow. Record license numbers of suspicious vehicles.

Many people have responded in friendship to those farmers who have experienced loss. And the community cooperation drawn together by this concern provides one positive aspect in the ongoing story. But the weariness of those involved is evident. The uncertainty as to when and where the arsonist may strike again is frustrating.

We can only extend heartfelt sympathy for those who have suffered and applaud those who are doing what they can to prevent future damage.

Yet an arsonist is still at large. And none of us in the farm community will rest until the perpetrator of these hideous crimes is brought to justice.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Transfer Silage

Many temporary silos were used last fall to store the extra silage needed to feed our dairy and feeder cattle. Our Agronomy Specialists tell us that any silage to be moved from a temporary storage to an upright storage should be done in cold weather. When moved in warm weather (over 40°) there will be more chances of heating and molding. Make the transfer in cold weather and do it as rapidly as possible. No additives or preservatives should be needed in this process.

By transferring to the upright silo, you can utilize the mechanical feeding equipment in your upright silo.

To Plan Your Estate

During my lifetime the management of farm labor, livestock, crops and machinery has been very important in order to obtain maximum production. Many farmers have excelled in these areas. Now, as we look into the mid-eighties, I feel that money management is of growing importance to the farmer and warrants much more attention and knowledge. The planning of your estate, including the making and updating of a will and also the proper farm transfer are considerations that are very important, especially with recent changes in the tax laws.

Today, the average farmer handles more money in one month than their ancestors did in a year. We urge more attention to estate planning and money management as part of good farm management.

We would encourage you to attend the Estate Planning Meeting on February 25 and the Farm Transfer meeting on March 10 -- both start at 7:30 p.m. in the Farm and Home Center, Lancaster. Attorney John Becker, Farm Law Specialist and Dr. Larry Jenkins, Farm Management Specialist at

Farm Calendar

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

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Penn State University will be the speakers.

To Control Wild Birds

The problem of starlings and other birds in farm buildings and in feedlots is quite common and one that is very difficult to solve.

During the cold weather, birds are searching for feed in buildings and feedlots. Some people use a stuffed owl or a tape with distress bird calls. Others use a caulking-type cartridge with a stick-um material and bead it on top of rafters where birds roost. The use of window screening over open ducts, windows and doors is another way to keep them out of buildings. For the open feed lot, control is not easy.

Birds not only consume feed, but are unsanitary and carry lice, mites and disease.

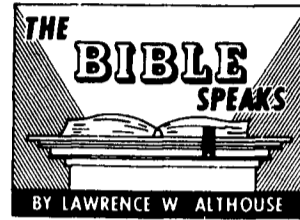
To Protect Your Lungs

Be it in the coal mines or on the farm...dust can destroy lungs. Farmers who are exposed to dust over

long periods of time risk the farmer's lung disease called "farmer's lung". As the dust accumulates in the lungs the tissue hardens. This can lead to a variety of respiratory ailments including bronchitis and asthma. If the condition is not diagnosed soon enough, irreversible lung damage may occur.

Preventing farmer's lung doesn't necessarily require any elaborate or expensive equipment...a simple mask when dust can't be avoided... for example when handling dry bedding, sweeping dusty walls or walks or grinding and mixing feed.

Keeping the overall level of dust down is also helpful. Therefore as soon as feed sacks or chemical containers are emptied they should be discarded in the proper manner. Regular housecleaning of work areas is another good idea. Not only will the area look better...you'll feel better without all that dust in your lungs.



YOU—AN ANSWER TO PRAYER
January 31, 1988

Background Scripture:

Matthew 9: 35 through 11:1.

Devotional Reading:

Matthew 10: 24-33.

When we think about answers to prayer, it is usually from the perspective of how and when God answers our prayers and how, perhaps, we know that he has answered them. There is, however, another perspective that most of us overlook; ourselves as answers to prayers. Often, the problem is not that God doesn't answer prayer, but that we don't.

I vaguely remember a story about a little boy who was found crying on a busy city street. He had been sent to the store by his mother, but lost his money along the way. A curious passerby stopped to console him and was amused that the little boy said he had prayed that God would send someone to help him. "Apparently," said the man, "God didn't hear your prayer." With that the little boy stopped crying and said with conviction: "Oh yes, he heard it all right and he told someone to help me, but they didn't listen to him."

So, there are times when we need to be just as concerned about being an answer to prayer, as getting one. Did you ever stop to think how many times a day people pray to God for help and you could be all or part of the answer to their problem? There is also the prayer which Jesus raised in Matthew 9:37 when he says, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." How often have you read

those words without realizing that you are meant to be an answer to that prayer?

WHAT TO EXPECT

How does one go about being an answer to prayer? Actually, it is still pretty much as it was when Jesus sent out the twelve and charged them. "And preach as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons" (10:7). Wow! What a commission! No wonder so few of us ever are aware of this prayer and our need to answer it. What do we know about proclaiming the kingdom of heaven or of healing the sick, raising the dead, cleansing lepers and casting out demons? The answer: no more—and probably no less—than the disciples to whom Jesus first gave that commission.

Furthermore, Jesus does not paint a rosy picture. There will be those who accept the message and those who reject it and us. We may even be persecuted if we remain faithful to what the gospel is all about. When that happens, it does not mean failure, for we should expect to experience what Jesus experienced: "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher and the servant like his master" (10:24,25).

Our sufficiency for this task to which he calls us is not ours alone. We will be empowered by the Holy Spirit: "do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you" (10:19,20). We can be an answer to prayer if we depend upon God to give us the power to do what he asks of us.

Do we really believe that promise? If we do, why is it that we do seldom venture forth to be an answer to someone's prayer?

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FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

Editor:

In noting the saying posted in a Lancaster County Place, "THE THINGS THAT MAKE MEN AND RIVERS CROOKED, IS FOLLOWING THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE," noting such I thought of the happy faces on the Lancaster County Tourist folders depicting the happy faces on the models. Of course, things change and as captioned, the Farm Show this week, Jan. 14, 1988, "The Evolution of Excellence," the thought occurred that, as farmland is hard to come by, perhaps the smiling faces are more an expression in having an actor's job than in a high resulting from the good country air? Now I wander if new highways, through the farm valleys, roads to nowhere in particular, however attractive to tourists, will be as enchanting; especially to those whose farms will be mutilated?

200, yes two-hundred years of labor. It follows wherever an exploitable item or someone has a buck, happy lifestyle, one has? There are ten sharpies trying, vying to promote some phase of the Money Game! "The Evolution of Excellence." For 6,000 years sharpies have been exploring ways

to exploit what God did in seven days. It sure seems that the now proposed potential for another billboard review of smiling faces, Tourist Trappings, turn out to be another doggie search for the right holes. Having hung theirs in the cloakroom in keeping with clean and green \$100 million proposal, they now want to grab some of the tourists' response to, "You have a friend in Pennsylvania." So few, it seems, remember when friendship was a virtue instead of an industry...Tourism? Family farmers? "Evolution of Excellence?"

"Too big to do little things... Too little to do big things!" Such rings a bell! Anyway, what is it to me? Aside from some of, the, my tax moneys, being a man, what affects others also affects me. Further having been raised under similar circumstances, grown through years of involvement in Community affairs one learns the ABC's the XYZ's, the rest of the alphabet. Not that the PhD's, BS's, etc., aren't very much a part of designs and things. However, one can fast lose interest in a good thing like the family farmer and unique Lancaster County lifestyle,

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