



# OPINION

## Hog Producer's Farm Management Problem

The National Farmers Organization is asking all livestock producers in conjunction with the National Pork Producers Council to suspend the use of sulfamethazine products as a measure to protect the integrity of US pork products. Japan says that traces of the chemical were found in shipments they imported and the USDA inspectors are on their way to confirm the report.

So far no one is quite sure if this alleged sulfur contamination is merely speculation related to the beef and citrus quotas currently being debated between the US and Japan, but it has affected the pork and cattle markets.

Whatever the outcome of this "scare," there are two things to be considered from the event. First, sulfur residue is a producer man-

agement problem, and labels on feed additives should be read and followed explicitly. Whenever the additive is not needed, it should not be used.

Secondly, markets, especially the commodities market, have a way of jerking around these kinds of circumstances more than the event really justifies. The amount of pork exported to Japan is relatively small. But the downward pressure on hog prices in the past 60 days along with the increasing hog weights may present producers with a more realistic long-term problem than the "Japan scare." As NFO President, DeVon Woodland, says, "Producers must market their hogs at lighter weights and utilize good farm management techniques if we are to see this hog market rise."



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin  
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

### To Practice Safety Around Liquid Manure Pits

Many manure pits will be cleaned out at this time of year for field application. This by-product of the livestock and dairy business is very useful as fertilizer. However, the pit can be a safety hazard because of poisonous and explosive gases. When the mixture is agitated in order to be removed, these gases are more plentiful and much more dangerous. Good ventilation above the pit is very important. Also, anyone who goes down in the empty pit should be wearing a gas mask. These gases are dangerous and can be fatal to both humans and animals. We urge all farmers to caution their employees of this potential danger.

### To Control Wild Garlic

We may like onions on our hamburgers and in other foods, but very few of us like onion-flavored milk. This can easily happen on dairy farms where wild garlic plants are allowed to grow. Many pastures are infested with wild garlic. One of the best times to start control measures on this weed is early in the spring when the young plants are 4 to 8 inches high. An application of 2,4-D will knock them down. Follow the label for directions. When this is applied around the middle to latter part of March, little damage is done to any legume in the area. If garlic plants are allowed to mature each year, the pasture area will become so contaminated that dairy cows cannot utilize the grass.

### To Check Ventilation Systems

We are into the season of the

Twin Valley Ag Day Breakfast, 6:45 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Call for reservations.

### Friday, March 18

Mercer County Risk Management Seminar, County Extension Center, 9:15 a.m.

York County 4-H Auction, 4-H Center, 6:00 p.m. Call Roxanne Price, 757-9657, for information.

Soil Conservation District Annual Dinner, Quakertown Firehouse. Tioga County Holstein Annual Meeting, Mansfield.

Somerset County Annual Meeting, Berlin.

### Saturday, March 19

1988 Eastern Shore Showcase Sale, Hunter Sale Barn, Rt. 276, west of Rising Sun, 11:00 a.m.

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year that ventilation is very important. The fans in our poultry houses and dairy barns have been working hard through the winter months. They have accumulated dust on the louvers and screens and developed loose belts, so they are less efficient—in other words they are not moving as much air as they are rated.

This is a good time to go through your buildings and clean the fan blades, the louvers and screens. Tighten the fan belts, and be sure to check the inlet screens. Many times, in our poultry houses in particular, we're not getting air circulation because the air can not get into the building. Clean these inlet screens so they are not restricting air.

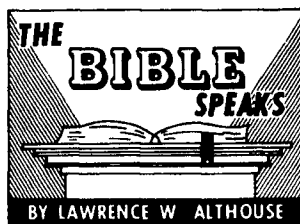
Also, be sure to check the thermostats to make certain they are working properly.

Poor ventilation can cause health problems in poultry houses and "off" flavored milk in dairy barns. This is a good time to take care of some of these inside jobs. To Control Mice in Orchards

Now that the winter weather is almost gone, our fruit growers should take a look at the newly exposed grass sod in their orchards. If there are runways at the surface of the grass, it is a good sign that there are plenty of mice in the orchard, even though a mouse baiting program may have been followed last fall.

The mice have used up their stockpiles of stored food and are now looking for a fresh supply. At this time of the year they will move quickly onto bark and roots of fruit trees.

Fruit growers should rebait their orchards as soon as possible if there are fresh mouse signs.



## THE GREAT BETRAYAL

March 13, 1988

Background Scripture: Matthew 26:1-35.

Devotional Reading: John 6:48-58.

Judas' betrayal of Jesus on Maundy Thursday is sometimes referred to as "The Great Betrayal." It is an apt description of what Judas did and even today after all these centuries we find it difficult to understand why Judas would have done what he did. We can perhaps understand, if not approve, that in some situations one might betray a friend, a colleague, maybe even a member of our family—but to betray Jesus, the Son of God, is beyond comprehension.

"Beyond comprehension," perhaps, but not beyond commission. We will never know why Judas betrayed the Master—greed, jealousy, lust for power, disappointment, a bid to force Jesus' hand—but something led this man whom Jesus had trusted and loved as his own brother to betray him in cruel and final manner.

Maybe it was none of the above. Perhaps it was something more subtle and complex—like the motives with which we must contend today. Might it have been that Judas simply wanted to be on the "right side" for a change? The "right side" of course, was the side of the great majority. It was the "respectable" side where all the "right" people were. Walking side by side with this dynamic prophet might have been exciting for a while, but maybe Judas decided that being in the minority wasn't to his taste in the long run.

### SAFE & EASY

"That's no reason!" you may protest. But think a minute before you jump to conclusions. You and

I find it relatively easy and safe to identify ourselves as Christians today. No one wants to lock us up or run us out of town because of it, do they? No one is keeping us from getting ahead in our place of employment or profession because of it? Being identified with Christ doesn't mean more taxes, social rejection, persecution, or risk of life and limb. So, not denying our Lord hardly costs us anything.

Let's assume, however, that tomorrow all that would change. Starting tomorrow, because of your identification as a "Christian," you will be demoted at your place of employment, your children will be taunted and abused in school and in the neighborhood, and you'll be shunned in your neighborhood, and members of your own family will feel embarrassed because of your insistence of trotting off to church every Sunday. Wouldn't it be a lot better if you denied being a Christian and managed to practice it in private where no one could possibly know? Who could ask for anything more?

### SECRET DISCIPLESHIP?

As a matter of fact, Jesus could—and does! "Secret discipleship" is a contradiction in terms. Actually, many of us don't really keep it a secret, but neither do we go out of our way to let it be known, either. We don't mind people knowing that we attend this church or that, but we often demonstrate with what we do and say that we don't take our religion all that seriously. We try to demonstrate that which doesn't keep us from being part of the mainstream. So, our betrayal of Christ may be more subtle and hidden, but is it any less real than that of Judas?

When the disciples began to ask, "Is it I, Lord?", they raised a question that each of us must ask ourselves every day of our lives. The "Great Betrayal," as far as we are concerned, is not that of Judas, but of all of us who one way or another deny him in what we say and do.

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## Farm Calendar

**Saturday, March 12**  
Md. Eastern Shore Calf sale, Hunters Sale Barn, 11:00 a.m.

N.E. Region Christmas Growers meeting, Split Rock Lodge, Poconos, Lake Harmony.

**Monday, March 14**  
Ag Energy Conference, Farm & Home Center, Lancaster, 10:00 a.m.

Atlantic Dairy Cooperative District 5 annual dinner meeting, Lampeter Fire Hall, noon.

Sulbra Crop Management Directors Meeting, Bradford Extension office, 8:00 p.m.

National DHIA Convention, Indianapolis, IN; runs through March 17.

Holstein Winter Forum for association members, Sheraton Inn, Penn State; runs through March 15.

Poultry meeting, Holiday Inn, North Lancaster. 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 15**  
State Board of Ag. Open Meeting, Extension Center, 9:00 a.m.

Eastern Lancaster County Adult Farmer Vegetable Growers meeting, Summit Valley Elementary School, New Holland, 9:15 a.m.

Pesticide Update Training, Extension Meeting Room, Pleasant Acres, 7:30 p.m. Call John Rowehl, 757-9657, for information.

PA Organic Crop Improvement Association meets at Farm Show Complex, 7 p.m. Speak-

er, John Clough, Int'l and state president. Call 717 354-4936.

**Wednesday, March 16**  
Tri-County Soybean Meeting, Memorial Lutheran Church, Shippensburg, 9:30 a.m. to noon.

CPR Recertification, Glenda Miller, YF-Kennard-Dale High School, 7:00 p.m. Call Ralph Travis, 717/382-4871, for information.

Swine Management School, North Carroll High School, Hampstead, MD, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

County Agricultural Development Board Meeting, Extension Center, Flemington, 8:00 p.m.

PSU Turkey Conference, Sheraton Inn, Rt. 15, Gettysburg. Carroll County Calf Sale, Ag Center, Westminster.

Eastern Lanc. Co. Adult Farmer Cattle feeding meeting, Bethany E.C. Church, Martindale. 1:30 p.m.

**Thursday, March 17**  
Atlantic Dairy Cooperative District 1 annual dinner meeting, Moorhead's Catering Service Banquet Hall, Trappe, noon.

Conservation District Banquet, York Springs Fire Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Bradford County 4-H Leaders Banquet, Elk's Club, Towanda, 7:45 p.m.

Lancaster Conservation District Banquet, Yoders Restaurant, New Holland.

PA Egg Marketing Meeting. Olde Hickory Inn, Lancaster. 6 p.m.

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