



# OPINION

## Honoring America's Providers

Sunday is National Ag Day. Every year since 1973 communities and organizations throughout the nation have celebrated a special day to honor American farmers, and to tell the farmer's story to urban America.

This year, Bart Forbes, nationally-known artist and designated artist of the 1988 Olympics, was commissioned to do an original oil painting to start a National Ag Day collection. A large scale reproduction of the painting is the focus of a display on Capitol Hill this week. The display is designed to attract attention of all legislators, especially those representing urban America.

In addition, a TV special will air during next week on about 135 stations across the nation. This feature called "American Farmers" is the seventh in a series presented by Elanco Products Co. and sponsored by FMC and Ford Truck Division.

The program features human interest vignettes that tell the vigorous story of American agriculture, the nation's biggest industry and biggest employer. Stories

include an interview with Iowa farmer Gary Larsen who, faced with changing or going out of business, decided to produce a lighter, less fat, lower cholesterol beef. Consumers now respond to his operation and it is thriving.

"American Farmers" also compares our U.S. agriculture to farming in the Soviet Union. It concludes with the story of a Russian-born farmer, Robert Wilhelm, who came to this country with nothing, built a successful farming operation, and flies the flag each day to say thank you.

Certainly farmers deserve this recognition. The American consumer receives good value for food dollars as a result of the hard work, ingenuity and dedication of American farmers.

We want to join hands with farmers and everyone involved to remind consumers about this excellent value that they receive. The Agricultural Day theme is, "National Agriculture Day -- Honoring America's Providers." We hope the urban honor of farmers lasts longer than a day. 365 days would be better. 366 this year.



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin  
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

### To Apply Poultry Manure Sparingly

With the large poultry population in this region, poultry manure is in good supply. Since poultry manure may contain from 15 pounds to nearly 50 pounds of nitrogen per ton, depending on moisture and litter content, over application can burn crops and result in disappointments. Gardeners should not be using heavy amounts of fresh manure in their soils. On cropland it is recommended that poultry manure applications be limited to not more than 5 to 7 tons of 75% moisture content per acre.

Keep in mind that some poultry manure man contain up to 50 pounds of nitrogen per ton and can burn seed and crop roots. Poultry manure is also the highest in phosphorus and potash of any of our farm manures. It has excellent fertilizer value when used properly.

The 1987-88 Agronomy Guide (page 22) gives additional details about the fertilizer values of farm manures. The Agronomy Guide is available through any Extension Office for a \$5.00 fee.

### To Be Patient With Livestock

This is the time of year that we are under strain and pressure to get a lot of jobs underway for the planting season. It also means that we are not as patient with people and livestock. Let's be careful, as we move our cattle around, and not give them that extra slap or prod to try to speed up movement. Keep in mind, that extra shove or push could have an effect on production. Cows can "sense" the change in pace and temperament and respond with a little less production.

There is a great deal of activity

### Friday, March 25

Small Fruits Mtg., Biglerville Fruit Lab, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Call Tom Piper, 334-6271.

PA Performance Tested Bull Sale, Penn State Campus, Ag Arena, State College, noon.

Maryland Cattle Industry Convention, Sheraton Inn, Hagerstown, March 25 and 26.

### Saturday, March 26

Schuylkill Co. Fair Assn., Third Annual Spring Auction, New fairgrounds, formerly Happy Holiday Park, 9:00 a.m.

York County Pork Producers Assoc. Banquet, Colonial Valley, 7:00 p.m. Donald Sunda, 764-0233.

PA Spring Holstein Show,

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in the spring season, but let's not take it out on our cattle. Be patient and try to maintain a relaxed schedule as we move our livestock around. It'll pay off in the milk check.

We find that in the best producing herds the animals are relaxed and the workers are relaxed. This tells us something about the tender loving care that cattle need.

### To Remove Trash

Landowners along rural roads are the victims of people who have little respect for property of others. Too many people are dumping trash in fields along the road. In all cases when this is dumped on pastures or cropland, the trash should be removed before spring growth begins. This trash will be hard on farm equipment when on cropland and may be poisonous to livestock when on pastureland.

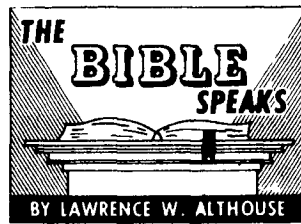
We urge property owners to remove the trash in the next few weeks. If any type of identification can be made, as to the owner of the

trash, this should be reported to Township officials; prosecution can be made for dumping trash along the highway.

### To Prepare A Will

The statement "we don't own enough to justify a will" is overused by many families. If you have a family and you own anything you should have a will. If a person dies without a will, the property is distributed according to the Intrastate Laws of Pennsylvania. These laws may not distribute your estate according to your desires. This has often happened in the past and there is little that can be done about it without a will.

We urge all family heads, and property owners, to contact a lawyer and have him help with making a will. The cost will be considerably less than settling an estate without a will. There is some very good information dealing with "wills" in the Estate Planning bulletin available at any Extension Office.



WHAT JESUS WANTED  
March 20, 1988

Background Scripture: Matthew 26:36-56.

Devotional Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-8.

The picture we get of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane shows us the humanity of Jesus more clearly than perhaps any other passage in the New Testament. The writers of the four gospels rarely show us much of Jesus' emotions, but we do see them clearly on this fateful night. Matthew tells us Jesus was "sorrowful and troubled" (26:37). Mark had used an even stronger term: "distressed" or "terrified." The point is that Jesus was experiencing some very strong human emotions.

This is important because the scenes of Jesus' last night and day are often presented to us as of a man simply going through the motions of a course that has already been predetermined. The Jesus we see in these gospel accounts, however, is much more than an actor following a script. His emotions in Gethsemane are powerful and real. He is not seeking to be a martyr. He is not fed up with the world and ready to move on. In fact, Matthew tells us that he says to his disciples: "My heart is ready to break with grief" (New English Bible).

### HUMAN NEEDS

We also see Jesus' humanity breaking through as we note what it is he wanted in Gethsemane. For one thing, he wanted human companionship. He took his disciples to the garden and three of them he kept close to him as he prayed. One might protest that Jesus didn't need human support if he had God.

But Jesus makes it very clear that he needed both — just as we do. And he was just as disappointed when he failed to get all the human support he needed: "So, could you not watch with me one hour?" he asked when he found them sleeping.

This doesn't mean that we cannot make it without human support. Sometimes we are all alone, except, of course, for God. Sometimes people cannot get to us to be with us in our need. Sometimes other people fail us. But, nevertheless, it is human to feel the need for others in our times of crisis. Jesus was God's Son, the world's Messiah. If any person was ever self-sufficient, it was Jesus. Still, he felt that need and it is perfectly natural for us to feel it, too.

Jesus also revealed his human feelings in praying: "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me" (26:39). His first desire was to escape the tribulation that seemed to lie before him. Arrest, torture, humiliation, separation from those whom he loved, death, particularly death on a cross — none of this did Jesus seek for himself. If there was any way to avoid the consequences of Judas' betrayal, he was asking God to spare him. Similarly, we do not seek to be martyrs, not even a nonviolent martyrdom. None of us should ever be ashamed of wanting to avoid suffering of any kind, not if we value and revere the life that God has given us.

### HIS GREATEST WANT

So, Jesus wanted human support and he wanted to avoid suffering and death. That was his humanity showing. But Jesus also wanted something else: he wanted to be faithful to God's will: "nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt." He wanted to avoid martyrdom, but even more than that he wanted to be faithful. And that was his humanity showing, too — a higher humanity than that which drives us to preserve our lives at all costs.

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## Farm Calendar

### Saturday, March 19

Bucks Co. Dairy Tour, 7 a.m. Bus leaves from Doylestown Corporate Center parking lot at 7 a.m. sharp.

1988 Eastern Shore Showcase Sale, Hunter Sale Barn, Rt. 276, west of Rising Sun, 11:00 a.m.  
Berks County Guernsey Breeders Association Annual Meeting, Shartlesville Grange Hall, Shartlesville, 11:00 a.m.  
R.S.V.P. to Carl Hollenback, RD1, Box 386, Bernville, PA 19506, by March 14.

"Farming in the Garden State," Hunterdon Central High School, 8:00 p.m.

### Sunday, March 20

National Agriculture Day.

### Monday, March 21

Agronomy Day, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Forksville United Methodist Church, Sullivan County.  
PFA Legislative Tour, Harrisburg, Hershey Motor Lodge, 12:30 p.m. registration, 6:30 p.m. legislative banquet.

Region 3 4-H Leaders Meeting, Lehigh Municipal Bldg, 7:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, March 22

Farm Machinery Safety Seminar, Sheraton State College, 9:30 a.m.

Increase Farm Profits Through Energy Mgmt., Sheraton Inn,

Greensburg, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

SC Cattlemen's Assoc. Banquet, East Berlin Fire Hall, 7:00 p.m. Call Kathy Wise, 757-9657.

Berks Co. Lamb Meeting, Berks Co. Ag. Center, 7:00 p.m.

PA Agricultural Safety Council Annual Meeting, Penn State Sheraton, State College.

### Wednesday, March 23

Agronomy Day, Bradford Co., Ulster Fire Hall, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Pesticide Meeting, points towards certification, 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Western PA Soybean Growers Meeting, Co. Extension Center, 10:00 a.m.

Atlantic Breeders Annual Meeting, Days Inn, Lancaster, 10:00 a.m.

Annual Meeting Farm Credit Banks of Baltimore, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia.

### Thursday, March 24

Increase Farm Profits Through Energy Mgmt., 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Meadville, Days Inn.

Young Farmers Banquet, Kennard-Dale High School, 7:00 p.m. Ralph Travis, 717-382-4871.

Home Landscaping Workshop, Adams County Ext. Office, March 31, April 7 and 14.

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