



# OPINION

## Startling Report About Carcinogens

When Dr. Bruce Ames, who works in the Department of Biochemistry at the University of California-- Berkeley, developed a faster, cheaper method to determine the presence of health-threatening agents in food, he sent shudders through the government regulation agencies, the health food industry and organizations who would like to blame farmers and agri-businesses for all the Earth's ills.

Traditional testing uses laboratory animals and can take as long as three years and costs \$100,000 per test. The Ames test uses bacteria that can reproduce in 20 minutes and is much less expensive.

While Dr. Ames' test is recognized as a major scientific breakthrough, a problem developed when researchers used the new test on common foodstuffs. To everyone's surprise, almost everywhere they looked they found carcinogens. These supposed health-threatening agents showed up in a cup of coffee, a bread crust, and in hamburgers. Yes, and even in celery, alfalfa sprouts and mushrooms.

We say supposed health-threatening agents because the popular assumption that man-made chemicals are the principal cause of cancer just isn't proven by the facts. Thousands of new chemicals have been developed and used in the last 40 years. So, we should now see an epidemic of

cancer, but there is no epidemic. Especially startling are the findings of Ames and his staff when they analyzed the results of every cancer test done on rats and mice. By comparing the amount of a chemical that caused cancer in rodents to the typical exposure people are likely to get, the Ames team developed a ranking system. The pesticides EDB and DDT ranked lower than alcohol, mushrooms, herb tea and peanut butter.

Independent scientists have reviewed and approved the Ames test. Scientists at the American Cancer Society and the American Medical Association found that Ames is by in large right. Dr. Peter Preuss of the US Environmental Protection Agency said, "I think Bruce Ames has a very important message. We don't know today what really causes cancer and what contributes to it."

Farmers and agri-businesses must be held responsible to judiciously use their chemicals in accordance with regulations to insure that food is not contaminated. But they should not be used as a scapegoat for contaminants that come from other sources. We can only hope that Dr. Ames' new research methods will help speed up the discernment of what is really a contaminant and what is just a natural part of the environment in which we live.



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

### To Encourage Water Consumption

In the managing of any type of livestock or poultry it is very important to obtain maximum water consumption. Some animals such as heavy producing milk cows will drink 30 gallons of water per day. All animals should have free access to water at all times. In the summer the water should be as cool as possible, and in the winter warmed water will increase consumption. Open troughs might be covered unless the water is flowing through the trough.

One way to encourage good water intake is to provide access to loose salt and minerals. These items will not help water consumption but will balance the ration and help promote more complete digestibility. During warm humid weather, we humans drink more liquid. Livestock and poultry will do the same when given the chance. This is good management and will increase efficiency in production.

### To Deal With Volunteer Corn

I've had a number of inquiries concerning volunteer corn growing in many fields. This is corn that has been left in the field since last fall and is really a weed that will hurt our yields the same as any other weed. (The definition of a weed is a misplaced plant.) The big problem is how to get rid of it. There is no herbicide that can be used without killing all the corn. On tilled or minimum tilled, the cultivator can be used to kill the plants between the rows. In fact with the heavy rains in May, we're seeing a lot of soil compaction and crusting, so a good cultivation will loosen the soil as well as remove volunteer corn between the rows. On no-till, there is no means of eradication except the hand hoe. The larger the corn becomes the less you'll want to cultivate because of root pruning. We are again back to using the hoe.

All this volunteer corn growing is a remainder that part of our 1987

### Friday, June 17

Susquehanna Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, 8 p.m., Mountain View High School.  
Bedford Co. Dairy Princess pageant, Northern Bedford High School, Loyalsburg, 8 p.m.  
Juniata Co. Dairy Princess pageant, Mifflintown Fire Hall, 7 p.m.

crop was left in the field.

### To Keep

### Pesticide Records

Today's battle with insects, fungus, rodents and weeds requires the use of many different chemicals. It is important to keep an accurate record of any chemical used. This would include the date, name of material, application rate, field number and even the direction the wind is blowing. This might save a lot of trouble and loss of income in case there is some question.

Many food items are being checked by Food and Drug representatives for pesticide residues. It is possible to find residues even where the producer followed regulations and every recommended practice. Your records would be very important in these cases. In any event, always follow label instructions.

### To Feed Shrubs After Flowering Period

Most people know that their

plants do better if they're fertilized... but many ask when is the best time to feed shrubs. One important thing to remember is that shrubs need feeding immediately following their flowering periods.

For small shrubs, use one half a handful of a complete fertilizer such as a 5-10-10 or similar analysis. The fertilizer should be placed on the surface of the soil around the plants and lightly raked in.

After you've applied the plant food to the soil, it should be soaked in with rain or a healthy watering. Larger plants, of course, may be given a larger amount of plant food.

Once a plant is firmly and fully established, and in good growing condition, then it may not need regular fertilizer application.

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## CURES THAT DON'T CURE

June 12, 1988

Background Scripture: Exodus 2:11-22.

Devotional Reading: Hebrews 11:23-28.

Exodus tantalizes us with the bare facts about Moses' years between infancy and adulthood. We would love to know so much more. When did Moses discover that he was a Hebrew? How? What was his place or position at the Pharaoh's court? Did he ever discover that his nurse was also his mother?

The writer of Exodus, however, gives us very few facts. Moses was born of Hebrew parents, but raised as an Egyptian of royal status and affluence. His name was Egyptian, but apparently his heart was Hebrew. Sometime during his young life he discovered that he was a Hebrew and became deeply disturbed at the unjust treatment of his people. Essentially, those are the facts about his early life.

### QUICK & VIOLENT

But the writer of Hebrews tells us also about Moses' personality. He identified with oppressed people and sometimes his reaction was quick and violent. In a few brief verses the writer of Exodus tells us that Moses killed the Egyptian whom he found beating a Hebrew slave, intervened between two scuffling Hebrews, and again when some bullying shepherds interfered with the seven daughters of Jethro and his flocks at the well in Midian. No doubt about it -- Moses saw himself as a champion of the oppressed.

Unfortunately, like many of the champions of the oppressed, Moses was not without his failings. For one thing, he sometimes allowed his passionate feelings to become violent actions. He tried to cure oppression with yet more oppression. Just as we have often observed that violence cannot kill

the truth, neither can violence kill error. Killing the Egyptian accomplished nothing whatsoever except to satisfy, perhaps, Moses' sense of justice. The Hebrews were not freed of oppression. Nor did his act endear him to the Hebrews. In fact, his violence only made things worse; he had to flee from Egypt. **A PRINCE & JUDGE?**

Although the writer of Exodus doesn't tell us in so many words, he implies that Moses was also somewhat arrogant. Perhaps this was partly due to his position in the Egyptian court. This, at least is suggested by the words of one of the Hebrews whom Moses found fighting: "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" (2:14).

As a young minister, I sometimes identified with Moses' type of person. I was deeply disturbed by injustice and oppression and looked for some way to actively respond. In the days of the civil rights struggle, I marched and during the Viet Nam War I demonstrated. Looking back upon those times, while I have no reason to regret or renounce the positions I took and never countenanced violence, nevertheless I have sometimes wondered if some of the methods with which we pursued the struggle were not in the long run self-defeating. Seeking brotherhood among races, some of us simply stirred antagonisms. In the name of peace, many of us only succeeded in causing more strife. Perhaps, although our hearts were in the right place, our heads were not. The means we used to cure the evil didn't cure it at all.

In the name of faith, Christians have sometimes sown doubt. In the name of love, we have frequently stirred hate. In the name of Christ, we have acted like his enemies.

This was something Moses had to learn... and all of us!

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## Farm Calendar

### Saturday, June 11

Franklin County Dairy Princess Pageant, Kauffman Community Center, Marion, 7:00 p.m.  
Strawberry Festival, Whistle Stop Nursery & Farm, Ringoes, NJ. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. through June 12. Call 201-788-8552.

Somerset Dairy Princess Pageant, Somerset High School, Somerset, 7:30 p.m.

Lebanon County Dairy Princess Pageant, Annville High School, Annville, 7:30 p.m.

Bradford County Dairy Princess Pageant, Canton High School, Canton, 8:15 p.m.

Adams County Dairy Princess Pageant, Biglerville High School, Biglerville.

### Monday, June 13

World Pork Expo, Des Moines, Iowa, through the 14th.

4-H Lamb Fitting & Showing, Bradford Co., 7 p.m., Stewart's Farm.

### Tuesday, June 14

Bucks/Montgomery Carcass Con-

test, Delaware College, Doylestown.

FFA activities week, State College, through the 16th.

Direct Marketing Twilight Meeting, Four Winds Farm, Tabernacle, NJ. 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Call 201-788-1338.

### Wednesday, June 15

Wayne County Wool Pool, Frank Machek Farm, Pleasant Mount, 8 a.m. to noon. Call 717-253-5970 X 114.

Leaf Composting Conference, Douglass Campus, Registration in advance is \$35. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wool Pool, 7 a.m. Bradford County, Bresec's Barn, Ulster.

### Thursday, June 16

Capon Conference, J.O. Keller Conference Center, University Park, PSU.

Bucks/Montgomery Carcass Contest, Gehman Meats, Morwood.

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