



OPINION

Farming The Old Fashioned Way

Some things never become old fashioned for Lancaster Farming farmers. For example when George Overly, Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland County, had a barn fire in mid June the event triggered a feeling of empathy among his neighbors & friends. And these farmers responded.

The fire, reported to have been started from a stray spark from a tractor, destroyed the large bank barn, two silos, two tractors and other farm equipment. In addition a large chunk of the year's feed supply was also destroyed. Fortunately the herd of dairy cows was outside at the time.

Don Freets, president of the Westmoreland County Farmers Association responded when he found a neighboring farm that had hay that needed to be made. "The hay was standing there and we needed to get it in and make it while it was good," Freets said.

And John Wigel and Don Hutter responded. They organized a bale-a-thon to get hay made to compen-

sate for Overly's lost crop. On June 18 farmers with 11 haybines cut the hay. And on June 20 the same number of rakes plus five round balers and several bale movers and wagons came to complete the job. Local farm suppliers donated twine.

Help was also planned to clean up the rubble from the fire. And the dairy herd, while saved from the fire had been housed in a freestall barn but now must be milked in a stanchion barn. The neighbors also help train the cows to use this unfamiliar milking arrangement.

Farm neighbors helping farm neighbors in time of need has been a part of the heritage of agriculture for many years and it feels good to be part of a community that gives this kind of support. You might even say when George Overly's neighbors put together their bale-a-thon and helped with other necessary chores after the fire they were doing what comes naturally in farm communities. You might say they were simply farming in the old-fashioned way.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Combine At The Proper Speed

We are in the last stages of barley harvest, and the winter wheat crop is ripening fast. Both of these crops require mechanical harvesting equipment and good weather. From the amount of volunteer grain I've seen growing after barley and wheat harvests, the last several years, it is evident that too much grain is being left in the field.

I am concerned that high combine speed might be part of the reason that grain is thrown out with the straw. The manufacturer recommendations should be followed in this respect. Also, there are times when the grain may be too tough to combine. This is often the case when the crop is quite weedy. The important thing is to have the combine adjusted to the best of your knowledge and then drive at recommended speeds. You'll need every bushel of grain and every bale of straw from your crop.

To Combat High Feed Prices With High Quality Forages

One way to combat high protein and feed commodity prices is to produce, procure and feed more high quality forages. A good time to focus on this is during the growing and harvesting season says Extension Dairy Agent, Glenn Shirk. Because of their higher protein and energy content, high quality forages can replace more of the expensive grains and supplements in the ration. The time to procure feeds is before supplies become tight and before panic buying prevails.

Shirk also emphasizes reducing feed wastage, and feeding high quality or expensive feeds only to the best cows that are capable of generating a good return on the feed dollar. Don't waste good feed on non-profitable cattle; consider culling inefficient producers now while cull prices are favorable.

To Clean Pesticide Sprayers

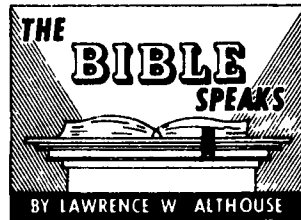
The use of various kinds of spray materials in one sprayer is

risky. This is especially true when you are using any type of weed killer. In too many cases the sprayer carries sufficient residual weed killer material to injure a susceptible crop. Farmers who are spraying corn fields with weed killers one day and then spraying alfalfa or tobacco plants the next day with the same equipment had better do a real thorough job of cleaning the sprayer.

Some materials can be cleaned by using warm water and soap detergent. However, materials such as 2,4-D had better be cleaned with one pint of household ammonia in 25 gallons of HOT water. Allow this mix to remain in the sprayer overnight and then spray it out through the system on the lane or driveway. Don't be guilty of harming good plants. One of the best practices with small sprayers is to have one for weed killers and another for other purposes.

To Prepare For Fire Protection

Our barns are filling up with new crops of hay, straw and grain so we need to be concerned with fire protection. We urge farmers to give some thought to water supplies for fighting fires. Many farmers indicated that their fire company would be unable to supply adequate water; this increases the risk of serious fire losses. Farms with streams nearby should have plans developed to move the fire engine within 25 feet of the water. Owners of ponds should have all-weather driveways to the pond. There have been cases where buildings burned while the fire truck was mired down in the mud trying to get to the pond. It's a good idea to inform your local fire company of the source of water supplies for fighting fires. A good water supply for fighting fire is good insurance against severe losses.



LET MY PEOPLE GO!
June 26, 1988

Background Scripture:

Exodus 4:27 through 6:1-11.

Devotional Reading:

Exodus 7:1-5.

This has been a bad year for the ordained clergy. One scandal after another has dominated the newspapers and the airwaves. All of the "big stories," to date, have been concerned with sexual misadventures by prominent Christian ministers. Someone recently said to me, "If a clergyman's in trouble, 99 times out of 100 it will have something to do with sex!"

Without disputing that statement or attempting to downgrade the importance of these infamous escapades, it has intrigued me that sexual sins are emphasized to the exclusion of just about all other types. Unfortunately, this concentration on one area of morality obscures failures in others which are at least equally and possibly even more important.

POWER GAMES

For example, the exercise of power. Millions of people--clergy and lay alike--abuse the exercise of power, but these sins are not "juicy enough" to command media attention. I'm not thinking only of the powerful television evangelists who control the flow of millions of dollars or of government officials who sell their influence to the highest bidders--those are just the most obvious examples. I'm thinking also of those who play "power games" at work, clerks who treat customers as if they were doing them a favor, or educators, ministers, and social workers who abuse their influence over others.

Some months ago I visited a

Dallas prison to see one of the inmates. The waiting room was packed with relatives and friends and the prison employee who controlled the passes for visits treated these people as if they were the criminals. She was a minor official, but she had the power to intimidate and mistreat innocent people, who, incidentally, had already suffered enough.

Just because the abuse of power doesn't grab the headlines doesn't mean that the sin and the consequences are any less. In fact, they are probably even more injurious to us, personally and collectively.

PHAROAH VS. GOD

Pharaoh's sin in Exodus chapters 4 - 11 is an abuse of power. In fact, the whole story is that of power struggle between Pharaoh and Moses, or to be more accurate, between Pharaoh and God. When Moses and Aaron came with their reasonable request, "Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness" (5:11), Pharaoh not only turns them down, but also decides to punish the Hebrews for even asking: "Let heavier work be laid upon the men that they may labor at it and pay no regard to lying words" (5:9).

For Moses, Aaron and the Hebrews this oppression came as a crushing blow. Moses was so disturbed that he complained openly to God: "O Lord, why hast thou done evil to these people? Why didst thou ever send me? For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in thy names, he has done evil to this people and thou hast not delivered thy people" (5:22,23). It was only after the power struggle was prolonged through ten plagues that Pharaoh at last gave in to Moses.

The use and abuse of power, as of sex, is an issue of great moral import in our times. All of us have power of some kind. So whether on the stage of world affairs or simply the place where you live and work, God's call comes to us as it did to Pharaoh: "Let my people go!"

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Farm Calendar

Saturday, June 25

Berks Co. Wool Pool, 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Reading Fairgrounds, Rts. 61 and 222, Reading.

Clarion Co. Town & Country Day, Richard and Donna Kline, Knox, PA. 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Schaefferstown Cherry Fair, 10:00 a.m.

Western Sheep Field Day, Robert Dixon Farm, Zelenople, 10:00 a.m.

Brown Swiss Pennsylvania Picnic, Charles Iron's Farm, Smethport, noon.

Crawford Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, 8:00 p.m. Wayne Stainbrook Farm, Meadville.

Kutztown Folk Festival, through July 4.

Hickory Ridge Antique Farm Show, Horace Potter, Milford, DE.

Sunday, June 26
National Holstein Convention, through June 30. San Diego, CA.

Wyoming County Dairy Day.

Tuesday, June 28

Three-day course in beekeeping, Cook College, NJ, 9:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Through June 30. Registration fee is \$40 in advance. For further information, call 201/932-9271.

Lancaster County Ag/Business

Tour, Leaves from Meadowbrook Market, Leola, 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, June 29

Christmas Tree Shearing Demonstration, Evergreen Lake between Moorestown and Point Phillips in Northampton County at 6:30 p.m. Sprayer calibration, weed control, and pesticide application to be discussed.

Thursday, June 30

Columbia-Luzerne County Dairy Princess Pageant, Light Street Grange, Bloomsburg, 7:30 p.m. Southeastern Regional Livestock Judging Contest, Manheim Fairgrounds.

Saturday, July 1

July is Ice Cream Month

Tuesday, July 5

Small Fruits Meeting, Ag Building, Tunkhannock, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 6

Philadelphia Ice Cream Day, Independence Mall

Eastern Junior Holstein Judging School, Columbia/Luzerne counties. Runs through the 7th.

Northeast Forest Tree Conference, Penn State. Runs through the 8th.

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DOVE CARPENTER

CAN YOU FIND THESE TEN DAIRY PRODUCTS HIDDEN IN THE WORD MAZE? GOOD LUCK!

- CHEESE
- YOGURT
- MILKSHAKE
- ICE CREAM
- ICE MILK
- BUTTERMILK
- CREAM CHEESE
- MILK
- CREAM
- BUTTER

Z Y O G U R T Y H T L A R G B X R G
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A SALUTE TO OUR DAIRY FOLKS

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