



OPINION

"An Industry Called Agriculture"

The big summer focus on agriculture is upon us again. Penn State University goes all out each August to showcase the research and development that has evolved in agriculture over the years.

And since education is what PSU is good at, we will expect Ag Progress Days to be educational, and they are. Every year farmers make the decision on how much fertilizer and what pesticides and herbicides to use. At Progress Days this year a special topics tour will be held to explain the latest research on the effects of farm production on water quality.

Or, if you have a brown spot on your lawn, or your tomato plants are stunted, you can take a sample along to Ag Progress Days and talk to the faculty at the Plant Disease Clinic. They are prepared to answer your questions.

Teenagers will find something too. Computer and careers in agri-

culture is the theme of this year's Youth Building. Counselors will offer advice and information.

And, if you're a housewife looking for a way to cut the fat in your diet, "The Meating Place" is for you. PSU faculty and representatives from the meat industry will be on hand to show you new ways to cook and serve lean cuts of pork, lamb, veal and beef.

And, of course, you'll want to see the field demonstrations. Grassland management will be big, as will many of the tillage and harvesting demonstrations. And there will be no end to the new and modern farm machinery and equipment on display for your inspection.

As in the past, this year's Ag Progress Days promises to be the showcase in modern farming. Truly "an industry called farming" will be on display next week at Rock Springs. We'll see you there.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Use Equipment Safely

We are fast approaching the harvesting of nearly 190,000 acres of corn in Lancaster County. This harvest is the result of a big investment of time, effort and money. And this year it is going to take a lot more acres to fill your silo, because of the dry weather. That means the harvesting equipment will be traveling over more acreage, and whether it's free from a costly mishap depends on how well you prepare your equipment and how safely you and your help run that equipment. Here are some suggestions:

- * Operate and maintain all machines according to the operator's manual.
- * Keep all shields in place.
- * Shut off the power before unclogging or servicing. Wait until all parts have stopped.
- * Adjust ground speed to field and crop conditions.
- * Use caution on highways with SMV signs in place.
- * Keep children and non-workers off and safely away from harvesting equipment.
- * Look up as well as to the front and back when moving tall equipment near overhead power lines. Safety requires practice ... let's practice it every day.

To Apply For Gasoline Tax Refund

I would like to remind our farmers that application for the Pennsylvania Liquid Fuel Tax Refund should be filed before September 30.

Farmers may apply for a 12 cent per gallon refund on all liquid fuels used in non-licensed tractors when used off the highway for agricultural purposes, or non-licensed power farm machinery used for actual farm work. This includes fuel used in all auxiliary engines on balers, elevators and other stationary equipment.

The liquid fuel tax is for all farm production fuel used between July 1, 1987 and June 30, 1988.

The people who have not already received applications should apply by writing: Board of Finance and Revenue, Room 409 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120 or by calling 717-787-3365.

Remember, applications received after September 30 will not be honored; they must be filed on time. The time to do it is now.

Keep in mind -- this is not

money the State is giving you -- it is money you already paid; you are just applying to get it back. It may not seem like much but 12 cents per gallon on 5,000 gallons is \$600.00.

To Apply Lime When Seeding Small Grains

Preparation is being made for fall wheat and barley seeding. This is an excellent time to apply lime. A soil test will indicate how much per acre, if needed. This is doubly important if you plan to seed a grass-legume mixture next spring.

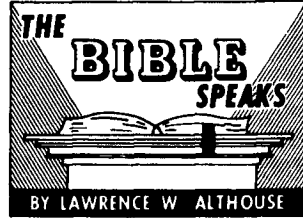
Many times a clover or alfalfa producer will wait until spring to have lime applied to his field. This is not the best way to obtain a good stand. Lime needs up to six months to react to the soil and correct the acidity.

If soil needs lime, it should be

To Fertilize Strawberries

The new strawberry patch that you planted this spring should be pushing runners by this time of year. It's a good idea to fertilize these new plantings during August. A fertilizer high in nitrogen would be best.

The objective is to encourage more runners and develop a stronger plant. It will also increase yields for next summer. Another thing, weeds must be controlled at all times to have a healthy strawberry patch. The earlier in the summer we can get the runner plants to take root, the better they will be established for next year.



REDEMPTION OR EXEMPTION? August 14, 1988

Background Scripture: Numbers 14: 1-25.
Devotional Reading: Exodus 33:7-16.

The Exodus took place more than 3,000 years ago. Yet, despite all those years intervening between their time and ours, the behaviour of the people of Israel seems surprisingly contemporary. The forms of their behaviour may be quite different, but the motivation doesn't appear to have changed all that much.

What could be more contemporary than the whining of the Israelites after having been challenged to take possession of the Promised Land! "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in the wilderness! Why does the Lord bring us into this land, to fall by the sword?...would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?" (Numbers 14:1-3).

THE SECURITY OF BONDAGE

It seems so strange when you think about it, but it is always a human temptation to want to go back when confronted by a challenge. It would appear that many of the Israelites would have chosen to return to Egyptian slavery, rather than take up the challenge of the Promised Land. The problem is that too many of us prefer the security of bondage to the uncertainty of faith. So the people of Israel believed more strongly in the might of the Canaanites than they did the power of the God who had already delivered them in so many ways. Strange, but not all that unbelievable, for we still sometimes respond that way to God's

challenges.

Moses sought to persuade God to pardon the Israelites and we can't help being a bit amused at his attempts to argue with God, slyly suggesting that, if he destroys the Israelites, the neighboring people will think: "Because the Lord was not able to bring this people into the land which he swore to give to them, therefore he has slain them in the wilderness" (14:16). In other words, the death of the Israelites will look like a failure of God's power. Instead, he says, let God display the power of his love. **THE CONSEQUENCES**

So, God does pardon Israel. Moses prayed for redemption and that's what Israel received. The people were all forgiven for their faithlessness. That, however, did not mean that they would be exempted from the consequences of their sin. Forgiven, yes! Exempted, no! "...none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs which I wrought in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the proof these ten times and have not hearkened to my voice, shall see the land which I swore to give to their fathers" (14:22,23).

God forgave them and that wiped clean the slate of their covenant relationship. But it did not alter the consequences of their sin. Redemption brings us forgiveness, but it does not bring us exemption from paying the price of our own actions or attitudes. If I get drunk and drive down the street and kill someone in a traffic accident, I can be redeemed of my sin by God, but no amount of forgiveness on his part will undo the consequences of my sin. The person I killed will still be dead. The sorrow I have brought to other people's lives will not be whisked away with a magic wand.

What God promises us and gives us is redemption, not exemption. And that's the way it should be, for we can live with the consequences-- hard and painful as they may be-- but not without God's forgiveness.

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Farm Calendar

Saturday, August 13

- Pa. Angus Farm Sale, Warren Angus, Furlong
- Bradford Co. Jr. Holstein Club, Blueberry Festival, Snowcrest Farm (David Walroth)
- Polled Hereford Field Day, Salunga Auction, Salunga, 8:30 a.m.
- Adams County poultry queen contest, Cross Keys, Motor Lodge, New Oxford, 5 p.m.

Sunday, August 14

- Columbia/Luzerne Dairy Field Day, 1 p.m., location in county mailing.
- Dayton Fair, Dayton, August 20.
- Cameron County Fair, Emporium, August 14-20.
- Carbon County Fair, Lehighton, August 14-20.
- Huntingdon County Fair, Huntingdon, August 14-20.
- Washington County Fair, Washington, August 14-20.
- McKean County Fair, Smithport, August 14-21.
- Lehigh County 4-H Horse Round-up, 9 a.m. Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie.

Monday, August 15

- South Central Holstein Show, Shippensburg Championship, 9:30 a.m.
- National County Agents meeting, Charlotte, N.C., August 14-18.
- Berks County 4-H Dairy Round-up, Reading Fair Grounds, August 15-16.
- Bullskin Township Fair, Mt. Pleasant, August 15-20.
- PSU Vegetable Field Day, Rock Springs

Tuesday, August 16

- Ag Progress Days, State College,

August 16-18.

- Huntingdon County Holstein Show, Huntingdon, 9 a.m.
- Md. State Fair, State Fairgrounds, Timonium, Md.
- Mifflin County Holstein Summer Classic Sale, Belleville, Kish Valley Dairy Sales, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, August 17

- Northeast Championship Show, Troy Fairgrounds, 9:30 a.m.
- PDA performance tested boar sale, Ag arena, PSU, 6 p.m.

Thursday, August 18

- Lawrence County Holstein Show, New Castle fairgrounds, 9 a.m.
- Washington County Holstein show, Washington.
- Delaware Summer Landscape Expo, Apgar-Turf Farm, Smyrna, DE.

Friday, August 19

- Bucks Co. Holstein Show, Wrightstown/Middletown Grange, 11 a.m.
- Erie County Holstein Show, Waterford Fairgrounds
- Antique Tractor Show, Preble County Fairgrounds, Eaton, Oh.

Saturday, August 20

- Central Championship Show, 6 p.m., Huntingdon Fairgrounds
- Warren County Holstein Sale, Pitsfield, noon.
- Northeast District Dairy Shows, Troy Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.
- PA Cattlemen's Association, summer field day, Ag arena, PSU, 9 a.m.

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Lancaster Farming

Established 1955
Published Every Saturday
At Record-Express Office Building
22 E Main Street
Litz, PA 17543
— by —
Lancaster Farming, Inc.

A Steinman Enterprise

Robert G. Campbell General Manager
Everett R. Newswartger Managing Editor

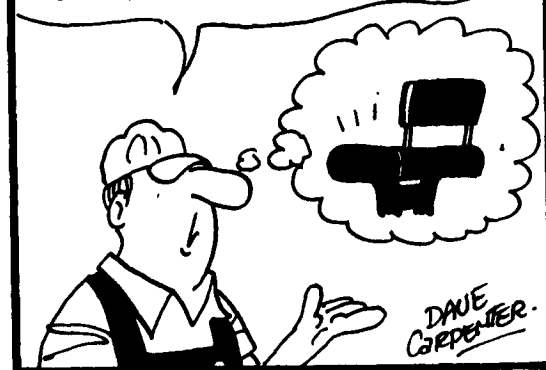
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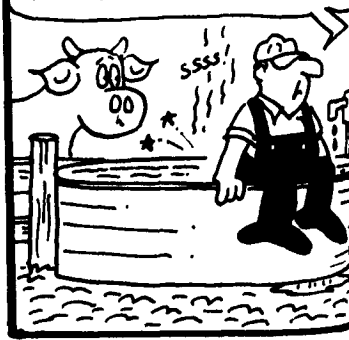
NEVER CLIMB ABOARD A TRACTOR...



... WITH A DARK, PLASTIC SEAT COVER...



... THAT HAS BEEN SETTING IN THE SUN FOR A PERIOD OF TIME



DAVE CARPENTER