



OPINION

Fair Friendship

We haven't felt much "nip in the air" yet. But the calendar says it's fall fair time. Time to sort out the best veggies, canned fruits and cut flowers from the back yard and garden to prepare an exhibit.

At the barn the FFA and 4-H youths should be grooming and training their pet project for the show. Even dads can be forgiven if they're pulling out the best slice of alfalfa hay or the perfectly matched dozen ears of corn to enter. This year the early dry weather may take it's toll on the size and perfectness of the ears. But the number of entries may be down, so you'll have a better chance to win.

Those who nurtured summer plans to grow the largest pumpkin or the best tasting celery get a spe-

cial feeling this time of year. You can't describe this feeling but you know you will not be satisfied until you go, at least one evening, to see the parade and all the new equipment that the local dealer trucked into his booth at the fair ground.

But most of all you can't miss seeing the people—not only your farm friends, but friends from town too. Friends that get together with friends at ag fairs are the best friends. Somehow, the barriers that are erected between city and country throughout the year fall to the force of friendship beside the livestock tent or next to the display of quilts.

So pull on your long sleeve shirt and put your friendship to work at the local fair. See everybody there.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Observe National Farm Safety Week

The proclamation of September 18-24 as the 45th Annual National Farm Safety Week is very important during this busy corn harvest and fall grain planting season. Agriculture has helped to make America a land of plenty. But providers of this abundance often are seriously or fatally injured while working to feed and clothe us. According to National Safety Council estimates for 1987, such mishaps, resulted in about 1,600 deaths and 160,000 disabling injuries. Agriculture continued to have one of the highest death and injury rates (per 100,000 workers) of the major U.S. industries.

Cost-conscious farmers needn't fear that it's costly to be safe. Most of the investment simply would be personal attention rather than dollars.

Let's practice safe habits every day.

To Be Aware Of The Century Farm Program

The Century Farm Program is aimed at recognizing the efforts of Pennsylvania's farm families which have preserved the tradition of the rural heritage of the pioneer farm.

The program was started as part

of the Nation's bicentennial observance in 1976, but is being continued for its value in promoting the ideals of the family farm and the importance of farming to Pennsylvania's economy.

To be eligible for Certification as a Century Farm, a farm must have been owned by the same family for the last 100 consecutive years, and a family member must currently reside on the land. In addition, the farm must consist of ten or more acres of the original holdings or gross at least \$1,000 a year from the sale of agriculture products.

We encourage you to participate in this program that is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Applications are available at the county extension office.

To Mow Weedy Pastures

If your pasture is weedy, then get out the mower. There are two good reasons for this; one it eliminates the production of weed seeds and two, it removes mature forage which lets plants send out new and tender growth. But, before you mow, you should graze the pasture heavily. With grazing you can utilize all the available feed. The animals eat some weeds, but they also eat some of the tall grasses that

would be wasted by mowing. Remember to mow closely... 2 to 3 inches. And instead of trashing the clippings, save them. Many farmers recover enough hay from pasture mowings to winter their cattle.

To Secure Wood Supply

Many homeowners are planning to use more wood for heating their homes this winter. This is a national trend resulting in a strong demand for all kinds of wood. Prices are also reflecting this increased demand. Woodlot owners might be in a position to do some tree culling and thinning and realize some extra income from the area. It's not too early to be getting this wood on hand or to do some cutting. Since dry wood will give better results than green wood, it will be best to have the wood supplies cut and drying before cold weather arrives. As I have traveled the county in recent weeks, I have noticed more and more wood piles in rural areas. Wood is a replaceable natural resource and deserves our attention in production as well as marketing for fuel saving purposes.

Penn State Cooperative Extension is an affirmative action, equal opportunity educational institution.

Farm Calendar



Friday, September 16

Eastern States Exposition, Springfield, Mass.

York County FFA Swine Sale, York Fairgrounds, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 17

Pride of York Co. Swine Sale, York Fairgrounds, 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 18

Penn Ag annual meeting, Sheraton Inn, Gettysburg, Beaver Community Fair, Beaver Springs, through the 24th.

Monday, September 19

Reading Fair, through the 24th. Gratz Fair, through the 24th.

Tuesday, September 20

Lancaster Fruit Growers' meeting, Kauffman's Fruit Farm & Market, Bird-in-Hand, 7:00 p.m.

Ephrata Fair, through the 24th. Harmony Grange Fair, Westover, through the 24th.

Friday, September 23

1988 PA Maple Tour, Penn Wells Hotel, Wellsboro, 23 & 24.

Saturday, September 24

State Dairy Princess Pageant, Marriott, Harrisburg.

Sunday, September 25

Bloomsburg Fair, Bloomsburg, through October 1.

Monday, September 26

All American Dairy Show through September 30.

Tuesday, September 27

Morrison Cove Community Fair, Martinsburg, through September 30

Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Co-operatives annual meeting, Sheraton West, Harrisburg.

Wednesday, September 28

Pennsylvania Poultry Federation Conference, Holiday Inn,

Grantsville.

West Lampeter Community Fair through September 30.

New Holland Community Fair through October 1.

World Ayrshire Conference meet Penta Hotel, New York City. Visit Pennsylvania through October 2. Continue to mid-west through October 8.

Thursday, September 29

Try-Valley Community Fair, Hegins through October 2

Pennsylvania All-American

SCHEDULE

of Shows, Sales, and Contests

Saturday—September 24

6 30 p m —Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Pageant, Marriott Inn

Sunday through Friday—September 25 through 30

9 00 a m to 8 00 p m —Country Craft Show, Lower Concourse, Large Arena

Monday, September 26

8 00 a m —Invitational Youth Dairy Judging Contest. (4 H, FFA, and Collegiate) Small Arena

8 00 a m —Pennsylvania Junior Dairy Show

1 30 p m —Invitational Milking Shorthorn Sale Small Arena

7 00 p m —Judging Contest Awards Banquet, Sheraton Harrisburg East

7 00 p m —Invitational Brown Swiss Sale, Small Arena

7 00 p m —Eastern National Milking Shorthorn Junior Show

Tuesday, September 27

9 00 a m —Eastern National Brown Swiss Show

9 00 a m —Eastern National Milking Shorthorn Show

10 00 a m —Junior Dairyman Contest, Second Floor, Main Building

10 00 a m —Pennsylvania 4-H and FFA Dairy Judging Forum, Small Arena

1 30 p m —Pennsylvania Lite Ayrshire Sale Small Arena

Wednesday, September 28

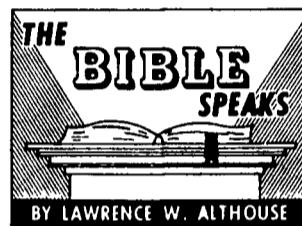
9 00 a m —National Guernsey Show

9 00 a m —PAA Ayrshire Show

11 30 a m —1988 Jersey Harvest Futurity, Small Arena

1 30 p m —Pennsylvania Jersey State Sale, Small Arena

(Turn to Page A25)



WHY, GOD? WHY?
September 18, 1988

Background Scripture: Job 29 through 30:27.

Devotional Reading: Psalms 69:1-15.

We sometimes speak of "the patience of Job," and he was a patient—or better, perhaps, a man of abiding faith. But that does not mean that Job passively accepted all the terrible things that happened to him. Job did not understand why these calamities had come to him. But, unlike many of us, Job didn't spend his time complaining to his friends and neighbors — if he had any left — but took his agonizing questions and feelings directly to God. Obviously, Job thinks there is something wrong with the way things are going and he doesn't hesitate to tell God just what he is thinking.

THE MONTHS OF OLD

We can't help but feel deep sympathy for Job when he tells God that he wishes that he could return to the way things were: "Oh, that I were as in the months of old, as in the days when God watched over me... and by his light I walked through the darkness" (Job 29:2,3). In the good old days he had felt that God was with him. He had enjoyed the respect and admiration of his fellow townsmen. He had occupied the pre-eminent position in his whole area. But now, he

feels all alone and, instead of respect, "...now they make sport of me...They abhor me, they keep aloof from me" (30:1,10).

When, like Job, we find ourselves in the midst of misfortune, one of the first signs of our situation is the way in which we may seem to be abandoned by our friends and others. In prosperity our circle of friends, associates and supporters seems to have no end. In adversity, we often find — or at least we think — that we stand alone. And, bereft to this human support, we may also assume that God has deserted us and we yearn for the return of the days when "the Almighty was yet with me" (29:5). **ALL IN VAIN?**

When adversity closes in upon us, like Job, we wonder what was the good of all our attempts to help others. Was it all in vain, we wonder? In his prayer, Job recited to God a long list of his good works: "I was eyes to the blind, and feet to the lame. I was father to the poor, and I searched out the cause of him whom I did not know" (29:15,16). Intellectually, we know that our good deeds do not buy us exemption from adversity, but our hearts seem to forget it.

Job's complaint to God is not a mild theological dispute: "I cry to thee and thou dost not answer me; I stand and thou dost not heed me. Thou hast turned cruel to me" (30:20,21). Some of us might wince at Job's directness, but apparently God regarded Job's honesty as another facet of his faith and loyalty.

Our honest complaints of "Why, God? Why?" do not destroy our relationship with him. Instead, they kept it alive and well.

(Based on copyrighted Outlines produced by the Committee on the Uniform Series and used by permission. Released by Community & Suburban Press.)

Lancaster Farming
Established 1955
Published Every Saturday
At Record-Express Office Building
22 E. Main Street-
Lititz, PA 17543
— by —
Lancaster Farming, Inc.
A Steinman Enterprise
Robert G. Campbell General Manager
Everett R. Newswanger Managing Editor
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