



# OPINION

## Good Neighbors About Manure

A generation ago, manure was considered a very valuable commodity. One farm family in the '40's and '50's valued manure to the extent that they considered the fertilizer value worth the year's input into a stable of steers, even if no profit was made on the beef market.

Now in Southeastern Pennsylvania manure is considered a nuisance by many people. Of course, many people who have opinions on manure are not farmers. Urban neighbors who have moved from New York, Baltimore and Philadelphia to live in the peaceful farm communities now find the working farm beside them to be less than a nuisance. In addition, environmental and government regulators have moved a ward policy that will tell farmers how, where, when and how much they may apply manure on their farms.

With the over population of livestock and poultry on area farms, high levels of nitrates and other contaminants are found in the underground water sources. For example, in Lancaster County, of 539 wells sampled by DER, one-third of these wells exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water standards for nitrates. This all adds impetus to the regulatory instincts of urban neighbors.

The most visible outgrowth of this problem has surfaced in Lancaster County as local governing bodies consider manure ordinances. The county conservation district sent a sample ordinance to 41 township supervisors several months ago. Under this ordinance, farmers would be required to obtain a permit to increase the number of livestock or to change the type of livestock on the operation. The permit could be denied by the township supervisors, if the additional manure could not be disposed of safely on existing land.

The permit would be necessary only to expand or change the farming operation. Seasonal increases would be allowed.

Some farmers think that to help formulate these ordinances is like aiding the enemy. At the Lancaster County Farmers Association annual meeting last week, several members were concerned that to show any support for such ordinances would only open the door to more government control and more "red tape".

But the manure problem will not go away. And the urban neighbors will continue to get closer to the "back forty". The farmer who chooses to continue to farm beside his city-bred neighbors cannot ignore the problem. When it comes

to the up and coming manure ordinances the farmer must get involved. First, he must get involved in the formulation of these ordinances so they are written with the practical needs of the farmer built into the document. In addition, the farmer must start immediately to educate his township supervisors and town officials in his area about practical manure application.

And most importantly, the farmer must be responsible on his own farm. As Paul Swartz, director of environmental resources for the State Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation, recently told farmers manure discharged in surface water is considered a nuisance. "Farmers must take responsibility for the ground or surface water in the Commonwealth," Swartz said.

"The big problem in Pennsylvania is people," Swartz said. "The way agriculture functions today, does not easily intergrate with people. You can't farm on one side of the road and have the city on the other side. You have to many problems with odors----."

Unlike some experts, we believe urban dwellers and farmers can co-exist in this area. But to do so will require each person to develop tolerance for the other's problems. Each must work together to accommodate the other's needs. Farmers must start to appreciate the city neighbors for their contribution to the community--like providing close markets for farm products. And city folks must overlook some of the working farm's nuisances so they can continue to enjoy the open space of the country. This kind of mutual cooperation will keep us going into the twenty-first century and keep us going, even if local manure ordinances are enacted.



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin  
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

### To Plan Winter Weed Control In Alfalfa

As the alfalfa plant slows down and prepares to go into dormancy, other plant populations in that same field can be increasing in vigor and growth. These are the winter annual weeds: chickweed, shepherd's purse, yellow rocket and some grassy weeds, which overwinter. All are in their young state of growth.

You'll not see crop injury now, but wait until the first cutting comes or next fall. These same weeds should have been controlled with seedling and pre-emergent herbicides. Not only do they lose yield but they cause problems and lower hay quality results.

Fall applied herbicide(s) will largely eliminate the costly winter weed problem. The Agronomy Guide lists a number of effective materials. Follow label instructions for application rates.

### To Check Ventilation Equipment For Winter

Exhaust fans in dairy and poultry houses have a heavy ventilation job to do. They remove moisture and dust, and in many cases run almost continually from October to April.

To make your ventilation system ready for winter, several items may need attention. The fan blades, motor enclosures and louvered shutters need cleaned frequently. Loose belts are common on belt driven fans. Fan output varies directly with fan speed. A 10 percent loss in R.P.M.'s of the fan means a 10 percent loss in air delivery.

Check the thermostat for accuracy by hanging a thermometer beside it for easy comparison. Be sure the sensing element is clean and free from dust.

### To Pick and Store Apples

Whether you grow apples or just like to eat them, it's important to store them properly.

Cool apples will keep longer. Ideally, they should be stored at 33° F. at 90 percent humidity, and in dim light or darkness.

Now as to picking, it's a good practice to store the fruit in shade as it is picked, then allow it to stand in the orchard overnight to cool. Then, place the apples in storage early in the morning before the temperature rises too much.

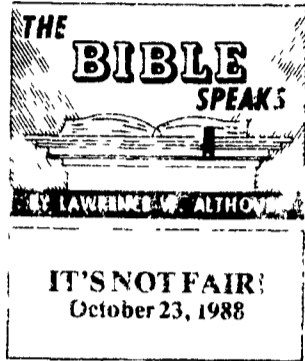
If you leave apples in a packing shed or in piles under the tree for one week, you'll shorten their

storage life by about five weeks. So, keep apples cool, maintain good air circulation during storage, and your apples should keep a long time.

### For Farm Show Entries

January, and Pennsylvania Farm Show time, seems like a long time away. But, really it is not, because now is the time to be making your livestock and dairy entries for the Pennsylvania Farm Show. Just a reminder that November 2 is the deadline for these entries -- and that is closing hand. So, if you are interested in exhibiting at Farm Show, you can obtain entry blanks and a premium book from your County Extension Office. The Farm Show runs from January 8 through 12, 1989.

The Penn State Cooperative Extension is an affiliate of a number of equal opportunity educational institutions.



### Background Scripture:

Isaiah 52:13 through 53:12.

### Devotional Reading:

Isaiah 52:7-15.

Who is "the servant" about whom Isaiah speaks so eloquently? It seems obvious that the prophet regarded Israel as the "Suffering Servant." Israel had indeed suffered, but Isaiah saw this suffering as an opportunity for God to accomplish his purpose in the world. The people who heard Isaiah must have been shocked for this was probably the most astoundingly revolutionary idea they had ever heard. It was contrary to everything held true and sacred by people in that time--not to mention our own.

Christians have always regarded Isaiah's "servant" as a prophecy of Jesus Christ, for he perfectly fits the prophet's description. Certainly Jesus himself must have seen himself in this role, finding it a model for his own passion: "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth." (53:7a). Even details of his passion are seemingly prophesied: "And they made his grave with the wicked (the thieves crucified with him) and with a rich man (Joseph Arimathea) in his death, although he had done no violence, but there was no deceit in his mouth" (53:9).

### WITH HIS STRIPES

Obviously Christian theology has always been greatly influenced by the concept of the "Suffering Servant." The whole concept of atonement is found in Isaiah's declaration that "Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;...But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was

the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we were healed" (53:4).

So, Christianity has no difficulty in recognizing Jesus as Isaiah's "Suffering Servant." What Christians have not recognized, however, is that the "Suffering Servant" is also supposed to be us, too. If Jesus was to conduct himself by this revolutionary concept--vicarious suffering--so, if we are Christians-- "little Christs"-- are we.

In that regard, we find this idea just as shocking as did the people of Isaiah's own time. We see no reason to believe that this is a viable way of life for us. Like the people of Israel, we know that one succeeds through success, not failure. In the words of a famous football coach, we believe that "Winning is not the most important thing; it's the only thing!" Jesus may have "won" doing it the "other way," but it is not anything that would work in the "real world."

### SELF-SACRIFICE

In general, then, Christians may salute the suffering servant concept, but there is little inclination to incorporate it into our lives. There are some exceptions, of course. Family members often willingly bear the consequences of the deeds of loved ones. From time to time a person may even be required to sacrifice himself or herself vicariously for another. But, for the most part, we wouldn't want this idea to catch on. Vicarious suffering is not "in"; getting what's coming to us is.

Many of us are obsessed with what is "fair." We assume that life is guaranteed to be fair and we are irate when it doesn't seem to be. Our most common complaint to God is that he fails to maintain "fairness" in the universe. What we forget is that while God is just, life may not be fair.

And, if life isn't fair, then maybe the only way to "win" is the way that Jesus chose. We still haven't given this way a chance.

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## Farm Calendar

- Saturday, October 22**  
Western PA Pork Producers Day, Cranberry Motor Lodge, Warrendale, 9 a.m.  
Antique Engine Tractor and Toy Club meeting, Kempton Fire Hall, 6:30 p.m.  
PA Jr. Holstein Association, Executive Committee meeting, PA Holstein Office at State College, 10:30 a.m.  
Eastern PA 4-H Beef & Lamb Sale, Ag Hall, Allentown Fair Grounds, 10 a.m.  
Keystone of Quality Simmental Show and Sale, 10 a.m., Greene

- County Fairgrounds, Waynesburg
- McKean County 4-H Achievement Night, County Fairgrounds, 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, October 24**  
State Grange annual meeting, through the 27th.
- Cumberland Co. Dairy Farm Management workshop, Vo-Ag room, Shippensburg Sr. High School, 7:30 p.m.
- Atlantic Dairy Coop Myerstown Local of District 34 meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Prescott Fire Hall.

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