



# OPINION

## A Barn Raising Of Commitment

We want to applaud the efforts in New York State to establish a center for Agricultural Medicine and Health at a Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown. While farming has surpassed mining as a hazardous occupation, proper help is often not available in time of need. Medical personnel at the scene of a farm accident are hard pressed to know what to do because of special farm situations.

For example, a farmer got his hand in the corn picker. The medics arrived in time to help but didn't know how to operate the equipment to release the man's hand. They wasted valuable time while they found someone who did know how to operate it.

The New York facility is planned to educate both medics and farmers. Farm related accidents that involve tractor overturns and power-take-off dismemberments receive lots of publicity. But there are other less well known hazards that farmers face each day.

Like hearing loss, arthritis, skin cancer, bronchitis and other lung disorders.

The American Lung Association has recognized the breathing hazards of farmers and moved to provide information for the pre-

vention and cure of these diseases. Nine booklets designed as an educational series for ag respiratory hazards are available from your local lung assn. chapter. Produced in cooperation with the extension service of Iowa State University, the subjects include: 1. Agricultural Structures and Respiratory Problems; 2. Dusts from Decayed Grain, Hay, and Silage; 3. Grain Dusts; 4. Livestock Confinement Dusts and Gases; 5. Oxides of Nitrogen (Silo Gas); 6. Applied Agricultural Chemicals; 7. Infectious Diseases; 8. Measurement of Agricultural Dusts and Gases; and 9. Personal Protective Equipment. A series for doctors, nurses and medics is also available.

Dr. David S. Pratt, director of the New York center, recently told journalists that fragmented interest groups will fail to provide quality occupational health services for farmers. But if we join our efforts in combined concern from a unified ag community, we will succeed. "We need a barn raising commitment to a safer, healthier world for farmers, farm workers and their families," Dr. Pratt said.

We believe the new Cooperstown center lays the foundation for that barn raising.



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin  
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

### To Prevent Pneumonia

As temperature and weather conditions vary considerably from day to day and from hour to hour, precautions need to be taken to prevent pneumonia. Pneumonia causing organisms are normally present in the respiratory tract, but under periods of stress an animal's resistance can be lowered to the point where it can no longer fight off the infection. So, it's important to minimize stress on animals. Keep barns well ventilated, but avoid cold drafts. This may require frequent adjustment of doors and windows, or the proper installation and use of fans. Good ventilation prevents the buildup of stagnant, moist germ-laden air. That's important! Also avoid overcrowding. During inclement and rapidly changing weather conditions, one should also minimize stresses associated with transporting animals, weaning, changing feeds, deworming, vaccinating, etc. When necessary, consult your veterinarian for advice on immunization and treatment.

### To Observe Weed Populations

Now that most of the corn is harvested, we can plainly see what weeds failed to be controlled in those fields. We are seeing more of the persistent, hard-to-control weeds appearing in our crop fields during the past 10-12 years. In part, this is because we have changed our farming methods, particularly tillage techniques and we're not using crop rotations in the case of continuous corn.

Bindweeds, horsenettle, hemp dogbane, curly dock, Canada thistle, Johnsongrass, and yes, even woody plants such as brambles and small volunteer trees have appeared in increasing numbers. We need to note the presence of these weeds now and then prepare to deal with them.

When you notice a new weed,

Cumberland Co. Dairy Banquet, Penn Tupt Firehall, Huntsdale  
Lancaster Co. PA Holstein Association annual meeting, Good-N-Plenty Restaurant, Lancaster.  
Drought Adjustment meeting, Vo-Ag room Geutysburg H.S., 8 p.m.

Cumberland Co. Dairy Herd Improvement program annual meeting, Penn Township Firehall, Huntsdale, 6:30 p.m.  
Mifflin DHIA meeting, Belleville Mennonite School, for reserva-

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have it identified and take appropriate control measures before that weed becomes a menacing problem. If weeds are presently escaping from your control efforts, find out how to change your weed management program.

### To Check Stand-By Generators

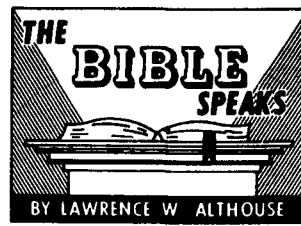
The winter season brings with it snow and ice storms that can damage and knock out our supply of electricity. Most farmers are badly crippled without electricity so the need for a stand-by generator is recognized. I know that many poultry farms in particular already have this equipment. However if the generator is not in good working condition, it may not do the job in case of emergency. These generators should be run once a week to reassure yourself that it's in good running condition. If it is a tractor hookup type, then take the time to make that connection each week. When the power goes off, you don't have time to run tests of

the equipment to make sure it's in proper working order.

### To Be Careful With Space Heaters

Colder weather is here and we see many types of heating equipment being used. Most of these are quite acceptable provided they are properly used and vented. In some cases the fumes from the fuel can be the cause of suffocation and personal injury; in other cases they can be a fire hazard. If temporary heaters are used; we suggest that extreme care be used to be certain that they do not make people ill or present a health hazard. Your local fire department officials, or a local plumber, will be able to give additional assistance. Don't take chances with the health of your family or your employees.

The Cooperative Extension Service is an affirmative action, equal opportunity educational institution.



TOWARD A NEW JERUSALEM  
October 30, 1988

### Background Scripture:

Isaiah 65:8-25.

### Devotional Reading:

Zephaniah: 3:14-20.

In my native state of Pennsylvania there is a little town named New Jerusalem. When I last saw it quite a number of years ago, there was nothing special about this town. If its founders thought that they were going to make their town a "New Jerusalem" in the biblical sense, they most certainly were eventually disappointed.

Actually, that's what happens with most of us. We live in hope of a new world, and from time to time it seems we are well on our way--only to eventually find crushing disappointment and disillusionment. Every age has known that experience. In the early part of this century, assured that we had fought "the War to end all wars" and thrilled with the rapid advance of science, we prophesied a modern age when all our greatest problems would eventually be overcome--then came World War II and our optimism was shattered. Following the war, however, we once again saw the near future as the fulfillment of all our dreams for a better world. But today, although the science and technology promise us even more than ever, we are fearful of what is ahead: the possibility of nuclear or ecological extinction, the sterility of technological environments, the mushrooming drug culture, and so on.

### ARMAGEDDON?

So the New Jerusalem seems further away, not closer. Some even believe it is Armageddon, not a New Jerusalem toward which we

are moving. Last evening a friend commented to me, "Isn't it strange that with all the technological improvements of the past few decades, it is more of a chore to travel today than it was." It's as if with every technological step forward, we've taken one or more human steps backward. In fact, that seems to be true of much of life and Isaiah's words seem particularly applicable to our own times; "Behold, my servants shall eat, but you shall be hungry; behold, my servants shall drink, but you shall be thirsty; ...shall rejoice, but you shall be put to shame; ...shall sing for gladness of heart, but you shall cry out for pain of heart, and shall wail for anguish of spirit" (65:13,14a).

### SELF-INFLICTED WOUNDS

According to pollsters, the prevailing attitude of the majority of young people today is essentially pessimistic about the world and the future. Many, we are told, believe they may die in a nuclear holocaust. Others believe that, by the time they "inherit the earth," it may be dying of wounds inflicted by the human race.

Yet, for all that pessimism--or is it realism? --about the state of human society, we need to realize that our hope for a New Jerusalem has never depended upon the perfect-ability of human society, but upon the grace of God. We keep before us the vision of a New Jerusalem, not because we are about to take its gates by storm, but because, despite our eternal delay in reaching it, it is God's promise "For behold I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create" (65:17,18).

Left to our own devices, we will never build the New Jerusalem. But responsive to God's will, the human race can still eventually experience the "new heavens" and the "new earth" he has promised us.

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## Farm Calendar

### Saturday, October 29

PSU Dairy Club Nittany Lion Fall Classic, Ag arena.

Benefit Auction for Amish accident victims, York Co. Livestock Sales, New Park, 9 a.m.

### Monday, October 31

PA Agricultural Agents Meeting, PFU 17th Annual Convention, dinner, 6 p.m., Holiday Inn, Grantville.

### Tuesday, November 1

PA Association of County Agents meeting, Penn State University.

### Wednesday, November 2

Washington/Greene Annual Mtg., Ramada Inn, Washington, 7:30 p.m.

### Thursday, November 3

Lancaster County Poultry Assn. Tour to Baltimore Inner Harbor, Leave Farm & Home Center, 8 a.m.

### Friday, November 4

Tulpehocken Young Farmer Banquet, Shortlesville Grange Hall, 7 p.m.

### Saturday, November 5

Bucks County Annual Holstein Meeting.

15th Annual North American International Livestock Exposition, Kentucky Fair and Expo

Center. Runs through Nov. 19.

### Monday, November 7

Cumberland Co. Dairy Farm workshop, vo-ag room, Shipensburg H.S., 7:30 p.m.

Octorara Young Farmers annual dinner meeting, West Fallowfield Christian School, 6:45 p.m.

### Tuesday, November 8

Ephrata Area Young Farmers Swine and Beef meeting, Ephrata, H.S., 7:45 p.m.

### Wednesday, November 9

National FFA Convention, 11/9-12  
Maryland Governor's Conference, Future of Ag, Omni, Baltimore; 11/10-11

Bradford Extension annual meeting, Wysox Presbyterian Church, 7 p.m.

Lackawanna Co. extension meeting, Lakeview Lounge, Intersection Routes 107 & 247.

### Thursday, November 10

Centre Co. annual Holstein meeting, Progress Grange, Pleasant Gap.

Berks Co. Farmer Business person exchange, 5th annual Farm-City banquet, 6 p.m. at Stokesay Castle

## Lancaster Farming

Established 1955

Published Every Saturday

Ephrata Review Building

1 E Main St

Ephrata, PA 17522

— by —

Lancaster Farming, Inc.

A Steinman Enterprise

Robert G. Campbell General Manager

Everett R. Newswanger Managing Editor

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UNCLE OTIS AND I WERE PLAYING FOOTBALL AND UNCLE OTIS PUNTED THE BALL OVER FORTY YARDS.



HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT IT WAS OVER FORTY YARDS?



'CAUSE I KICKED IT FROM THE BARN AND IT'S EXACTLY FORTY YARDS FROM MY BARN TO THE...



...BIG PICTURE WINDOW ON THE FRONT OF MY HOUSE

