



# OPINION

## We'll See You There

The economy of Pennsylvania depends on agriculture because agriculture is our primary industry. And because the men and women who farm and work in the supporting agribusinesses do such a good job, we have the leading agricultural state in the Northeast.

That's why this year's Farm Show theme, "Pennsylvania Agriculture--The Keystone of Our Economy," provides a worthy title to our annual showcase for agriculture in the State capitol. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture reports that 20 percent of the jobs in the State have their base in agriculture. In addition, this employment stimulates \$35 billion in related economic activity.

Farm Show officials estimate that over 500,000 visitors make the annual visit to the nation's largest indoor agricultural exposition. That's good, because not all these visitors are farmers. Many who come are city or urban dwellers who make direct contact only with the farm at this time.

What better time to have visitors than when we have on our show clothes? We even get international visitors to the show.

More than 265 commercial exhibitors and about 8,000 individual entries in livestock, poultry, farm crops and home and school competitions will be on display. All will try for a share of the \$184,156 in premiums.

In contrast, when the first farm show was held in 1917 at the Emerson Brantingham Building in Harrisburg, the premium total was \$735. About 5,000 visitors attended that first show in 1917.

While it's hard to say just how much influence the farm show has had on the great advances in agricultural production and technology, there can be no doubt that it serves as a valuable incentive to improve agriculture. This premier exhibit recognizes the outstanding achievements of the industry and offers a unique location to display new technological advancements. The competition provides a spirit that helps increase farm production year after year.

Whatever your reason for attending the Farm Show next week, we believe you will find something to hold your interest. Come snow or high water, we hope to see you there.

### FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

Editor:

Having had my first contact with newspaper reporters in the early '40s when I started my first irrigation project and quite a few since during my farm operation I will say your two articles in Dec. 24 issue on our school problem is very well put.

First I want to thank you for your effort and if possible convey my thanks to every person that contributed information to send articles in some future issue of your farm magazine.

With our property adjoining this school property and myself working this ground for forty years I could not fail to see a lot about the building and operation of our school. The one word to best describe it I think is disgrace and the uprising which seems to be widespread and to my judgment is long overdue.

Every school tax payer should read the Trojan Horse in American Education by Samel Bleumen-

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### Farm Calendar

**Saturday, January 7**  
PA Farm Show, Harrisburg Farm Show Complex, through Jan. 13.  
Dauphin County Annual Meeting, Dauphin Co. Ag & Natural Resource Ctr.  
**Monday, January 9**  
PACAA Board Meeting, Penn

Harris Motor Inn, 9:00 a.m. to noon, board meets with farmers noon to 3:00 p.m.  
York County Family Records Workshop, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Extension Office.  
Egg Producers Meeting, Lancaster Holiday Inn North, 6:30 p.m.  
Pesticide Exam, Lancaster Farm &



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin  
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

### To Transfer Silage

Livestock and dairy producers who have silage stored in temporary structures might be planning to move this feed into upright silos in the next month or so. Many producers use the temporary storage until some of the material is fed out of the upright silo. By transferring into the upright silo, mechanical feeders can be used. The objective is to move the silage during cold weather. The months of January and February normally provide this condition. When transferring during warm weather (above 50°F) there is danger of more heating of the silage. No preservative should be needed. The faster the material can be moved into the upright silo, the better it will settle and remove the air.

### To Be Aware of Child Labor Laws

If you have boys or girls between the ages of 14 and 16 that plan to operate a farm tractor or machinery on a farm, other than your own farm, be sure they have the proper certification. Under the child labor regulations, the law requires that those boys or girls between 14 and 16 years of age, be certified and carry a certification card before they are permitted to operate hazardous equipment. Some equipment listed under the law as hazardous are... a tractor with over 20 PTO horsepower, corn picker, hay baler, feed grinder, forklift and many more. Again, on your own farm, your children can operate any equipment that you feel is safe for them.

The certification process in most areas is through the Vocational Agricultural Departments in the school system or through the 4-H Tractor Clubs. Contact either for more information.

### To Service Farm Machinery

This is the time of the year to be preparing your farm equipment for spring work. In the first place, this machinery should not be out in the weather. I know that buildings are expensive to construct, so if you are out of building space, cover the equipment with a tarp; this will reduce weather damage.

Preparing farm machinery for the coming spring and summer is necessary during this slower sea-

Home Center.

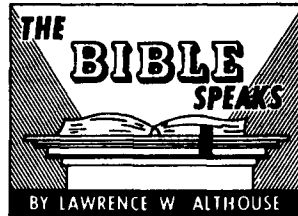
**Tuesday, January 10**  
Annual meeting & banquet of the PA Dairymen's Association,  
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son. You can make use of the off-season labor supplies. Machinery is a huge investment and should be kept in good condition at all times. We had a policy on my father's farm to always give a good grease job to all equipment going into storage for the winter... this kept moisture out of the bearings. Rain and snow will soon develop rust on equipment; this will shorten the life span and is a primary cause of many unnecessary breakdowns.

### To Use Sawdust On Icy Walks

Freezing rain, sleet and hard packed snow on walkways and driveways are quite slippery and dangerous. The next time you have this condition, try using coarse sawdust to reduce the hazard.

Ammonium nitrate and other fertilizers have been used for



INTO THE DEEP  
January 8, 1989

Background Scripture: Luke 5:1-11.

Devotional Reading: Matthew 16:21-28.

Hardly a day goes by that my local newspaper doesn't run a story about a business enterprise that is in danger of failing because its goals were bigger than its resources. I must confess, however, that I have never known of a church that failed because it was too dedicated to the mission of Christ or attempted to do too much for others. Somewhere there may have been one or two, but I've never known of a church that went broke because it gave too much away. To be sure, I have known of a few churches that built structures they couldn't pay for. But I have observed that most of the churches that close their doors are those that never tried to do enough.

A few months ago I read *The Art of the Deal* by Donald Trump. It is the story of how one entrepreneur has been able to raise enormous sums of money for commercial projects that would stagger the imagination of ordinary people. Through faith in himself and the economic process, Trump has performed some financial miracles. Although he has experienced some defeats and disappointments along the way, this man is obviously not afraid to launch out into the depths of commercial enterprise and do things that others wouldn't imagine in their wildest dreams.

### LAUNCHING OUT

By comparison, we Christians, blessed with even greater resources and promises, are not all enterprising for the sake of the gospel. I'm not talking about building a new church or enlarging an old

melting ice and they may be effective, but the chemical reaction will ruin a concrete surface in just a year or two. Sand and grit from deteriorating concrete, when tracked into the house, is a nuisance to clean and it marks and scratches finished floors.

Some commercial ice melting compounds containing ammonium nitrate are just as bad as fertilizers and the runoff from these melting chemicals may kill grass, trees and shrubs.

Coarse sawdust spread on slippery sidewalks provides a relatively skid-free surface. It has no harmful effect on concrete or plant life. It is much easier to pick up with a vacuum cleaner if tracked into the house.

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one -- one can always raise funds for bricks and mortar. I'm talking about ways and means of proclaiming the gospel beyond the four walls of our church buildings, of meeting some of the monumental needs that cry out from our communities. It would seem that what the church lacks today is the enterprising spirit that is essential in the world of business.

Jesus met with such success in his early ministry that the crowds became a problem. On one occasion, the press of the crowd is so great that Jesus gets into Peter's fishing boat and pushes a few feet offshore before settling down to preach and teach once again. In the midst of all this, Jesus instructs Simon Peter and his associates to "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch" (5:4).

Peter is incredulous: "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing!" Peter could respond to Jesus on one of two levels. On the basis of reason and experience alone, he would have to reject Jesus' challenge. After all, fishing was Peter's trade and there were obviously no fish to be caught. Peter, however, wisely opted for faith instead of reason: "But at your word I will let down the nets" (5:5).

### CATCHING MEN

Luke tells us what happened next: "...when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink" (5:7). On their own efforts they had gotten nothing; because of Christ, however, their take of fish was overwhelming.

This is not a scriptural "big fish" story, however, but a living parable for Peter, James, John... and us. When Peter reacts with holy fright, Jesus reassures him: "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men" (5:10). And so will we, if in faith we will dare to "Put out into the deep."

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