



OPINION

Cornucopia Promotes Agriculture

Each year leaders from government, agriculture and the food industry get together at what is called the Keystone Cornucopia. This has been a yearly event since 1981. All kinds of scrumptious food is served from Pennsylvania's bountiful table. And state legislators go home with baskets of food provided by the many different food processors.

In past years this event, sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations, used a buffet style meal to give the wide variety of food a chance to be served. But this year the event scheduled for Monday evening, February 6, will feature a served dinner with two entrees to ensure that the diversity of the State's agricultural bounty is evident.

The event to be held at the Hershey Convention Center will project a united front for Pennsylvania's number one industry. This is true because numerous organizations and associations that serve agriculture join together to promote Pennsylvania farm products through this yearly event. The Cornucopia shows officials in Harrisburg that agriculturists work together for the betterment of the state's economy. Hopefully, after these officials see the magnitude of the benefits offered to the public by the food/farming industry, they will be more inclined to adopt legislation sympathetic to agriculture's needs.

The tickets cost \$35.00 each. That's a lot of money even for the good dinner if that were all you were getting for your contribution. But in this case your dollars help promote agriculture and you get the dinner too. If you want to be a part of this premier social and promotional event of the year for Pennsylvania produced foods, call the State Council's office now at (717) 232-7232 and make your reservations. We think you'll be glad you did.

Farm Calendar

Monday, January 30
 Delmarva Dairy Day, Hartley Fire Hall, Hartley, DE, 9:00 a.m.
 Dauphin County Soil Nutrient Management, Ag & Natural Resources Center, 3 miles north of Dauphin, 1:00 p.m.
 Annual Meeting, District 13S, Cobscook Select Sires, Days Inn, Butler.

Tuesday, January 31
 Cattle Feeder's Day, Lancaster Farm & Home Center, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Adams County "Planning For The 90s", extensions office, 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Repeats Feb. 7

On-foot on-rail beef evaluation program, live evaluation 7:30 p.m. Leesport Farmers Market. Carcass evaluation Feb. 2
 District 13N annual meeting, Cobscook Select Sires, Days Inn, Meadville,
 Milk Quality and Somatic Cell Reports Meeting, Jefferson County Service Center, Brookville.

Pennsylvania Vegetable Conference, Hershey Convention Center; runs through Feb. 2.
 LAND meeting, Community Center, Lancaster, 7:30 p.m.

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FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

Editor:
 First, thanks to Lancaster Farming on behalf of the Keystone State's 5000 or so sheep producers for your coverage of sheep-related events at the 1989 Farm Show. Appreciated the article on our new Lamb and Wool Queen, Carla Clutter. Carla's enthusiasm about lamb and wool reflects the optimism and progressive attitude within our industry.

Your feature article on the 1989 Sheep-to-Shawl Contest underscores the "draw" this extremely popular event has at the Farm Show each year, where it has

developed into one of the headline attractions and serves as a public forum for projecting a very positive image for sheep and wool. The Pennsylvania Cooperative Sheep and Wool Growers Association (PSWGA) is certainly appreciative of the positive publicity generated by this event each year.

However, and unfortunately, "behind the scenes" of the contest, some negative undercurrents, which have been "brewing" over the past few years, are beginning to surface. And so, in order to protect the reputation of PSWGA, it

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NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Protect Your Lungs

Dust can be hazardous to your health... it can destroy lungs. Farmers who are exposed to dust over long periods of time risk the disabling disease called "farmer's lung." As the dust accumulates in the lungs the tissue hardens. This can lead to a variety of respiratory ailments including bronchitis and asthma. If the condition is not diagnosed soon enough, irreversible lung damage may occur.

Preventing farmer's lung doesn't necessarily require any elaborate or expensive equipment... a simple mask when dust can't be avoided... for example when handling dry bedding, sweeping dusty walls or walks or grinding and mixing feed.

Keeping the overall level of dust down is also helpful. Therefore as soon as feed sacks or chemical containers are emptied they should be discarded in the proper manner. Regular house-cleaning or work areas is another good idea. Not only will the area look better... you'll feel better without all that dust in your lungs. Contact your local Lung Association for more detailed information on how to protect your lungs.

To Plan Legume Seeding

It's not too soon to make plans for seeding clover or alfalfa or winter grains. Many of our good stands have been obtained by making a broadcast seeding in late February or early March. The value of seeding at this time is to take advantage of the alternate freezing and thawing to work the small seeds into the topsoil. Wheat is usually the best grain to make late winter or early spring legume seedings. Barley and rye tend to develop too much growth and increase the potential for lodging which smothers out the small legume plants. Broadcast seeding when the soil is "honeycombed" in early March works very well, but the use of a band seeder may be a better way to establish a new legume stand.

To Transfer Silage

Some farmers use temporary silos to store the extra silage for their dairy and feeder cattle. Our Agronomy Specialists tell us that any silage to be moved from a temporary storage to an upright storage should be done in cold

weather. When moved in warm weather (over 40°) there will be more chances of heating and molding. Make the transfer in cold weather and do it as rapidly as possible. No additives or preservatives should be needed in this process.

By transferring to the upright silo, you can utilize the mechanical feeding equipment in your upright silo.

To Correct Drainage Problems

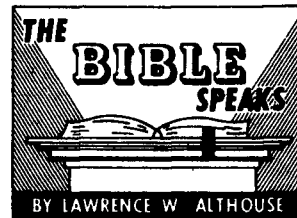
The late winter and early spring provide a good chance to observe the water drainage problems around many homes and farmsteads. If surface water drains into farm buildings or into homes, then something should be done about it soon. Surface water should be directed away from buildings by

way of terraces or diversion ditches.

Water should not be permitted to flow down against buildings from upgrade. This will weaken the structure and wash soil away from the foundation. Water that seeps into a building from underground is a different problem and more difficult to control.

However, the surface water can be directed around and away from farm buildings. Also, the area around wells should be protected from surface water contamination. Water from feedlots and barnyards should not be allowed to flow directly into streams; pastures or holding areas will reduce the possibility of pollution.

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



THE HEALING TOUCH

January 29, 1989

Background Scripture:

Luke 8:1-3, 40-56.

Devotional Reading:

Psalms 116: 1-10; Matthew 21: 22-23.

The two healing stories in Luke 8 — Jairus' daughter and the woman with the hemorrhage — have two things in common: persistent faith and the powerful healing touch of Jesus.

Both the stories are dramatic. The woman with the hemorrhage had been ill for twelve years and spent just about every cent she had on doctors, but to no avail. She is nameless and presumably humble: she didn't presume to ask Jesus for healing, but she believed in him so strongly that she was sure she would be healed if she could just touch his garment. The press of the crowd was so great that it was difficult to get close to him, but she was persistent in her faith. And like the leper in Luke 5, this humble woman was also audacious — with her discharge of blood she was held to be spiritually "unclean" and Jesus should not have any physical contact with her whatsoever. That's probably why she touched only the tassel of his garment and it is also why she was embarrassed when Jesus asked, "Who was it that touched me?" (Lk. 8:45).

SOMEONE TOUCHED ME

The healing was not imaginary; Jesus said, "Someone touched me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from me" (8:46). The nameless woman also felt that power and knew she had been healed instantly. Yet, Jesus focused, not on his power, but on the woman's persistent receptivity: "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace" (8:48). Years later, Eusebius, the great church histo-

rian (300 A.D.), wrote that this woman, a gentile from Caesarea Philippi, erected a statue commemorating her healing, and that it stood until the Emperor Julian destroyed it and replaced it with his own.

The story of Jairus' daughter stands in stark contrast. The man who comes to Jesus is an important man and well-known in the community as the president of the synagogue. This was a position of power, honor and prestige. He does not come for himself, but for his young daughter — in our society she would be an adolescent, but in Jesus' day she was on the threshold of being a young woman of marriageable age. Obviously, she is Jairus' only child and that makes his plight even more poignant. One can't help noting that here is a man who has probably risen as far as he can in his community, but, despite his success, he is powerless to help his only child.

SWALLOWED PRIDE

There's another factor, too. Jairus had probably not been well-disposed toward Jesus. As president of the synagogue, he must have regarded Jesus as a threat to the Jewish religion. So, we may well assume that, in order to help his daughter, he swallowed his misgivings and pride and came to Jesus because there was nowhere else to go. His love for his daughter was greater than his religious ideology and his position in the community. Although in practically every other circumstance he was unlike the woman with the hemorrhage, what he shared in common with her was a persistent faith. Even when a messenger came saying, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more," Jairus was not deterred.

We do not know whether the daughter was in a coma and only appeared dead, or whether she had actually died and Jesus resuscitated her. At any rate, he touched her and said simply "Child, arise." And once again persistent faith and Christ's healing touch prevailed.

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