

Lancaster Farming

OPINION

AGRICULTURE'S LEADING EDGE

FFA

FFA members in 7,800 chapters across the U.S., in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands will organize events and activities to create awareness of and support for agricultural education and FFA during National FFA Week that starts today.

FFA activities and programs will be promoted by FFA members and through public service announcements on the local, state and national levels. This year's theme is "Agriculture's Leading Edge—FFA."

Agricultural education stresses hands-on experience in many diverse areas of the agricultural industry. FFA activities provide leadership development, career training and award incentives for these young people.

Dana Soukup, national FFA president from Spencer, Neb., said, "FFA Week is the chance for members and communities to recognize achievements and activities available through FFA and agricultural education."

"We're proud of this commitment to young people and agriculture. As FFA members and students in agriculture classes, we are receiving the business, science and leadership skills we need to prepare for the diverse and challenging careers in agriculture," Soukup said.

Each year FFA Week is held during the week of George Washington's birthday to recognize his leadership and commitment to American agriculture. The National FFA Center is located on part of Washington's original Mt. Vernon estate near Alexandria, Va.

FFA is a national organization of 404,900 students in 7,800 local chapters preparing for agricultural careers. FFA activities and award programs complement instruction in agricultural education by giving students practical experience in the application of agricultural skills and knowledge gained in classes. Developing agricultural leadership, cooperation and citizenship are FFA's major objectives. We agree. FFA is "Agriculture's Leading Edge."



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Prepare For Dormant Sprays

Many types of trees are infested with various kinds of scale insects. These pests attach themselves to the bark and twigs and shrubs and suck the strength from the plant. One of the best treatments is to apply a dormant spray oil before the buds start to open. The date of the spray will vary with the weather. However, on many fruit trees and shrubbery this will be late February and early March. The spray should be applied before the buds open. In addition, a spray during May or June while the insect is in the crawler stage is strongly suggested; materials for this spray can be Sevin or Malathion. Scale insects should be controlled -- the way is to use a dormant spray.

To Mend Pasture Fences

Pastures can provide cattle a lot of good nutritious forage, and it's a place for them to get fresh air, exercise and sunlight. Before too long, we will be turning our cattle

out to pasture, but let's not turn them out too soon. It's best to let the sod develop and the ground firm up. Spend the time now to fix fences and pick up trash and debris before the grass gets too tall and before you're tied down with spring field work.

It might also be helpful to section off the pasture in order to make best use of the grass. For example, wet areas and flat areas may be fenced off from other areas. This will enable you to keep cows out of wet areas until the ground firms up, and could help prevent the development of foot problems. During the early spring flush of pasture growth, you could keep cattle out of the flat area; save it for hay, and feed it to the cows later in the summer.

To Be Aware Of Alkaline

Water For Pesticides

If your water is alkaline, especially if the pH is 8 or greater, you may have trouble getting good results from the pesticide spray material you are using on cropland. Water supplies in many areas have sufficient natural alkalinity to cause a "breakdown" of certain pesticides.

This means pest control may be somewhat less than desirable, or even non-existent because the ingredient will be rendered inactive before it even reaches the plant or pest. If the spray is allow-

ed to stand several hours before spraying, as much as 50 percent or more of the active ingredient may be decomposed.

Pesticide specialists tell us that a pH in the range of 4 to 6 is recommended for most pesticide sprays. You can adjust spray solutions to this range by buffering agents. In general, the insecticides are affected more severely by alkaline water than fungicides or herbicides.

To Store Supplies Safely

Many farmers have purchased and accepted early deliveries of seeds, fertilizer and other supplies. Proper storage of these items is important. I have seen bags of fertilizer stored too close to a barn door, or to an open window; the same with farm seeds. Extra moisture on these materials, or under them on a damp floor, can cause problems. Also, it is very important to keep seeds away from chemical weed killers. These herbicides may reduce, or kill, the germination of the seeds. Also, children, pets and livestock should not have access to stored seeds or farm chemicals. All of these materials become more expensive each year. It's only good management to store them carefully.

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

Farm Calendar

Saturday, February 18
Adams County Fruit Growers annual meeting, Aspers Fire Hall, 6:00 p.m.
National FFA Week; runs through Feb. 25.

Sunday, February 19
State Holstein Convention, West Middlesex, runs through the 21st.

Monday, February 20
New Holland Vegetable Day, Summit Valley Elementary School, 9:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Six pesticide update training credits available.

Adams County Dairy Nutrition, Cross Keys Diner, New Oxford, 9:45 a.m. Repeats Feb. 27.

Westmoreland Dairy Feeding Barn Meeting, McIlvaine Dairy Farm, Greensburg, 11:00 a.m.
Pennsylvania Extension Service Awards Banquet, Atherton Hilton, State College, 6:30 p.m.

Adams County Beekeepers Meeting, Penn State Fruit Lab, Biglerville, 7:30 p.m.
Pennsylvania Holstein Convention, Sheraton Inn, W. Middlesex; runs through Feb. 21.

Tuesday, February 21
Clarion County Crops Day, County Park, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Deer Management in the Urban Setting, at the Commons, Penn State Delaware County Campus, Media, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Cumberland County Dairy Clinic, Penn Township Firehall, Huntsdale, 9:30 a.m.

Tri-State Dairy Reproduction Seminar, Edinburg Firehall, Edinburg, Va., 10:00 a.m.

Cecil County Mid-Winter Education Meeting, Dairy Day, Calvert Grange Hall, 10:00 a.m.

Lebanon County Milking Management School, Day 1, Room 11, Municipal Building, Lebanon, 12:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Ag District Informational Meet-

ing, Conference Center at Penn State Schuylkill Campus, 7:00 p.m.

Ag Forum Meeting, Big Wrangler Steakhouse, Huntingdon, 7:00 p.m.

Sire Power Annual Meeting, McConnellstown Fire Hall, 7:15 p.m.

Ag Security Educational Meeting, W. Hempfield Township Office, Silver Spring, 7:30 p.m.

Mid-Atlantic Direct Marketing Conference & Trade Show, Willow Valley Resort & Conference Center, Lancaster; runs through Feb. 23.

Western Pennsylvania Turf Conference, Pittsburgh Expo Mart/Radisson Hotel, Monroeville; runs through Feb. 23.

J&J AgriProducts Dollars and Sense Meeting, J&J AgriPro-

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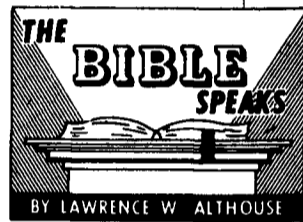
FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

Editor:

On behalf of our Association, I would like to commend your paper for your recent article "Progress in Coordinating Pennsylvania's Dairy Promotion Activities," which appeared in your January 21 issue. This article gave a very well-rounded approach to a very complex issue.

The effort to coordinate the dairy promotion programs in Pennsylvania are moving ahead stronger than ever. Your article gave a fair and accurate review of each organization's position on this important issue. We appreciate your paper's professional approach to agricultural journalism.

American Dairy Association
Dairy Council



THE EYE OF THE NEEDLE

February 19, 1989

Background Scripture:

Luke 18:18-30.

Devotional Reading:

James 3:1-13.

I've read the story of Jesus and the rich ruler countless times, as well as written and preached on it. But today as I read it again, it's as if I'm seeing it somewhat differently than before. (And isn't that what makes the Bible a never-ending source of revelation and inspiration for us?)

When I read it today, some questions arose that I don't remember asking before. What is the motive of the rich ruler? Does he really think Jesus is going to tell him the secret of eternal life, or is he merely fishing for Jesus to tell him what a fine person he is? Is he really concerned about eternal life?

SOME QUESTIONS

And why does Jesus answer, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone" (Luke 18:19). His answer seems irrelevant to the question — almost as if he's being picky. And when Jesus says, "You know the commandments." is he inferring that if the man faithfully keeps the commandments God will reward him

with eternal life? Probably the most important question of all, however, is this: when Jesus says, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor...and come, follow me," is he saying that to all of us?

In pondering those questions it occurred to me that this story is only superficially about eternal life. The rich ruler obviously felt pretty satisfied with his own righteousness—as he saw it, he had kept all the commandments from his youth. Maybe that's why Jesus replied with his cryptic, "Why do you call me good?" Knowing that the ruler is self-righteous, Jesus begins by saying "No one is good but God alone." No one is capable of earning eternal life.

BEYOND THE BARRIER

So when the ruler ticks off his moral accomplishments, Jesus stops him in his tracks with a challenge that shows that the ruler is not as righteous as he thought. He had kept the letter of the law, but not the spirit of it. This was obviously not the response he had hoped to gain from Jesus.

Hearing Jesus speak of riches as a barrier to eternal life, his disciples went to know: "Then who can be saved?" Jesus responds with what I believe is the key to this whole story: "What is impossible with men is possible with God" (18:27). It is God's grace, not our righteousness, that brings us through "the eye of the needle" to eternal life.

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