



# OPINION

## A Break Ag Deserves

In a recent local city newspaper article, high nitrate levels in the water supply of municipalities, mobile home parks and nursing homes were blamed on manure and fertilizers on Lancaster County farms. But while local farms produce a lot of livestock manure, it may not be as excessive as was thought.

Gerald Heistand, ag engineer for the Lancaster County Conservation District, says a new study indicates there isn't an overabundance of manure. Heistand bases his thinking on the findings of a nutrient analysis done on the manure produced in 19 of the Lancaster County Townships. This study commissioned by the Lancaster County Solid Waste Authority sought to find where manure excess and deficient areas existed, based on the amount of nitrogen. Information was used that had been collected from 575 farms during 1986 and 1987 as part of the Chesapeake Bay Assessment Project.

"We thought we'd have very high figures," Heistand said. "But only two townships have more than one in five farms high in nitrogen."

Actually, if manure in each township was spread evenly over the whole area, only two townships would have an excess of nitrogen while the remaining townships would all have deficits.

Up to now, it has been easy to blame agriculture for all non-point nitrogen pollution in our water supply because no supporting research information had been available. Now at least we have some knowledge of how much to blame our farmers on this issue. And now it will be easier to direct some of the blame to other sources of pollution such as on-lot septic systems, septic system cleansers, and residential fertilizers. This is a break agriculture deserves.



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

### To Check For Alfalfa Weevil

Alfalfa weevils have not been a problem for alfalfa growers since the introduction of a parasite in the 1960's. Last year, weevils were a problem for some growers and may be a larger problem this year.

Adult weevils may be present in the field now. They are snouted beetles approximately 3/16 inch in length. They are dark brown to black in color with a strip halfway down their backs. Eggs may also be present in some fields. Eggs are laid in clusters of 2-25. They are oval and approximately 1/16 inch in length. When laid the eggs are yellow but turn brown as they get ready to hatch.

Check fields that had a weevil infestation last year first. If you find adults or eggs, contact the extension office.

### To Rejuvenate Worn-out Pastures

Are your pastures worn-out and weedy? Are you thinking about reseeding them? This could be very costly and time consuming. Plus, if done at this time of the year, there is a greater risk of soil erosion and seeding failure. The best time to seed grasses is in early September.

A cheaper and better alternative might be to lime, fertilize and clip

### Monday, May 1

Pennsylvania Sheep & Wool Growers Association meeting and banquet, meeting at Penn State University Ag Arena, State College, 1:00 p.m.; banquet at the Tavern Restaurant, State College, 5:00 p.m.; call 814/863-3668 by April 25 for reservations.

### Tuesday, May 2

Pennsylvania Sheep & Wool Growers Association wool sale, Assembly Room, Nittany Lion Inn, 9:00 a.m.

### Wednesday, May 3

Maryland FFA spring judging contests, University of Maryland, College Park, Md., 10:00 a.m.; awards program in Skinner Lecture Hall, Room 0200, 3:00 p.m.

### Thursday, May 4

Pesticide Examination, Lancaster Farm & Home Center, Lancaster, 8:30 a.m.

### Friday, May 5

Youth to Youth Club Pig & Lamb Sale, Lebanon County fairgrounds, Lebanon, 7:00 p.m.

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your pastures this spring to build an soil fertility, to reduce weed competition and to encourage the grasses that are already present. The use of some herbicides may be necessary. By doing this, you are actually preparing the site for reseeding, but you may discover that your pasture is better than you thought, and reseeding may not be necessary. Remember, you can always no-till additional grasses and legumes into the pasture if desired.

### To Consider Footbaths

The use of footbaths can help prevent the spread of foot rot organisms, but it may not help cows that are already infected. Footbaths can also help toughen up soft hooves. Hooves can become soft when cows are housed in wet-floored, free-stall barns or on bedded packs, or when they have been exposed to muddy lots and wet pastures.

Footbaths can be located in exits from cow stables or milking parlors. A footbath solution can be made by mixing 1 lb. of copper sulfate in 5 gallons of water. Another alternative is to mix 4-6 oz. of Formalin in 1 gallon of water.

A dry footbath preparation can also be made by mixing 5 lbs. of copper sulfate powder -- not crystals -- with 100 lbs. of hydrated lime.

### To Plant Reliable Flowers and Vegetables

In case last summer's record high temperatures and low precipitation repeats itself this summer, here's a list of flowers and vegetables that can be relied upon to perform.

#### Annuals/Ornamentals

Basil; Celosia; Cleome; Cosmos; Gazania; Gomphrena; Helichrysum (Strawflower); Kochia (Summer Cypress); Marigold; Melampodium; Mirabilis (Four O'Clocks); Morning Glory; Nicotiana; Ornamental Peppers; Portulaca; Stative; Sanvitalia; Sunflower; Vinca; Zinnia.

#### Perennials

Achillea (Yarrow); Asclepias (Butterfly weed); Coreopsis; Gailardia; Lavender; Rudbeckia.

#### Vegetables

Cucumber; Muskmelon (Cantaloupe); Okra; Squash; Tomato; Watermelon.

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

## Farm Calendar



### Saturday, April 22

Penn State Dairy Science Club Exposition, Ag Arena, University Park, 9:00 a.m.

Maryland State Jersey Sale, Jim Stonesifer Farm, Union Bridge, Md., 11:00 a.m.

### Monday, April 24

Grange Week Workshops, Holiday Inn Harrisburg Grantville, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; banquet at 5:00 p.m.

Bradford County 4-H Presentation Night, Towanda Middle School, Towanda, 7:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, April 25

Delmarva Poultry Industry Booster Banquet, Wicomico Youth & Civic Center, Salisbury, Md., 6:30 p.m.

Penn State Livestock Judging & Evaluation Update, Beef/Sheep Center, Penn State, University Park; runs through April 26.

### Wednesday, April 26

Mid-Atlantic State Association of Avian Veterinarians seminar, George Washington Inn, Williamsburg, Va.; runs through April 29.

### Thursday, April 27

Pennsylvania Poultry Federation banquet, Hershey Convention Center, Hershey, 5:30 p.m. social, 7:00 p.m. dinner.

Northwestern Pennsylvania Beekeepers Association course, NW Rural Electric Building,

Cambridge Spring, 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; continues on May 4, 7, and 11. Register by April 18 814/476-1260 evenings.

Berks County Cattlemen's Association spring meeting, Berks County Ag Center, near Leinbach's, 7:00 p.m.

Washington County annual Cherry Blossom Calf & Bred Heifer Sale, Washington Fairgrounds arena, Washington, 7:30 p.m.

Hunterdon County Pesticide Regulations Update, Hunterdon County Extension office, Flemington, NJ, 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.; Call 201/526-6293 for registration.

### Friday, April 28

Friends of Agriculture breakfast, Sheraton Inn, Dover, 7:30 a.m.

### Saturday, April 29

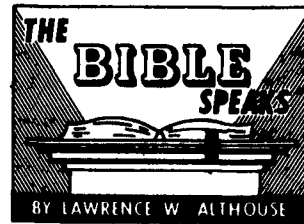
University of Delaware Ag Day, Townsend Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

EMMSPA Maple Festival, Troy Fairgrounds, Troy, 10:00 a.m.

Huntingdon County Spring Holstein Sale, Huntingdon County fairgrounds, Huntingdon, noon.

Wayne County Holstein Breeders Club sale, Wayne County fairgrounds, Honesdale, noon.

Northwest Pennsylvania Polled Hereford Show & Sale, Mercer County 4-H Park, Mercer, 2:00 p.m. show, 7:00 p.m. sale.



## THE FOCUS

April 23, 1989

### Background Scripture:

Philippians 4.

### Devotional Reading:

Psalms 148: 1-6a.

How many joyful people do you know? Are you one of them?

At this moment, I can't think of anyone I know who could be described as "joyful." I know some people who seem to be "happy" — myself among them. I know a few people who are occasionally joyful, but no one is that way the majority of the time. Yet, in his letter to the Philippians, Paul repeatedly counsels his readers to "Rejoice in the Lord" (3:1), "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice" (4:4). And Paul represents himself as a joyful person: "...and in that I rejoice" (1:18). "Yes, and I shall rejoice" (1:19), and he asks them to "complete my joy by being of the same mind..." (2:2). Of Epaphroditus, he says: "So receive him in the Lord with all joy..." (2:29).

### YOUR REQUESTS

So, why is it that joy is such a scarce commodity among Christians? Some people respond by saying they would be more joyful if they had more over which to be joyful. In other words, it is hard to be joyful when there are so many problems and concerns in the world. The implication is that joy

is dependent upon the absence of negativities in life. When we have joyful experiences, we will be joyful. But, when our experiences are something else, there is no way that we can be joyful.

Of course, if that were true, then Paul would not ever have been joyful, would he? Even when he wrote this joyful letter to Philippi, his outward circumstances were pretty discouraging. But, if Paul had considerable problems, he also had considerable resources with which to meet those problems and in this letter he chooses to concentrate on his resources, not his problems. He doesn't ignore the bad, but neither does he concentrate on it either. This is the same advice he gives to the Philippians: "Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (4:6,7).

### THINK ON THESE

In the lives of each of us there are both "good news" and "bad news." It is up to you which you will choose for the focus of your life. Focus it on the negativities and you will never be able to rejoice. But, if you choose to focus on that which is positive and uplifting, you will share Paul's happy gift of rejoicing in all things. So, "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" (4:8).

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