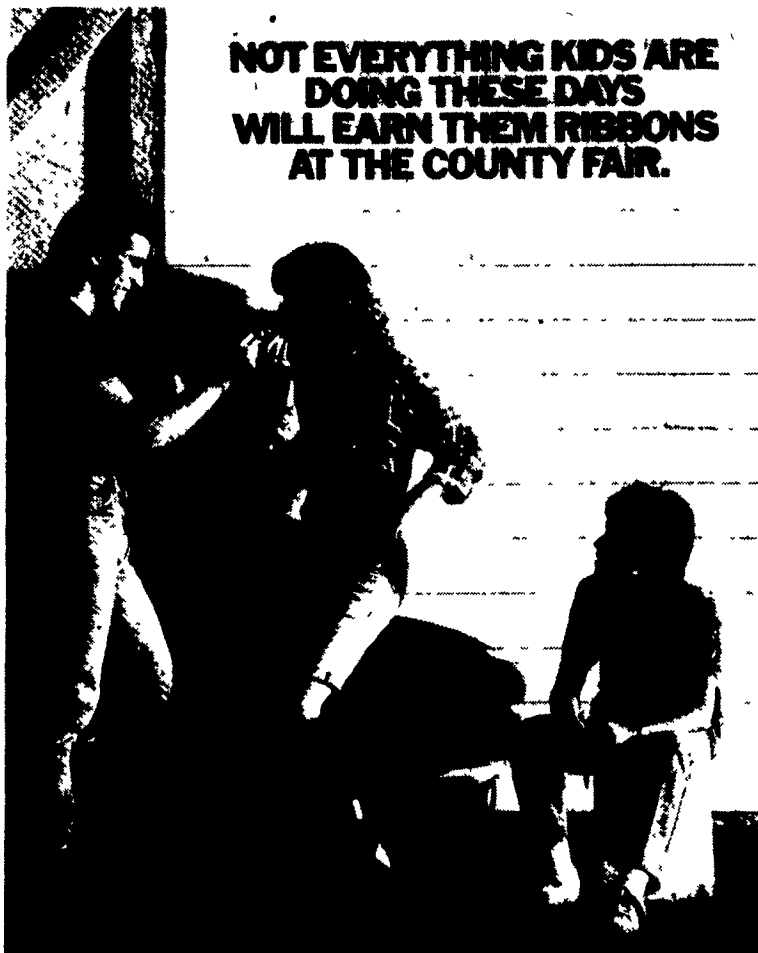




OPINION

NOT EVERYTHING KIDS ARE DOING THESE DAYS WILL EARN THEM RIBBONS AT THE COUNTY FAIR.



More Than A Blue Ribbon

Though there are many kids here in the country who get a real high showing their cattle and domestic prowess at fairs, there are others who get theirs smoking grass and sniffing other addictive drugs.

Today, 28% Of Our Small Town Kids Are Into Big Town Drugs

It's true. Drugs have become as big a problem here as they are in larger cities. Today, some 28% of our kids are using drugs like marijuana, crack and cocaine. To most of them, it's no big deal. They get

it from their friends and use it wherever they are . . . a cornfield, a washroom, a football game.

When it comes to drugs, no kid or town — no matter how big or how small — is immune. That's why you need to have an honest conversation with your kids about drugs. Without confrontation. Without yelling. Talking is the only way to get answers. And to give information.

Remember, if you can create an environment where your kids can tell you anything — they've gotten more than a blue ribbon.

Farm Calendar

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.
Maryland-Delaware Brown Swiss Calf Sale, Frederick fair-

grounds, Md., 11:00 a.m.
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.
LAND Public Forum, Community Mennonite Church (side door),



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Prepare For Soybean Planting

Soybeans should be planted in warm moist soil. A thermometer will help you decide when is the best planting date. Special bayonet type thermometers work very well.

The ideal temperature is about 62°F. The reading should be taken at about 8:00 a.m. when the soil temperature is stabilized. The thermometer should be inserted at least two inches in the soil.

Many people planting soybeans will either end up with too many plants per acre or too few. This will happen because they will use the pounds per acre philosophy which won't work for soybeans. Because soybean seed differs greatly in size, this also means they differ greatly in number of seeds per pound. For example, one variety may average 2,100 seeds per pound while another variety averages 3,100 seeds per pound...that's a difference of 1,000 seeds per pound. So, if you plant a bushel of seed with 85% germination, that's a difference of about 48,000 plants per acre.

The only way to plant beans is by seeds per foot or row. If a grain drill is used, three beans per foot

Lancaster, 7:30 p.m. to 9:45 p.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.

Saturday, May 6
Cecil County English & Western Horse Fun Show, Fair Hill Grounds, Md., 9:00 a.m.; call Joan Gilbert at 301/398-0200 for more information.

Chester County Extension 75th Anniversary Celebration, Oakbourne Park, Westtown, 9:00 a.m.

Apple Blossom Festival, South Mountain fairgrounds, Adams County, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; runs through May 7.

New England spring Jersey sale,

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of row is plenty. If a 30-inch corn row is used, 8 to 9 beans per foot is about right.

To Be Careful With Weed Sprayers

Farmers and gardeners should keep in mind that many weed killer materials will stick in the equipment for years. This is especially true of all forms of 2,4-D. Sprayers in which this material has been used should be kept only for weed spraying, or be very carefully cleaned. The use of very hot water and household ammonia (1 part of ammonia to 100 parts of hot water) is suggested; this mixture should be allowed to stand for 24 hours in the equipment and then sprayed out. Extreme care should be taken with this cleaning job after each herbicide treatment.

The safest method is to have separate sprayers for weed killers. Over the years I can recall a number of tobacco and vegetable plants that have been damaged because a sprinkling can or sprayer used last fall was not thoroughly cleaned.

To Check Farm Ponds

Many ponds are showing both algae and weed infestation build-up and as the weather warms up, these pond plants will begin to grow. Permits are needed in order

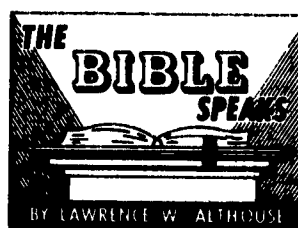
to use the proper material, and to protect livestock downstream from the pond. Before any ponds are treated in Pennsylvania with any chemical or fertilizer, the owner should obtain a permit from the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. Application for the permit is available from the Pennsylvania Waterway Patrol Office or from our Penn State Cooperative Extension Office.

To Help Prevent Damping-Off Of Seedlings

Damping-off of seedlings is a common concern of plant growers. It may start with a single seedling and move rapidly through the flats or bed. Growers can prevent losses from damping-off by following good control or preventive practices. Good damping-off prevention practices include the use of clean or treated seed, sterilized soil or disease-free plant media, clean containers, water and tools.

Watering plants in the morning when the temperature is rising will provide good drying conditions and also aids in preventing losses from those disease organisms that may be in the soil.

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THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S WILL

April 30, 1989

Background Scripture: Ephesians 1: 1-14.
Devotional Reading: Romans 8:26-29.

Proponents of "The Big Bang Theory" of the origin of the universe believe that the cosmos is still expanding from that first big bang of creation, the outer limits of the universe speeding away from us at an astronomical speed. It is as if the universe is coming apart, disintegrating.

Whether or not "The Big Bang Theory" is accurate, many people also see much the same thing happening to our human society. Technology, ideology, nationalism and other forces seem to be constantly pulling our world further and further apart. Society, like the universe, appears to be disintegrating. Lots of things that used to seem to hold it together no longer seem effective or even viable any more. The family, the church, the neighborhood, the local school—none of these seem to stop the process of disintegration.

THE PLAN REVEALED

This is hardly a new or novel concern. People have been worrying about the disintegration of society for almost as long as there has been a society. Many times when people have assumed that society was finished, we have discovered that in the pattern of dissi-

ipation there is also the seeds of some new cohesion. When the Jews were carried into the Babylonian captivity, they thought their society was doomed. But, in Babylon, they founded some new institutions — including the synagogue — that became the basis for an even stronger Israel than before.

In Ephesians, Paul sets forth a different view of the world. Regardless of what the world may be doing astronomically, it is not "coming apart" because God has created it with a plan and purpose, that is totally different from that. People have long wondered what is God's intention for his great creation, and, according to Paul, in Christ the mystery of God's will has been revealed once and for all. "For he has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time..." (1:9,10).

TO UNITE ALL THINGS

On the micro-personal scale we interpret God's will as a plan to save us as persons: "in him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace..." (1:7). On the macro-universal scale, however, we see God's redemptive love working on a higher, more comprehensive level: "to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth" (1:10). The mystery of God's will is no longer a mystery, for it is obvious that just as through Christ he unites us to himself, so his intention is to unite everything in his love and grace.

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