



OPINION

Eat Two Apples

Since the Alar scare, scientists, educators and farm leaders have jumped up to say it isn't so. But apparently many viewers of the "60 Minutes" TV program titled "Intolerable Risks: Pesticides in Our Children's Food," believe the biased report that apples are instruments of bad health.

Derl I. Derr, president, International Apple Institute, this week reiterated the industries contention that the use of Alar poses no imminent hazard to human health. But because of a \$50 million drop in sales due to consumer fears, the institute has recommended to their member growers not to use daminozide sold under the trade name Alar. If members comply, this means that spraying will not be done in June or early July, and when the crop matures in the fall, the already low levels of Alar will be reduced to virtually zero.

Of course, Pennsylvania growers and processors have refused to use the product since 1985. Our local growers saw in advance this possible threat to the industry and took steps to keep themselves clean. But other growers across the nation did not. And now everyone, including Pennsylvania growers, suffer.

We must learn from these experiences. The veal industry took it on the rump several months ago. And other commodities will likely be hit in the future.

Therefore, representatives of agriculture must begin to anticipate areas of business where they could be degraded in the market place. They must take steps to clean up their own problems before a group or an individual person, not sympathetic to agriculture, feels the need to use public opinion to get the job done. Pennsylvania growers and processors look very smart right now.

And Agriculture must take the initiative to tell the consumer in advance how safe their food supply really is. If anti-farm groups can set up booths in shopping malls to tell crowds of people who flock to their side how bad farmers treat their animals or produce their food, agriculture can also set up the same booths and tell the crowds who would flock to their side how well we treat our animals and how safely we produce our food.

We have hid behind our barn doors long enough. We have allowed our opponents to be unopposed in their well-financed opinions. At least unopposed until after the damage has been done.

Now is the time for all good men and women of agriculture to come to the aid of their way of life.

And now is the time to eat two apples. One to keep the doctor away. And one to help the apple industry fight back the fears created by "60 Minutes."



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Check Stored Pesticides

The shelf life of most pesticides, when stored in their original container, is usually several years. The greatest problem with stored pesticides comes from freezing temperatures. Cold over-winter temperatures may cause a breakdown of the emulsifier in liquid materials. These materials may not mix properly when added to the spray water.

To determine if the pesticide will still mix properly with water, follow this easy procedure: (1) place 1/2 pint of water in a small container, (2) add 1/2 teaspoon of the pesticide, (3) shake or stir thoroughly (you should get a milky mixture), (4) let stand for about one hour. The spray mix should remain an even milky mixture. If an oily scum or layer forms on top, or if a layer of curds appear on top, don't use the material.

To Keep Cows Cool

Now is the time to start making preparations for keeping cows cool this summer, according to Glenn Shirk, Extension Dairy Agent. The proper use of shade, air and water will help. Barns, if well ventilated, can serve as excellent shades for cattle. An added advantage is barns also provide cows with a clean, comfortable place to rest, close to a convenient supply of feed and water. Most barns are also designed to be

cleaned easily once or twice daily, and this is important for helping to prevent disease and fly problems. For good ventilation open the barns up as much as possible. If necessary, remove siding and floor boards (ceilings), and open roof ridges; or install fans to circulate and exchange air.

The use of sprinklers to wet cows periodically and the use of fans to evaporate the moisture and cool the cows can improve cow comfort, too. Contact the extension office for information on: Cow Comfort, Sprinkling Systems, Shades and Evaporative Cooling; in Lancaster, call 717-394-6851.

To Continue Forage Feeding

Dairymen and beef cattle producers should continue to feed some dry matter while the animals are on pasture. The feeding of hay or silage, when the cattle are turned out to pasture will result in more uniform production. Also, keeping some dry matter in the ration will help prevent serious scouring and bloating.

Some producers provide this forage by way of a portable hay or feed bunk in the pasture area. The animals should consume some of the dry forage along with lush

spring pasture. The hay should be fed early in the day, before the herd goes to the new pasture. Later in the season the stored hay or silage will continue to be useful when growth slows down due to dry weather and high temperatures.

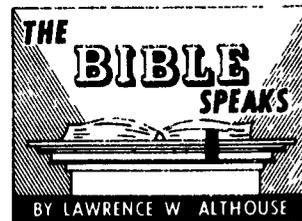
To Be Aware of Ticks

It seems like there is a season for everything... well the tick season is here. These pests may be on almost any dog or person that walks through uncultivated fields or woody areas from May to September.

Ticks await their victims on low-growing shrubs and on tall grass. They attach to, and feed on the blood of dogs and humans as well as many other animals.

To control the American dog tick, first clean the area of tall grass and weeds on which ticks await their victims. Also treat bushes 20 to 30 feet on either side of paths with Sevin, Diazinon or Lindane. The dog should also be treated with a 5% Sevin dust at weekly intervals, or as needed, to control ticks.

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



WHAT'S YOUR 'NEW NATURE'?
May 21, 1989

Background Scripture: Ephesians 4:17 through 5:20.

Devotional Reading: John 3:1-5.

Most of us have been brought up in some semblance of Christianity. Unlike the Ephesians and others to whom Paul addressed some of his letters, we've never known a way of life that was completely antagonistic to Christian values. Even if we haven't had a great deal to do with the church, the moral values of the church are pretty much normative for our communities.

So, when Paul writes, "Put off your old nature which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful lusts" (4:22), there doesn't seem to be any relevance for us. We don't have a "former manner of life" that we need to "put off."

THE LIKENESS OF GOD

Paul's admonition, however, is more relevant than we might at first suppose, particularly if we focus on his call to "put on the new nature, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness" (4:24). Whereas none of us may have an "old nature" to give up, none of us are ever so far along that we don't have a "new life" to put on. For morality is not just a matter of the

things from which we abstain, but also of the things to which we aspire. And Paul gives us a lofty standard on which to set our sights: "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God" (5:1,2).

There was a time not too distant when the churches were the moral beacons of the community. People may not have consistently lived by those standards, but there was little doubt what kind of morality the churches stood for. I don't think, that is so true any more. The morals of the surrounding society usually infiltrate the churches and Christianity's moral leadership is no longer evidence. In morality, Christians seem to follow rather than lead.

THE FRUIT OF LIGHT

I believe that Christians must reassert the moral standards of Christ. All of us, even if we have no "old nature" to give up, can certainly aspire to a higher level of moral life. In Ephesians, Paul was concerned with the kinds of things that are not one bit obsolete today: being truthful (4:25), handling anger and hostility (4:26,27,31), doing honest work (4:28), abstaining from sexual debauchery (5:), and treating others with Christlike love (4:32, 5:1,2). There's nothing out of date with any of those concerns. Nor do I know anyone or any congregation that ever fulfilled completely Paul's admonition: "and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you" (4:32).

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Farm Calendar



Saturday, May 20

New York State sheep show and sale, Livestock Pavilion, Cornell University, Ithaca, 8:00 a.m. show, noon sale.

Pennsylvania Fair 4-H dairy goat show, Philadelphia Park Race Track, Bensalem, 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 21

Sunset Hill Arabians & Mishugina Stables Arabians open barn, Schaefferstown, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; call 717/949-2661 for additional information.

Monday, May 22

Bradford County Environmental Day, Athens Roundtop, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Lancaster County Sheep & Wool Grower's educational meeting, Farm & Home Center, Lancas-

ter, 7:30 p.m.
National Guernsey Convention & Heifer Sales, Canadaigua, N.Y.

Tuesday, May 23

EAYFA soil nitrogen testing, Young Farmers office, Ephrata Junior High School, Ephrata, 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Thursday, May 25

38th National Chicken Cooking Contest, Hershey Convention Center, Hershey, 9:30 a.m. to noon. (Turn to Page A38)

FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

Editor:

The American Lung Association of Lancaster County wishes to commend Lancaster Farming for taking a strong stand against drug abuse. We applaud your prominent editorial "More Than A Blue Ribbon" in the April 29 edition, and believe that there should be more of this in our media.

We certainly share your concern about kids using drugs, and

would like to make your readership aware of our "Marijuana: A Second Look," educational material designed for parents, teachers, and other youth leaders. There is a strong emphasis on prevention, even on reaching pre-teens before they enter junior high school. This material is offered upon request as a free Christmas Seal® service.

We at the Lung Association (Turn to Page A38)

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