



OPINION

You'll Not Often See This Much Ag

Ag Progress Days happen next week. And our special issue this week contains many previews of what has been billed as Pennsylvania's largest outdoor agriculture exhibition. More than 50,000 visitors are expected to attend Penn State University's Rock Springs Ag Research Center location. Under the theme: "Improving Your Life Through Education," the event will celebrate the 75th anniversary of cooperative extension in the U.S.

Nearly 300 commercial exhibitors will show and demonstrate approximately \$20 million worth of ag equipment. And the three-day event also features tours of the research farm and exhibits and presentations by PSU faculty on water quality, food safety, radon, dairy health and child care.

The state hay show will be held and the Dairy of Distinction paternal gathering will also be part of the activities.

Many farmers go to Ag Progress Days to see the machinery in action beside all the competing machines. Hay making and corn harvesting are among the many features that draw the competing colors together. In fact, since you'll not often see this much agriculture in one place, you'll want to plan to attend. And if you do, you'll likely learn something. And that will improve your life.

See you there!



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Apply Lime When Seeding Small Grains

Preparation is being made for fall wheat and barley seeding. This is an excellent time to apply lime. A soil test will indicate how much per acre, if needed. This is doubly important if you plan to seed a grass-legume mixture next spring.

Many times a clover or alfalfa producer will wait until spring to have lime applied to his field. This is not the best way to obtain a good stand. Lime needs up to six months to react to the soil and correct the acidity.

If soil needs lime, it should be worked into the topsoil when the small grain seedbed is being prepared. Legume seedings are costly; be sure the soil is between 6.8 to 7.0 pH so they have a good chance to survive.

To Be Aware of Bacterial Wilt

A frequent comment this time of year is, "Scattered plants of squash and other vine crops have wilt symptoms. The wilting starts on one shoot. Symptoms seem to spread to the rest of the plant." According to Bruce Hellerick, Extension Horticultural Agent, this is the way bacterial wilt begins to appear.

In fact, the most perceptive observers will see the wilting symptoms appear first on an individual leaf on a plant. This leaf frequently will have holes where cucumber beetles were feeding. Presence of both wilting and beetles chewing injury is not a coincidence.

The bacteria that causes the plant to wilt, survives over the winter in hibernating cucumber beetles. Then when these beetles feed on vine crops, they can leave bacteria on the leaves. Then infection of the plant by the bacteria can occur through the beetle chewing injury. Once the bacteria are in the plant, it is too late to stop disease development.

Control depends on prevention; kill or prevent cucumber beetles from feeding on vine crops. Sevin, Diazinon, malathion, and methoxychlor are labeled. Read the label and follow all instructions.

To Apply For Gasoline Tax Refund

I would like to remind our farmers that application for the Pennsylvania Liquid Fuel Tax Refund should be filed before September 30.

Farmers may apply for a 12 cent

per gallon refund on all liquid fuels used in non-licensed tractors when used off the highway for agricultural purposes, or non-licensed power farm machinery used for actual farm work. This includes fuel used in all auxiliary engines on balers, elevators and other stationary equipment.

The liquid fuel tax is for all farm production fuel used between July 1, 1988 and June 30, 1989. This includes gasoline and diesel fuel.

The people who have not already received applications should apply by writing: Board of Finance and Revenue, Room 409 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120 or by calling 717-787-3365.

To Consider Cow Culling

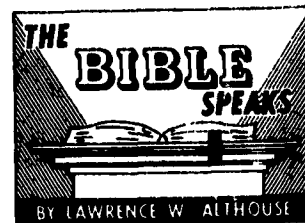
Before long it will be weaning time for most Pennsylvania beef cow/calf operators and now is the time to be thinking ahead towards

the task of culling cows from the herd, according to Chester Hughes, Extension Livestock Agent. Consider cow culling as a system of "The Three O's."

The O's stand for old, open and ornery. There is no question that old cows -- even though they are nursing a calf this season -- need to be culled at weaning time.

There is no question that culling open cows is a paying proposition. When calves are weaned, cows should be pregnancy diagnosed by a veterinarian or technician. In most well-managed herds there will be about five percent of cows open.

The last O is for ornery. Those cows, and nearly everybody has one or two of them with bad temperaments, need to be culled. They are the old sisters that keep the entire herd nervous and make cattle handling difficult. They are easy to spot and you know who they are!



THE TIES THAT BIND
August 13, 1989

Background Scripture: Ruth

1.

Devotional Reading: Matthew 9:18-26.

The Book of Ruth is one of the most remarkable books in the Old Testament, indeed the Bible. It was written probably in a time after the Babylonian exile, when Israel's leaders were commanding the people to avoid all bonds with foreigners, particularly mixed marriages.

So it comes as a refreshing antidote to that racial exclusivity. For Ruth was a woman of Moab and the Moabites not only were foreigners, but often regarded as Israel's bitter enemies. Nevertheless, despite centuries of enmity between these two peoples, in a time of famine in Judah, Elimelech and his wife, Naomi, go to the land of Moab to live for the duration of the emergency. This, in itself must have been unsettling to some of this book's first readers.

THE UNTHINKABLE

To make things worse, Elimelech's sons, Mahlon and Chilion, did the unthinkable, taking Moabite wives, Orpah and Ruth. This was the very thing that had so exercised Ezra, who decreed that the 113 Jews who had married foreign women should be divorced from them and even separate themselves from the children of these unions. (Ezra 9.)

Bereft of her husband and her two sons, the distraught Naomi, hearing that conditions in Bethlehem had improved, decides to return to Bethlehem and releases her two daughters-in-law from any sense of obligation to her, telling them to remain in Moab.

Naomi's argument is interesting. It would appear that she finds it difficult to think that these two women were devoted to her. "Why will you go with me," she asks. "Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands?" (Ruth 1:11). Finally, she persuades Orpah to return, but Ruth is determined to go with her: "Entreat me not to leave you or return from following you: for where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God" (1:16). This is an act of love and devotion that would have been exemplary for a Jewish woman. But Ruth is a foreigner!

CALL ME "BITTER"

Having lost her husband and two sons, it is understandable that she should think that "the hand of the Lord has gone against me" (1:13). And when she arrives in Bethlehem with Ruth, she says to her fellow townspeople, "Do not call me Naomi, call me Mara ("bitter") for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went away full, and the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the Lord has afflicted me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?" (1:20,21).

Naomi, of course, is not entirely accurate. She did not leave Bethlehem "full," as she says, but in fact had been destitute. And, in fact, neither was she returning "empty." Although she has lost her husband and two sons, she has an asset that will prove to be of vital importance to her: a devoted daughter-in-law who loves her and will not forsake her.

Of course, Ruth is "only a foreigner," but she is also a loving, devoted person and her bond with Naomi quite transcends the normal limitations of formal relationships. Much deeper than obligation or custom, there is a loving tie that binds the two women together, a tie that is not dependent upon race, creed or color.

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Farm Calendar



Saturday, August 12

Southcentral Pennsylvania Holstein Championship Show, Shippensburg fairgrounds, 9:00 a.m.

Tioga County Holstein Show, Tioga County fairgrounds, Whitneyville, 9:00 a.m.

Chester County 4-H Swine Sale, New Holland Sales Stable, New Holland, 9:00 a.m.

Chester County 4-H Roundup/Annual Recognition Program, Springton Manor Farm, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Old Fiddler's Picnic, Hibernia Park, Coatesville, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; rain date August 13.

Bradford County Junior Holstein Club Blueberry Festival, Splendor Rich Farm, Gillett, 7:30 p.m.

Howard County Fair, Howard County fairgrounds, West Friendship, Md.; runs through August 19.

Huntingdon County Fair, Huntingdon; runs through August 19.

McKean County Fair, Smethport; runs through August 20.

Washington County Agricultural Fair, Washington; runs through August 19.

Monday, August 14

Bradford County 4-H Roundup, Troy Fairgrounds, 9:00 a.m.

York County 4-H Pig Roundup Sale, Wikert's Livestock Buying Station, Thomasville, 7:00 p.m.

Kutztown Fair, Kutztown fairgrounds; runs through August 19.

Bullskin Township Community Fair, Mt. Pleasant; runs through August 19.

Dayton Fair, Dayton, Pa.; runs through August 19.

Mountour-DeLong Community Fair, Washingtonville; runs through August 19.

Sewickley Township Community Fair, W. Newton; runs through August 19.

Tuesday, August 15

Bradford County Forest Landowners Association forestry tour, meet at Colonial Plaza, 6:45 a.m.

Huntingdon County Holstein Show, Huntingdon County fairgrounds, 9:00 a.m.

Bradford County 4-H Horse Show, Troy fairgrounds, 9:00 a.m.

Bradford County 4-H Dairy Show, Troy Fairgrounds, 9:30 a.m.

Cumerland County 4-H Swine Roundup & Sale, Carlisle Livestock Market, Carlisle, show at 9:30 a.m., sale at 5:30 p.m.

Lancaster County Working Sheep Dog Demonstration, Greystone Manor Stables, Leola, 7:30 p.m.

Ag Progress Days, State College; runs through August 17.

Lawrence County Farm Show, New Castle; runs through August 19.

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