



OPINION

Do It Right

That safety pays is evident to managers of countless enterprises. Aside from humane considerations, emphasizing safety results in considerable savings, including lower insurance costs. Farmers are no exception...doing the job safely is doing it well.

- Make accident prevention a management goal. Develop a safety plan suited to your operation and your workers.
- Keep informed about safety. Read and follow instructions in operator's manuals, product labels, warning decals, etc.
- Inspect all equipment and facilities for hazards. Correct them, but also devise ways to avoid or live safely with fixed hazards.
- Take needed precautions before starting the job, like checking that equipment is in good working order, shields are in place, and you are wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (safety shoes, goggles, respirator, etc.) for the job or conditions.

Train employees and family workers to work safely and well.

- Be physically and mentally prepared to cope with each day's activities. Know and respect your limitations. Stay fit and seek medical care for health problems.
- Be prepared for accident, medical, fire and weather emergencies.
- Take special precautions to protect children, the elderly, handicapped and farm visitors. For example, don't let kids ride on farm machinery.

Robert Leiby and David Dunbar of the Lehigh County Extension office say, "Do It Right." We agree!



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Observe National Farm Safety Week

President Bush has proclaimed September 17-23, 1989, as National Farm Safety Week, the 46th annual observance.

This year's theme, **SAFEing The Farm and Ranch**, approaches safety in a very positive manner. "SAFEing" means to pre-act rather than re-act... to do the necessary things ahead of time that can reduce or even eliminate risk of accidental injury, property damage and work-related illness. Put another way "Don't wait until the horse has gotten out to lock the barn door."

According to National Safety Council estimates for 1988, work-related mishaps in agriculture accounted for about 1,500 deaths and 140,000 disabling injuries.

Success in farming takes planning, preparation, perspiration and perseverance. But a farmer who wants to stay in the "pink" physically and in the "black" financially should add another word beginning with "P": **PREVENTION**... prevention of accidents and illnesses.

Let's practice safe habits every day.

To Ensilage Corn At The Proper Stage

Most of our corn crop looks good after a good growing season and corn silage is an important part of the feeding program in dairy and feeder cattle. Harvesting corn at the right time is very important. I'd like to point out that more feed nutrients will be harvested if the ear can be allowed to mature into the early dent stage. Silage research reveals that corn made into silage in the silk stage will yield only 63% feed nutrients while corn in the dent stage should give silage with 69% feed nutrients.

The important thing is to allow the ear to develop properly before ensiling, if at all possible. Corn is a valuable crop; let's make every effort to harvest the maximum feed nutrients.

To Be Aware Of The Century Farm Program

The Century Farm Program is aimed at recognizing the efforts of Pennsylvania's farm families which have preserved the tradition of the rural heritage of the pioneer farm.

The program was started as part of the Nation's bicentennial observance in 1976, but is being con-

tinued for its value in promoting the ideals of the family farm and the importance of farming to Pennsylvania's economy.

To be eligible for Certification as a Pennsylvania Century Farm, a farm must have been owned by the same family for the last 100 consecutive years, and a family member must currently reside on the land. In addition, the farm must consist of ten or more acres of the original holdings or gross at least \$1,000 a year from the sale of agriculture products.

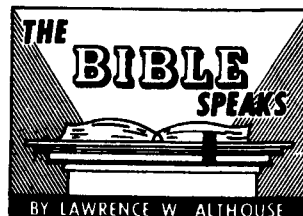
We encourage you to participate in this program that is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Applications are available at the County Extension Office.

To Mow Weedy Pastures
If you pasture is weedy, then

get out the mower. There are two good reasons for this; one it eliminates the production of weed seeds and two, it removes mature forage which lets plants send out new and tender growth. But, before you mow, you should graze the pasture heavily. With grazing you can utilize all the available feed. The animals eat some weeds, but they also eat some of the tall grasses that would be wasted by mowing. Remember to mow closely... 2 to 3 inches. And instead of trashing the clippings, save them. Many farmers recover enough hay from pasture mowings to winter their cattle.

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



ON FEEDING YOURSELVES

September 17, 1989

Background Scripture: Ezekiel 18.

Devotional Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

Dr. Hans Selye, who was the world's foremost pioneer in stress research, told of interviewing two young men who were the sons of the town drunk. One of these men had followed in the footsteps of his father and with the same tragic consequences. The other, however, was a successful, well-regarded member of the community. When Selye questioned them separately as to the reasons for their own personal success or lack of it, both replied, in effect, "What else would you expect with a father like mine?"

In 34 years of pastoral counseling I have frequently heard troubled people say pretty much the same thing, attributing their present circumstances to the actions, words, or influences of some other person—most often a parent or parents. "That's why I am the way that I am," they explain. This usually leaves them with two conclusions: (1) they are not to blame for their present situation, and (2) they can't do anything about it. In other words, they are victims of someone else's sins or mistakes.

VICTIMS OF OURSELVES

One way or another, I try to help these people to realize that they are simply copping-out by blaming someone else for what they did a long time ago. It is true that the actions, words and attitudes of other people can have harmful effects upon us, but if, year after year, we continue to play the "victim" to their sins of omission or commission, we are victims, not of someone else, but

of ourselves. No one can victimize you for very long unless you permit them to do so.

The 18th chapter of Ezekiel is a brilliant reminder of this. Apparently for the most part the Jewish exiles in Babylon are second generation captives. They have been complaining that they are having to suffer for the sins of their fathers and they have used the old proverb to voice their protest: "The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge" (Ezekiel 18:2).

GOOD NEWS!

Through Ezekiel, God tells the Jews that they and their proverb are wrong: they are not suffering for the sins of their father, but their own sins. Yes, it was the sins of their fathers that brought them to Babylon, but, if they are continuing to fare poorly in their new situation, it is their own fault. "If a man is righteous and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live, says the Lord God" (18:9). No person will be responsible for the sins of others. Only "the soul that sins shall die" (18:4,20). ("Live" and "die" are used figuratively here, not literally.) If a righteous man has an unrighteous son, it is the son who is responsible for his sins. If a righteous son has an unrighteous father, he will not have to be responsible for his father's sins. "The righteousness shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself" (18:20).

That's good news! But there's even better news: even an unrighteous person can know the favor of God if he or she turns from unrighteousness. Actually, it is the present moment that counts: not what we did do in the past, either good or bad, but what is our heart's desire at this present moment. No righteousness in the past can free us from an unrepentant present heart, nor can any past unrighteousness keep us from God's grace right now.

If we turn from our sin and toward God, we can live in his grace—now!

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Farm Calendar



- Saturday, September 9**
University of Maryland Swine Field Day, Central Maryland Research and Education Center Swine Facility, Howard County. 9:30 a.m.
Lancaster County Pomona Grange 71 auction, Fulton Grange 66 Hall, Oakryn, 10:00 a.m.
Schaefferstown Horse Plowing & Harvesting Fair, Schaeffer Farm Museum, Schaefferstown; runs through September 10.
Westmoreland Cattlemen's tour to Shenandoah Valley; runs through September 10.
- Sunday, September 10**
11th PennAg Convention, Seven Springs Resort, Champion; runs through September 12.
- Monday, September 11**
Bellwood-Antis Farm Show, Bellwood; runs through September 14.
Claysburg Farm Show, Claysburg; runs through September 14.
Green Township Fair, Commodore; runs through September 16.

- Tuesday, September 12**
Senior Citizen's Picnic, Hibernia Park, Coatesville, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Albion Area Fair, Albion fairgrounds; runs through September 16.
Denver Community Fair, Denver; runs through September 16.
Sinking Valley Community Fair, Altoona; runs through September 16.
Beef and veal marketing seminar, Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia; runs through September 13.
- Wednesday, September 13**
The Eastern States Exposition, West Springfield, MA; runs through September 24.
Berlin Brothers Valley Community Fair, Berlin; runs through September 16.
Williamsburg Community Farm Show, Williamsburg, Pa.; runs through September 18.
Anne Arundel County Fair, Crownsville, Md.; runs through September 17.

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