



OPINION

A Little Hunger May Help

The impact of the Alar scare in the apple industry last year has extended to this year's crop. Millions of dollars were lost in sales after a national TV network ran a story that pulled out a small risk situation and made it into a case of life or death.

While many reputable scientists refuted the information used in the documentary, the network aired the program anyway. And the losses to farmers last year were astounding as the unsuspecting public panicked over the situation that was far less dangerous than many other ordinary life risks.

But even more disconcerting is the market trends that are now unfolding with this year's new crop. The Alar scare continues to reduce sales and as Guy Donaldson, an Adams County apple grower told the Penn State University Ag Advisory Council this week, "That's perty hard to swallow."

Donaldson quoted industry estimates of losses in apple sales to be in excess of \$100 million. And Herb Cole, PSU Dept. of Plant Pathology, really put the situation into perspective. "We're dealing with an American public that is so illiterate and ignorant when it comes to assessing risk that you don't really know where to start. How do we get people to perceive risk and balance risk and then assess the risk properly?"

We have given this question some consideration. Maybe education would help. We're sure it would help if people were willing to learn. Then again it may take a large disruption in the American food chain to get the farmer's needs exposed to the public mind.

If the grocery store shelves would begin to show empty spots and lines would start to form at the entrance of the store rather than at the check out counter, maybe people would be more able to assess the risk of throwing out perfectly good food like apples.

We certainly hope people become willing to learn about the farmer's problems before the American food chain is disrupted to the point where people must go hungry because the grocery store shelves are bare.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Hunt Safely

We are fast approaching small game hunting season. We need to remind ourselves to be courteous and considerate while hunting on farms. We encourage all hunters to practice good relations between farmers and hunters. Criticism of hunting often starts because a few hunters forget the landowner is his host. By observing a few sensible hunting manners, hunters will keep themselves from becoming uninvited guests.

Most landowners permit reasonable hunting. Asking permission to hunt is a small courtesy in return for a pleasant day in the field; yet too few people follow this rule. Landowners may actually need protection from indifferent, careless and destructive hunters. When the trouble starts, many farmers post their land for protection from irresponsible hunters.

ville Church, Burville, N.Y., 7:45 p.m.

Bradford County Holstein Association annual meeting, Wysox Fire Hall, Wysox, 7:45 p.m.

Thursday, October 26
Integrated pest management conference, Eden Resort, Lancaster, 9:00 a.m.

Schuylkill County Cooperative Extension Association meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, Valley View, 6:30 p.m.

York County Holstein Association annual meeting, Rutters Family Restaurant, York, 7:00 p.m.

Chester County Holstein Association meeting, Upper Octorara Presbyterian Church, Parkersburg, 7:00 p.m.

Wayne County Cooperative Extension Association dinner meeting, Pleasant Valley Grange Hall, Pleasant Valley, 7:30 p.m.

ADADC District 6 meeting, Pine Bush Manor, Pine Bush, N.Y., 7:30 p.m.

ADADC District 1 meeting, McCarthy's Restaurant, Canton, N.Y., 7:45 p.m.

25th Agway annual meeting, Hotel Syracuse, Syracuse, N.Y.; runs through October 27.

Farm City Show, Park City Shopping Center, Lancaster; through October 28.

Friday, October 27
Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Show, Harrisburg Farm Show Building, Harrisburg; runs through October 29.

Saturday, October 28
Great Pet & Animal Fair, York (Turn to Page A31)

It takes very little and costs nothing to observe a few common courtesy rules while hunting: ask permission before hunting, close gates, pick-up litter after eating lunch and stay out of unharvested crops. Keep a safe distance from buildings and livestock while hunting and be sure to respect the property of others as you would expect others to respect yours.

To Pick and Store Apples

Whether you grow apples or just like to eat them, it's important to store them properly.

Cool apples will keep longer. Ideally, they should be stored at 33°F, at 90 percent humidity, and in dim light or darkness.

Now as to picking, it's a good practice to store the fruit in shade as it is picked, then allow it to stand in the orchard overnight to cool. Then, place the apples in storage early in the morning before the temperature rises too much.

If you leave apples in a packing shed or in piles under the tree for one week, you'll shorten their storage life by about five weeks. So, keep apples cool, maintain good air circulation during storage, and your apples should keep a long time.

To Check Ventilation Equipment For Winter

Exhaust fans in dairy and poultry houses have a heavy ventilation job to do. They remove moisture and dust, and in many

cases run almost continually from October to April.

To make your ventilation system ready for winter, several items may need attention. The fan blades, motor enclosures and louvered shutters need cleaned frequently. Loose belts are common on belt driven fans. Fan output varies directly with fan speed. A 10 percent loss in R.P.M.'s of the fan means a 10 percent loss in air delivery.

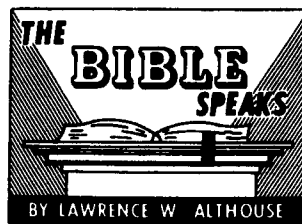
Check the thermostat for accuracy by hanging a thermometer beside it for easy comparison. Be sure the sensing element is clean and free from dust.

To Inspect Heating Systems

With colder weather just ahead, we'll be using different types of heating units. In order to prevent the potential for fires and other problems, I'd suggest that all chimneys and flues be checked for cracks and places where sparks can escape.

In this part of the country, tobacco sheds have stoves to provide comfort for the winter job of stripping tobacco. Many of these have been in operation for a number of years and may need some attention. The mortar around pipes and between bricks may have fallen out; in some cases a repointing job with mortar will make the system much safer.

Don't take chances with a faulty system; it could start a major fire or the fumes could cause suffocation.



PREPARE NOW
October 22, 1989

Devotional Reading: Matthew 24: 29-35.

Background Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 4-5.

In recent years our world has become technologically advanced in the field of medicine and continues to become more so each day. Humans are constantly searching for the cure of disease and preventive measures for accidental deaths. We spend many hours in our lifetime worrying about the day when it is "time for us to go."

It's difficult to understand the reality of death, but avoidance and fear are not how this concept should be handled. Christians need to live a life full of purpose and meaning, and prepare for their future life in heaven; for death does come unexpectedly, just as the second coming of Christ will come unexpectedly.

Thessalonians 5:4 states that that day shall overtake you as a thief. Thessalonians 5:6-7 says, "Therefore, let us not sleep, as do others, but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep, sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night."

Christians should be fully aware as they await Christ's second coming. Months and years may go by as we live our lives without any thoughts or worries about death. Then, the day comes when we lose someone close to us and we must face the reality of death. During our time of grief, we search and look to the Lord for signs of hope.

The basis for that hope is in the words of the Bible. Matthew 24:34 says, "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words shall not pass away."

Why should our search to strengthen our faith be put off until we are dealing with the death of a loved one, or facing death ourselves? The building of our faith in the Lord should be a lifetime endeavor. We may not find all the answers to our fears and doubts, but relief and hope can be found and restored. It can be found through readings in the Bible, church sermons, and religious instruction. And it can be found in helping others in their search for faith.

Don't wait until it is too late. Prepare for the coming of the Lord right now. As you prepare, offer support to others and support to others and encourage them to lead productive lives, for when Christ comes again, believers who have died will be the first to rise.

If we truly believe in God, then we have that faith. And if we truly have faith, then there can be no fear of death.

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Farm Calendar

Saturday, October 21
Southeast District 4-H beef show, New Holland Sales Stable, New Holland, 8:00 a.m.; sale starts at noon with lambs followed by steers followed by feeder calf sale.

Monday, October 23
MAMMA annual meeting, Willow Valley Resort, Lancaster, morning sessions begin at 9:30 a.m.; continues through October 24.

Pennsylvania Association of Extension Home Economists fall meeting, Penn State; through October 24.

PACAA annual meeting, Keller Conference Center, Penn State; runs through October 24.

Pennsylvania State Grange annual meeting, Holiday Inn, Uniontown; runs through October 26.

Tuesday, October 24
Indiantown Farm Field Day, Indiantown Farm, Queen Anne's County, Md., 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.; register by October 17 at 301/827-8056.

Lancaster County Poultry Association banquet, Willow Valley

Convention Center, Lancaster, 6:30 p.m.

NJ/PA equine short course, part 1, North Hunterdon High School, Cafeteria A, Hunterdon, N.J., 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; make reservations by October 18, call 201/526-6293 in New Jersey and 215/746-1970 in Pennsylvania.

ADADC District 16 meeting, East Smithfield Church, East Smithfield, 7:30 p.m.

ADADC District 20 meeting, Cartwright Inn, Henrietta, N.Y.; 7:30 p.m.

Bucks County DHIA reorganization meeting, Neshaminy Manor Center, Doylestown, 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 25
NJ/PA equine short course, part 1, Holiday Inn, Kulpsville, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; register by October 18, call 201/526-6293 in New Jersey and 215/746-1970 in Pennsylvania.

ADADC District 4 meeting, Greenwich Elks Lodge, Greenwich, N.Y., 7:00 p.m.

ADADC District 2 meeting, Bur-

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