



# OPINION

## A Win/Win Situation

Once again we farmers can help bail our city friends out of a major jam. Experts say the 75 landfills in Pennsylvania are filling up fast. Within five years they will all be full.

Of course, the tons and tons of newspapers that are printed each day add to the problem because a lot of newsprint ends up in the landfills. Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County agent, says that up to now, it has been convenient to dump papers on a truck and bury them. But there must be a better way.

At a barn meeting this week, Shirk, along with other officials and a number of farm equipment manufacturers, were trying to help farmers find that better way and also help save tons of money on the usual livestock bedding costs.

The research projects done on the subject of newsprint bedding go back more than 30 years. And everything we know indicates that this is a viable alternative to conventional bedding. Dan McFarlan, PSU engineer, says the heavy metals content in paper and ink is well within safe limits. There is no apparent health problem or contamination of meat or milk. Environmental mastitis bacteria grow slowly in newspaper bedding and there seems to be no problem with plant growth when applied to the soil.

Therefore, we conclude that to use newspaper bedding for your livestock can help with environmental concerns and at the same time save you a lot of money on conventional bedding costs. That's what we call a win/win situation.

## Farm Calendar

**Tuesday, December 19**  
Farrowing Short Course, 111 Henning Building, Penn State, University Park; runs through December 20.

**Wednesday, December 20**  
Pennsylvania Forage & Grassland Council meeting and banquet, Sheraton Inn, Altoona, noon.

**Thursday, December 21**  
Grain drying and storage meeting, Conference Center, Penn State, Schuylkill Campus, Schuylkill Haven, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Forage Testing Van in Bucks Co., Welles Mills, 8:30 a.m. and Troy Agway, 1:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 27**  
Lebanon County 4-H Livestock Club Winter Roundup, Lebanon Area Fairgrounds, Lebanon, pig show at noon, beef and lamb shows 1:00 p.m. December 28, and sale 6:00 p.m. December 28.

**Monday, January 1**  
Red Rose Alliance pork and sauerkraut dinner, Churchtown Fire Hall, Churchtown, 11:00 a.m.

**Tuesday, January 2**  
44th annual meeting of the Northeastern Weed Science Society, Sheraton Boston Hotel & Towers, Boston, Mass.; runs through January 5.

**Wednesday, January 3**  
Schuylkill County Dairy Day, Penn State Schuylkill campus, Student/Community Activity Building, 9:0 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program second annual banquet, Holiday Inn, Grantville, general session at 2:00 p.m., banquet 5:30 p.m.

Lancaster County tobacco management meeting and show, Lancaster Farm & Home Center, Lancaster, 11:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Lancaster County home horticulture seminar, Lancaster Farm & Home Center, Lancaster; beginning beekeeping at 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and home gardener's guide to fruit production at 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

**Sunday, January 7**  
Pennsylvania Farm Show, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg; runs through January 12. Times



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin  
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

### To Review

#### Partnership Agreements

There are a number of advantages to establishing farm partnerships, but an annual review of the agreement and its value in relation to current needs is essential.

I would like to offer a few suggestions for those who have entered into farm partnership agreements.

Once a farm partnership is drawn up, the agreement should be reviewed at least once a year. This should be done for two reasons. First, to see how well each of the partners is meeting his obligations — and secondly, to carefully evaluate the agreement to see if it is doing its intended job.

Then too, farming is a rapidly changing business. So, don't be surprised if the agreement you set up just a couple years ago isn't entirely adequate to meet today's needs.

So review that agreement carefully. If it doesn't quite measure up to current needs, plan to make necessary changes before 1990 rolls around.

### To Understand Firewood Volume Terms

Energy costs continue high and many people are using wood burning stoves as a means of reducing oil, electric or gas use. This means buying more firewood.

It is a good idea to know what you are buying. Some firewood sellers may offer such "measurements" as face cord, rack, stack, truckload or "pile" and buyers often believe they are getting a cord.

are 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday.

A "cord" is defined by Pennsylvania law as "the amount of wood which is contained in a space of 128 cubic feet when wood is stacked and well stowed." This means a neatly piled rank of wood 4 feet high, 4 feet wide and 8 feet long. Those selling fuel wood are liable under the law when they use the term "cord" alone.

A "face cord" which is a term widely used is a neatly piled rank of wood 4 feet wide, 8 feet long and as wide as the lengths of the sticks of wood. If the pieces of wood are 16 inches long, you have one-third of a cord of wood.

It pays to know the amount you agree to buy.

### To Control

#### Livestock Parasites

The winter feeding programs are under way and parasite infested livestock are poor money makers. Body lice are often found on nearly all species of livestock. In cold weather the heavy hair coats make it difficult to eradicate these pests.

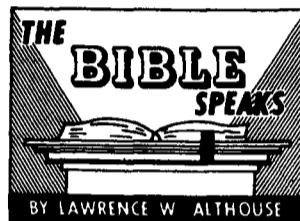
For best results, use two treatments at 12- to 14-day intervals. Some cattle operators will have automatic louse control devices filled with an approved insecticide. This is ex-

cellent and efficient . . . if the materials are kept in the equipment. In milder weather cattle can be sprayed with the material using cold water. Stomach worms should also be eradicated in order to make the best use of feeds. Your local veterinarian can check fecal samples to determine the infection. You cannot afford to operate with parasite infection of any kind.

### To Prepare For Slippery Conditions

Slippery roads, walks and steps will be a common hazard in the next few months. Many people use salt too freely in cutting the ice; it may get the job done but also may injure nearby turf or shrubbery. I'd suggest the use of sand or sawdust. These materials will make the surface safe without possible injury to vegetation. In areas without any vegetation, salt will give good results. Along our main highways there is some evidence that the constant use of salt is inflicting injury to nearby trees and shrubs. Don't let this happen to your favorite tree, shrub or the turf lining your walk.

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## ASKING HIM TO STAY

December 17, 1989

### Background Scripture:

John 4:1-42.

### Devotional Reading:

John 3:31-36.

I've been to the well at Sychar several times. The picture of it is fixed very well in my memory. Not because the place is remarkable in its appearance or its setting — just a dusty street like many others throughout the Holy Land.

But the current appearance of this street, the well and its shrine is deceptive, obscuring the dramatic event that took place there. The writer himself underplays this event, but in these simple verses there is spiritual dynamite that breaks down some very formidable walls.

"Give me a drink," Jesus says to the woman, and the first wall is struck a fatal blow. No rabbi would dare to speak to any woman in public, let alone a woman with an unsavory reputation. Didn't he realize what trouble this encounter could bring him? Apparently he did, but it did not matter. The wall did not belong there, so he broke it down.

### UNTOUCHABLES

The second wall was even higher and thicker. "The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?'" John understates the case: "For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans." It was

not just a matter of disagreement between them or of old scores to settle. The Jews regarded the Samaritans as heretics and they took every opportunity to display their contempt. Jesus knew all that, but this was another wall that ought not to be there and he destroyed it, too.

"Go, call your husband, and come here," he tells her. When she answers that she has no husband, he startles her by saying, "You are right...for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband..." Apparently, like some of us, the woman decided that when you're trapped, it's time to ask a religious question! Which is the right place to worship: Mt. Gerizim or Mount Zion? You're a prophet, so who's right: the Samaritans or the Jews. **NO MORE WALLS**

Instead of haggling with the woman, Jesus reveals what is this "living water" which he had told her he could give her: direct access to God, who is spirit and not limited to either material things or human speculations. Access to God is available to all who turn to him "in spirit and truth." Neither her status as a woman, a Samaritan, nor a notorious sinner can keep her from God if she will turn to him.

Forgetting the barriers that once separated them, she shares the good news with her neighbors so that "they asked him to stay with them." And, in a sense, that's what all of us need to do — to ask him to stay with us until we too can say: "It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."

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## Readers Write

### Editor,

On Friday, November 24, the day after Thanksgiving, sixty-five (65) men and women came to our farm with their tractors, wagons, trucks and a caterpillar to clean up our tobacco shed that was demolished five (5) days earlier by a wind storm. The men worked together, each one doing a job, and by one o'clock all that was left was a slab of concrete where the shed had been. In the meantime,

the women were busily preparing a lunch of hot soups and sandwiches, hot chocolate and pies.

We thank you, family, friends, and neighbors for working so hard on a cold day, the many words of encouragement and for caring.

The day left us a feeling of true Thanksgiving.

Thanks to all,  
The Lloyd Esbenshade Family  
Manheim

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