



OPINION

Urge Favorable Response And Speedy Appropriation

AG*SAT may be a new name, but if 27 land-grant colleges and universities have their way, a new national satellite network with this name will be created to share information and resources. Teachers, researchers, extension agents, producers, distributors and others can expect to profit from the huge informational base generated by this resource.

Dr. Lamartine F. Hood, dean of Penn State College of Agriculture and secretary of AG*SAT, said the institutional members will originate and distribute credit resident instruction courses, cooperative extension programs and research summaries for use by the universities, agribusinesses, cooperative extension offices, government facilities and homes and farms across the nation.

"AG*SAT will address the need to keep the U.S. agricultural economy competitive nationally and internationally," Hood said. "The satellite technology will allow us to share the expertise of distinguished faculty and provide courses and programs targeting state, regional and national priorities. Through this new network, we will be able to respond to growing environmental and food-safety concerns, disseminate research findings, and assist other nations in improving their agricultural economies."

To construct the network, AG*SAT will apply in January 1990 for a matching grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Public Telecommunications Facilities Program. This grant will be used to purchase satellite equipment and transponder time necessary to operate the network.

AG*SAT's potential is enormous. And because agriculture is such a vital part of the U.S. national economy and a significant contributor to U.S. export and jobs, this new effort of cooperation among the nation's land grant institutions deserves all necessary matching grants available from the U.S. Department of Commerce. Through the grass roots contacts, both rural and urban, provided by the extension agents throughout the nation, every U.S. citizen is a potential benefactor of this service.

Therefore, when the commerce department receives AG*SAT's request for matching funds next month, we urge officials to give a favorable response and a speedy appropriation of these funds.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Attend Farm Show Events

Time has a way of creeping up on us, and here it is . . . nearly Farm Show time. The Farm Show will open this year on Sunday, January 7 and close on Friday, January 12. This year's theme is "Pennsylvania Agriculture — Good Food for Our Families." We are proud of our agriculture because of the hard work of our family operated farms. And here is an opportunity for our farmers to show the consuming public the high quality products raised on our farms today.

Active farmers should recognize the many educational meetings and banquets that are held during the week. Many of these are statewide organizations and should have economic benefit to the producer.

To Transfer Silage

Livestock and dairy producers who have silage stored in temporary structures might be planning to move this feed into upright silos in the next month or so. Many producers use the temporary storage until some of the material is fed out of the upright silo. By transferring into the upright silo, mechanical feeders can be used. The objective is to move the silage in cold weather. When transferring during warm weather (above 50°

F.) there is danger of more heating of the silage. No preservative should be needed. The faster the material can be moved into the upright silo, the better it will settle and remove the air.

To Move Farm Equipment Safely

As farm equipment has gotten bigger and taller, a new hazard has appeared. Cabs of larger tractors and combines may approach heights equal to ground clearance of high voltage electrical lines. Accidental contact between equipment and the electrical line can be fatal for the operator. This is especially hazardous where long spans cross fields creating considerable sag at mid-span. CB antennas or other additions to large equipment are almost certain to create a potential hazard of contact with the electrical line.

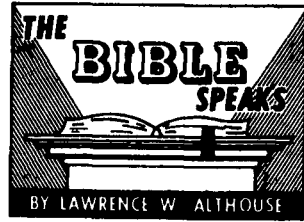
Wide equipment, such as planters or tillage equipment, folded up for transportation can also reach heights that are dangerous. Also, be careful when moving portable elevators. As we move equipment around for storage, instruct all operators and other workers about this hazard and how to avoid danger.

To Be Sure Ice Is Safe For Skating

Farm ponds make great ice skating rinks . . . that's so long as the ice is strong enough. Yes, we've had some very cold weather, but it still should be checked. The general rule on thickness is that two inches will support one person and three inches will support a line of people. Thickness is not always the most accurate guide though. Other factors include color and age. New ice is stronger than old ice, and clear blue ice is stronger than slush ice. Be especially cautious with ponds that are either fed by a spring or have a fast moving current, the thickness of these ponds will vary considerably.

The most important thing is to have rescue equipment at the pond site. It is wise to have a straight ladder, rope and inner tube or similar catch device nearby . . . it could save a life. I would urge owners of farm ponds to use caution in permitting skating unless the ice is thick enough.

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



SIR,
COME DOWN!
December 31, 1989

Background Scripture: John 4:46 through 5:18

Devotional Reading: John 4:46-54.

One of the things that must have puzzled the contemporaries of Jesus, particularly his critics, was how he could be so uncannily knowledgeable in some situations, and yet be so mistaken in the people whom he healed. As they saw it, he was constantly healing the wrong persons. If he was going to perform a miracle, he should restrict his miracles to the kind of persons who deserved them -- the law-abiding, religiously orthodox Jew.

Unfortunately, Jesus never seemed to understand -- or, if he understood -- didn't take seriously the community's judgement on the people he healed. Take the Capernaum official, for example. This man was not a Jew; in all probability, he was a Roman official and the Romans were clearly the "bad guys" of this era. They imposed their rule on Israel and forced her to pay heavy taxes. They interfered with the religious practices of the Jews and went out of their way to profane things held sacred. So, when the official came to Jesus on behalf of his son, Jesus should have turned him away.

THE TIME IS NOW

When this man came pleading to him, Jesus made his response,

not on the basis of the man's nationality or religious beliefs. It was compassion that motivated him. Was Jesus testing the official when he said, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe?" But the official answered at the level of his own need: "Sir, come down before my child dies" (4:49). We can talk about the theology later, Jesus, but now is when you need to heal my child."

The official had said "Come..." to Jesus and the Master replied with his own command: "Go; your son will live." So, "The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and he went his way" (4:50). When the servants meet him on the way home and tell him his son is cured, he knows that his faith in Jesus is what saved him.

THE WRONG PERSON
In John 5 we find Jesus performing a healing on another man who was "the wrong person." Unlike the official in Capernaum, this man was probably a Jew. But, he was a chronically ill Jew, having been waiting at the pool of Bethzatha for 38 years. Anyone ill that long was thought to be guilty of some sin or sins that brought on a divine penalty. Isn't that what Job's friends said to him. What have you done, Job, to get yourself in this fix?

"Do you want to be healed?" A strange question, is it not? Jesus did not go about touching people with a magic wand like a fairy godmother. His compassion moved him to help them, but they had to want his help and to believe in him. Whatever their circumstances or their presumed worthiness, they had to be able to say "Sir, come down."

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Readers Write

Editor:

This was certainly a rewarding year in the real estate business. Let it be clearly understood, that we are in this section of *Lancaster Farming* every week because we want to promote sales for our company and our clients; however, monetary rewards are not the only rewards that come our way.

Allow me to give an example of a situation that seemed most unlikely: We were advertising a hog and poultry operation in Lebanon County, but little did we realize how far that advertising was traveling until we got a call from Tananna, Alaska. This small town is in the boonies of Alaska and didn't even have any roads coming into it. *Lancaster Farming* proved its effectiveness when it found its way into this Alaskan outback. The man gave me a call and I explained to him what I

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Farm Calendar



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

Tuesday, January 2
Penn State income tax meeting, Farmers Best Restaurant, Lewisburg, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Cumberland County Extension Board of Directors meeting, Cumberland County Extension office, Carlisle, 7:30 p.m.
44th annual meeting of the Northeastern Weed Science Society, Sheraton Boston Hotel & Towers, Boston, Mass.; runs through January 5.

Wednesday, January 3
Penn State income tax meeting, Bethany Methodist Church, Honesdale, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Schuylkill County Dairy Day, Penn State Schuylkill campus, Student/Community Activity Building, 9:00 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.

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THE 1980'S WAS A TOUGH DECADE ON THE AMERICAN FARMER, BUT YOUR DETERMINATION, DILIGENCE AND HARD WORK KEPT FOOD ON OUR TABLES. SO ALLOW US THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND TO YOU OUR HEART-FELT THANKS ——— AND WISH YOU...



THE VERY BEST OF THE 1990'S
HAPPY New Year EVERYONE!
Dave Carpenter