



# OPINION

## Family Food

If you attended the 74th Pennsylvania Farm Show this week, you already know we saw some new innovations that helped show the state's leading industry to the world. Maybe the most notable addition on the show schedule was the selection of five supreme champions.

Last year, the champions in the dairy breeds were brought together to select the supreme champion of the show. This year all the other livestock categories had the same opportunity. Beef cattle, sheep, swine and horses all crowned the best entry from all the breeds. This gave the show participants the opportunity to focus more clearly on each livestock category.

Entries were up for this show too. Fifty two hundred animals were entered in the competition, a significant increase over the 4,338 animal entries last year.

Record premiums totalling \$190,000 also offered exhibitors additional incentives to show their agricultural products and livestock. That's a 10 percent increase over last year.

Of course, many traditional events happened too. It snowed. Exhibitors of farm equipment and supplies again bought all the space available and showcased a who's who in agribusiness.

No question about it, if you attended the farm show in Harrisburg this week, you know Pennsylvania Agriculture provides good food for our families.



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin  
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

### To Be Aware Of Child Labor Laws

If you have boys or girls between the ages of 14 and 16 that plan to operate a farm tractor or machinery on a farm, other than your own farm, be sure they have the proper certificate. Under the child labor regulations, the law requires that those boys or girls between 14 and 16 years of age, be certified and carry a certification card before they are permitted to operate hazardous equipment. Some equipment listed under the law as hazardous are: a tractor with over 20 PTO horsepower, corn picker, hay baler, feed grinder, fork lift and many more. Again, on your own farm your children can operate any equipment that you feel is safe for them.

The Certification process in most cases is through the Vocational Agricultural Department in the schools or through the 4-H Tractor Clubs. Contact either for more information.

### To Attend Winter Meetings

This is the time of year that a lot of educational meetings are held, and they're held during this season of year for a good reason -- you have more time to attend meetings. During the spring, the summer and into the fall, there's just too much field work that must be done. Take the time to become acquainted with the meetings of interest to you and your operation. Some meetings are designed to reach certain production groups such as Dairy Days, Livestock Day, Crops and Soils Day and Poultry Day, but others are programmed to reach all agribusiness people like the Financial Management, Estate Planning and Farm Transfer Arrangement meetings.

Producers Association banquet, Blue Ball Fire Hall, Blue Ball, 6:30 p.m. Lancaster County Montgomery County Cooperative Extension annual banquet, Montgomery County 4-H Center, Creamery, 6:30 p.m. Fruit Growers meeting, Lancaster Farm & Home Center, Lancaster, 7:30 p.m. Pesticide update training and corn, soybean yield check information, Kennard-Dale High School, Fawn Grove, 8:00 p.m.

**Friday, January 19**  
Penn State income tax meeting, (Turn to Page A36)

Also, many agri-business and lending institutions conduct meetings to keep you abreast of the changes in their organizations. We urge you to mark your calendar as these meetings are announced, and attend as many as possible.

### To Preserve The Topsoil

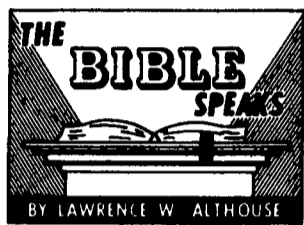
The spring of the year is an excellent time to develop some soil conservation practices on the land. Contour strips, slit tillage, terraces and diversion ditches can all be established before the 1990 crops are planted. These various methods of controlling water will not only prevent soil losses but will help hold more water on the higher slopes and fields. Good topsoil is a precious natural resource, and every land owner should make an effort to keep it from eroding. Farmers that are growing continuous corn should be very careful to keep their soil from washing away. In these cases terraces and contour strips can be established to help slow down the

loss of both water and soil. Addition of extra organic matter in the form of crop residues and green cover crops will help keep the soil loose with a higher water holding capacity.

### To Use The Farmer's Tax Guide

I have to mention it, yes it is Income Tax reporting time again. For farmers this becomes quite complicated with the many changes in the regulations.

The Farmer's Tax Guide is published by the Internal Revenue Service and is a real help to farmers and others who file for agricultural concerns. We have a supply in our office, as do other extension offices. They are also available from the Internal Revenue Service. Most farmers have their taxes filed by a tax practitioner, but you will find the tax guide very helpful in preparing your materials for the tax person. The filing date of March 1 for farmers rolls around rather quickly.



**STOMACH ALIVE; SOUL EXTINCT**  
January 14, 1990

### Background Scripture:

John 6.

### Devotional Reading:

John 6: 31-40.

Last week my wife and I were invited to dinner in a very fine restaurant. At the end of the meal, I happened to glance at the check and was shocked to find that dinner for just the two of us had totaled \$210! I couldn't help but remember the years of the Great Depression of the 1930's when our family was glad to have even the simplest of meals, I also remembered times during my college days when I couldn't afford more than one meal per day.

The food which we eat today is generally much fancier, more expensive, and even sometimes exotic in comparison with the simple fare of my childhood and youth. Sometime when you're in a supermarket, just ask yourself how many of the products on the shelves today would have been there 50 years ago. Still, with all of this today are we any more satisfied with what we eat than we were? I think not.

### ALWAYS HUNGRY

In many respects we are as "hungry" today as we were in much less affluent times. The "hunger" may be for food, fast cars, drugs and alcohol, power, or sex. Our society seems obsessed with satisfying our ravenous hungers that, unfortunately, seem never to be satisfied. These hungers are like bottomless pits that take everything we offer and still want more and more. Someone has said that the epithet for our generation will be: "Stomachs alive; souls

extinct."

So, we live in the most abundant material culture the human race has ever known, but we are still hungry! And worst of all, we don't even know what we're hungry for. As soon as we get enough of anything, we realize that that is not what we wanted in the first place. No matter how much we may gorge ourselves with material things, we find that the emptiness inside ourselves still prevails.

### TO FILL THE EMPTINESS

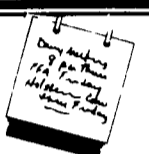
Life in Jesus' day was so much more simple and basic. Still, the problem was much the same: people kept looking for something or someone to fill their emptiness. So, when, by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus miraculously multiplied the loaves and fishes, many looked to him as God's messenger. But the feeding of the five thousand was basically symbolic of a different kind of hunger which Jesus alone can satisfy.

Only Jesus can satisfy all the appetites which drive our society. "I am the bread of life," he proclaimed; "he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst" (6:36). All other sustenance is but fleeting in its power to sustain us. This was even true of the manna which Moses gave the people in the wilderness. "Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness and they died" (6:49). It sustained them for a time, but it did not bring them eternal life. So, he warns: "Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life" (6:27).

Most of our appetites are attempts to fill a vague and undefined void within us. But this emptiness can be filled and satisfied only by Jesus Christ, who came, not only to sustain us in time of need, but also to preserve us to eternal life. So, may our response be the same as theirs: "Lord, give us this bread always" (6:34).

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## Farm Calendar



**Saturday, January 13**  
Forage Conference, Caroline County 4-H Park, Williston, Md., 9:30 a.m.  
York County Fruit Growers annual banquet, Howard Johnson, York, 6:30 p.m.  
Franklin County Holstein Club annual meeting, Lemasters Community Center, Lemasters, 7:00 p.m.  
Huntingdon County Holstein Club meeting, Shade Gap Auxiliary Building, Shade Gap, 7:00 p.m.

**Monday, January 15**  
Northeast winter dairy management schools, Holiday Inn, Oneonta, N.Y.; runs through January 16.

**Tuesday, January 16**  
Penn State income tax meeting, Leiby's Ice Cream House, Tamaqua, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Horticultural business management short course, Lancaster Farm & Home Center, Lancaster, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
Susquehanna Valley dairy day, Buggytown USA Restaurant, Mifflinburg, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Soil course, Montgomery County 4-H Center, Creamery, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; runs eight Tuesdays.  
New Jersey Vegetable Growers Association meeting and trade show, Trump Castle Hotel & Casino, Atlantic City, N.J.; runs through January 18.  
New York Holstein Convention, Syracuse, N.Y.; runs through January 17.  
Horse production enterprises meeting, UNILEC Building, DuBois; continues January 30,

February 13 and 27, and March 13; register by January 9 by calling Gregory K. Burns at 814/776-5331.

**Wednesday, January 17**  
Penn State income tax meeting, Family Heritage Restaurant, Franconia, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Penn-Jersey Dairy Expo, Days Inn Conference Center, Allentown, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Lancaster County home horticulture seminar—roses top to bottom, Lancaster Farm & Home Center, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.  
Northeast winter dairy management school, Sheraton-Burlington Hotel, South Burlington, Vt.; through January 18.  
Westmoreland County dairy nutrition school, Hoss's, Belle Vernon; continues January 24 and 31.  
Lime, Fertilizer & Pesticide Conference, Sheraton Penn State, State College; through January 19.  
State Association of County Fairs meeting, Lancaster Sheraton, Lancaster; runs through January 19.  
**Thursday, January 18**  
Penn State income tax meeting, Lancaster Farm & Home Center, Lancaster, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Perry, Juniata, Mifflin counties dairy day, Ickesburg Fire Hall, Ickesburg, 9:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Adams County Extension Association meeting, Biglerville Fire Hall, Biglerville, 6:30 p.m. Lancaster/Chester County Swine

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