



# OPINION



FFA members all over the country will promote FFA, agricultural education and the food and fiber industry during National FFA Week, Feb. 17-24. Members in thousands of chapters across the U.S., and in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands organize events and activities to create awareness of and support for agricultural education and the FFA.

FFA activities and programs are promoted through public service announcements on the local, state and national levels. And rightly so. This year's theme is FFA — Leading the Challenge.

Agricultural education classes stress hands-on experience in diverse areas of agriculture. FFA activities provide leadership development, career training and award incentives for young people. Donnell Brown, national FFA president from Throckmorton, Tex., said FFA Week is the chance for members and communities to recognize achievements and activities available through FFA and agricultural education.

"We're proud of this commitment to young people and agriculture," Brown said. As FFA members and students in agriculture classes, we are receiving the business, science and leadership skills we need to prepare for the diverse and challenging careers in agriculture."

Each year FFA Week is held during the week of George Washington's birthday (traditional) to recognize his leadership and commitment to American agriculture. The National FFA Center is located on part of Washington's original Mt. Vernon estate near Alexandria, Va.

A national organization of 397,115 students in 7,705 local chapters, FFA prepares youth for agricultural careers. FFA activities and award programs complement instruction in agricultural education by giving students practical experience in the application of agricultural skills and knowledge gained in classes. Developing agricultural leadership, cooperation and citizenship is FFA's major objective.

We believe an FFA Chapter in a local school is the best hedge against urban ignorance of agriculture.



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin  
Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent

### To Protect Cattle From Respiratory Problems

Many cattle are confined indoors over the winter months. If the windows and air inlets are closed and the fans are turned off to keep the stable warm, the environment can become humid and dusty. According to Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, this can cause respiratory problems in cattle, such as Pneumonia, Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR), or Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus (BRSV).

The risks are further increased by weaning, overcrowding, rapid changes in the weather, malnutrition, heavy parasite loads, etc.

To prevent these problems, ventilate stables properly, reduce animal stress, and ask your veterinarian about recommended vaccination programs.

### To Prepare For Dormant Sprays

Many types of trees are infested with various kinds of scale insects. These pests attach themselves to the bark and twigs and shrubs and suck the strength from the plant. One of the best treatments is to apply a dormant spray oil before the buds start to open. The date of the spray will vary with the weather. However, on many fruit trees and shrubbery this will be late February and early March. The spray should be applied before the buds open. In addition, a spray during May or June while the insect is in the crawler stage is strongly suggested; materials for this spray can be Sevin or Malathion. Scale in-

Roche farm, New Oxford, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 20

Vegetable As An Alternative meeting, Solanco High School, Quarryville, 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Cecil Co. Dairy Day, Calvert Grange Hall, Calvert, Md., 10:00 a.m.

Clarion Co. Crop Day, Salem Community Bldg.

Cumberland Co. Farm Transfer Arrangements meeting, Bonanza Steak House, Carlisle, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Farming In the '90s, Farm Management meeting, Kennedyvil-

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sects should be controlled — the way is to use a dormant spray.

### To Mend Pasture Fences And Remove Debris

Pastures can provide cattle a lot of good, nutritious forage, and it's a place for them to get fresh air, exercise and sunlight. Before too long, we will be turning our cattle out to pasture, but let's not turn them out too soon. It's best to let the sod develop and the ground firm up. Spend the time now to fix fences and pick up trash and debris before the grass grows too tall and before you're tied down with spring field work.

It might also be helpful to section off the pasture in order to make best use of the grass. For example, wet areas and flat areas may be fenced off from other areas. This will enable you to keep cows out of wet areas until the ground firms up, and could help prevent the development of foot problems. During the early spring flush of pasture growth, you could keep cattle out of the flat area; save it for hay, and feed it to cows later in the summer.

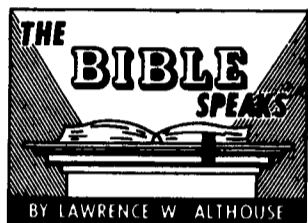
### To Be Aware Of Gypsy Moth Eggs

From now until late April the buff colored, inch-and-a-half long fuzzy egg clusters of gypsy moths are in view on bare trees according to Bruce Hellerick, extension horticultural agent. Each cluster contains several hundred eggs which means several hundred caterpillars. You can spot them on the undersides of tree branches, along trunks, or in protected areas.

The trees gypsy moths like best are apple, basswood, gray and river birch, hawthorn, oak, poplar and willow. They will also work on black, yellow and paper birch, cherry, chestnut, elm, black gum, hickory, maple and sassafras.

Once you find the egg masses, scrape them off with a knife or a flat wooden stick. Collect and drop them into a can of kerosene or burn them. Merely scraping the eggs off will do little good since the eggs can still hatch on the ground.

Destroying some of the egg clusters will be of some help in cutting down on the invasion of the destructive moths later this year.



WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW THE WAY  
February 18, 1990

### Background Scripture:

John 13: 31 through 14:14.

### Devotional Reading:

John 13:31-36.

This past week I lost a dear colleague and friend to cancer. For the past two years we have met together periodically to talk and pray for healing. Often, this deep thinker confessed to me that he had a hard time reconciling traditional Christian beliefs about life after death.

But last week, during what was to prove to be our last conversation, he told me that, although those beliefs were still unreconciled, it didn't matter any more. "I don't have to have it all together," he told me, "I know that I'm in Christ's hands and it will be all right. I'm ready to go." I said to him: "Howard, you have not been cured, but you have been healed." Less than 30 hours later, he was gone.

### UNDERSTANDING IT ALL

He had reminded me of something that I know but sometimes forget: we do not have to understand it all in order to commit ourselves into God's hands. I think the human brain is a God-given gift that we should use just as often and as fully as possible. But, when I have thought my deepest and finest thoughts, there is still a lot left that escapes the power of my intellect. If I wait

until I understand everything — which, of course, isn't even possible — I will never make the commitment.

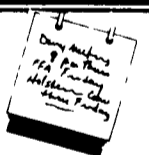
It is natural that we should want to understand all that we can, but, when we have done our very best, we need to acknowledge that we will always fall far short of our goal. Even the most brilliant and inquiring of minds cannot "get it all together" so that everything fits.

That's why I like to say, if you don't know the way, make sure you know the guide. In a sense, that's what Christianity is all about. Like people all over the world, we believe that behind us, our planet and the universe, there stands a single creative, sustaining, and providential power. Most of us call this singularity "God." As Christians, we go one step further and confess that that same God can be optimally understood and apprehended in human terms in the person of Jesus Christ. All that we can possibly know about God is what we find revealed in him. That's what John tells us in chapter 14. Jesus is talking about his impending life beyond death and the disciples are having a hard time trying to comprehend what he is saying: "Lord, we do not know where you are going: how can we know the way?" (14:5). Jesus knows that Thomas has spoken rightly: they cannot know the way because it lies beyond human comprehension. So, Jesus says: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me" (14:6).

Knowing "the way" lies quite beyond their finite minds, but they can know Jesus, the Guide, who will lead them on those paths that go quite beyond human understanding. And so can we.

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## Farm Calendar



### Saturday, February 17

Basic Sheep Management Meeting For Beginners, Bill and Cindy Bankhead farm, Rock Hall, Md., 10:00 a.m.-noon.

Adams County Fruitgrowers meeting, Bendersville Community Hall, Bendersville, 6:00 p.m.

Woodlot Management Workshop, Lycoming Mall Community Room, Muncy, Pa., 9:00 a.m.-noon.

Potter Co. Holstein Club annual meeting, Country Cottage, Ulysses, 8:00 p.m.

### Monday, February 19

New Holland Vegetable Day, Summit Valley Elementary School, New Holland.

25th Annual Shade Tree Symposium, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, thru Feb. 20.

Berks Family Dairy Day, Berks Co. Ag Center.

Mercer Co. Corn Day, Mercer Co. Vo-Tech School, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Adams Co. Holstein Classification meeting, Jeff and Mary Kay

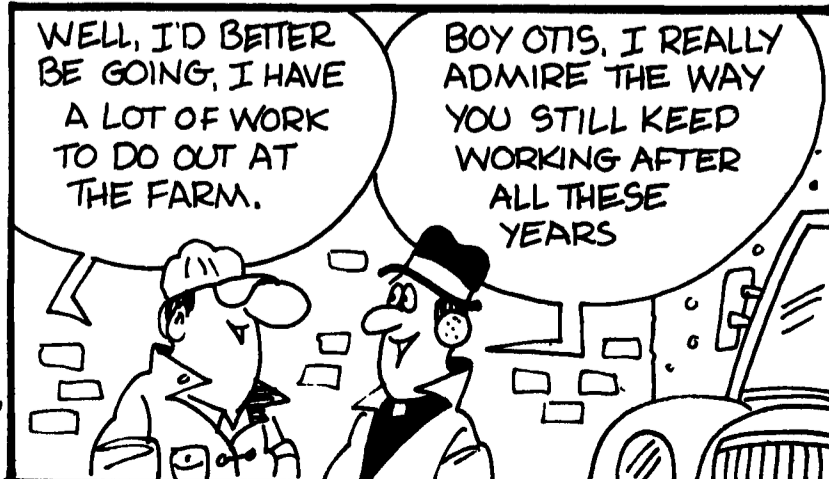
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