



# OPINION

## Test Layers

The small layer industry — the backyard farmers with flocks from under 1,000 to 20,000 birds — should look to test their flocks.

A law signed into effect on Feb. 15 has made it mandatory that all layer flocks be tested on a regular basis for Salmonella enteritidis (SE). No farm is exempt, even the backyard farms.

According to the Keystone Ag Digest, egg production for December 1989 totalled 450 million. The total number of layers on hand averaged 19.6 million during December and production per 100 layers was 2,302 eggs. Annual egg production in Pennsylvania for the year ending November 30, 1989 was 5.23 billion eggs, and placed Pennsylvania in fourth place in total U.S. egg production.

That's a lot of eggs.

While most of the large commercial industries with 20,000-60,000 layers have their own testing programs or cooperate closely with the state in testing their birds, the small farms must seek help to comply with the new rules.

It's simple. All the small farms have to do is contact their extension office, or call one of the labs listed in this issue of Lancaster Farming, to find out how to test for SE.

Farmers must keep in mind that SE can be detected and treated. While SE poses no health threat to the birds themselves, if the disease is transmitted to layers and ends up in the eggs, people can become sick if they do not cook the eggs.

Summer is also a likely time for the disease to spread, because eggs are not always refrigerated until they are cooked. According to the Penn State Department of Poultry Science, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is developing a proposal to change the standards for marketing eggs in Pennsylvania. Proposed regulations would require that eggs be cooled to an internal temperature of 45 degrees F before being delivered to retailers and held at that temperature until being purchased by consumers. But even now, proper handling and cooking of the eggs will eliminate most, if not all, cases of SE infection.

With the producer, the marketing chain and the consumer working together, we'll have no problem at all.



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin  
Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent

### To Apply Poultry Manure Sparingly

With the large poultry population in this region, poultry manure is in good supply. Since poultry manure may contain from 15 pounds to nearly 50 pounds of nitrogen per ton, depending on moisture and litter content, over application can burn crops and result in disappointments. Gardeners should not be using heavy amounts of fresh manure in their soils. On cropland it is recommended that poultry manure applications be limited to not more than 5 to 7 tons of 75% moisture content per acre.

Keep in mind that some poultry manure may contain up to 50 pounds of nitrogen per ton and can burn seeds and crop roots. Poultry manure is also the highest in phosphorus and potash of any of our farm manures. It has excellent fertilizer value when used properly.

The 1989-90 Agronomy Guide (page 19) gives additional details about the fertilizer values of farm manures. The Agronomy Guide is available through any extension office in Pennsylvania for a \$5.00 fee.

### To Recycle Paper

Many people are interested in recycling paper, and farmers want newspaper for use as bedding materials for farm animals. According to Glenn Shirk, Extension Dairy Agent, the challenge is to connect the supply with the demand.

Businesses have been formed for collecting, processing and merchandising recycled paper as bedding material. Some farmers are inviting people to bring newspaper to their farm. Others are giving donations to local groups for conducting paper drives.

If you want to recycle newspaper but have no outlet for it, create a deposit site in your community or place of work, and contact a farmer for periodic delivery or pickup. If you do not know a farmer, try advertising in a local paper or place posters in local farm stores.

### To Remove Trash

Landowners along rural roads are the victims of people who have little respect for the property of others. Too many people are dumping trash in fields along the road. In all cases when this is dumped on pastures or cropland, the trash should be removed before spring growth begins. This trash will be hard on farm equipment when on cropland and may be poisonous to livestock when on pastureland.

We urge property owners to remove the trash in the next week or two. If any type of identification can be made, as to the owner of the trash, this should be reported to Township officials; prosecution can be made for dumping trash along the highway.

### To Be Patient

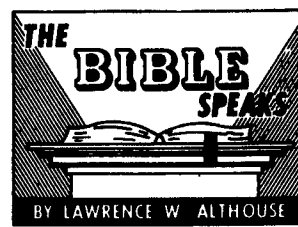
This is the time of year that we are under strain and pressure to get a lot of jobs under way for the planting season. It also means that

we are not as patient with people and livestock. Let's be careful, as we move our cattle around, and not give them that extra slap or prod to try to speed up movement. Keep in mind, that extra shove or push could have an effect on production. Cows can "sense" the change in pace and temperament and respond with a little less production.

There is a great deal of activity in the spring season, but let's not take it out on our cattle. Be patient and try to maintain a relaxed schedule as we move our livestock around. It'll pay off in the milk check.

We find that in the best producing herds the animals are relaxed and the workers are relaxed. This tells us something about the tender loving care that cattle needs.

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



## THE CHOICE

March 18, 1990

Background Scripture:  
John 11:47-53; 18:1-14  
Devotional Reading:  
John 17:1-11

It would be interesting for each of us to attempt to rewrite the story of Jesus' betrayal and arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. Some of us, the "macho" wing, that is, would probably follow Peter's attack on the high priest's slave with each of the disciples brandishing a sword and defending their Master with a vigorous attack, either routing or killing the arresting party. Another variation would have Peter striking out, not at the slave of the high priest, but Judas. If anyone suffered for this terrible deed, surely it should have been him.

Another scenario someone might suggest would have Jesus denying that he was the one they sought, slipping away from his captors so that he could continue to preach the Gospel. This would appeal to those who believe that martyrdom is often a wasted expenditure of life. Then too, Jesus might have met his foes with a withering denunciation. They might arrest him, but not before he had made a ringing defense of his innocence.

### Choices Not Taken

Those are just some of the ways in which any of us might have reacted in that situation. But Jesus did not choose any of these scenarios. He did not hide, but said forthrightly: "Whom do you see?" When they said, "Jesus of Nazareth," he replied without evasion: "I am he." And when they seemed uncertain or unable to make the next move, it is Jesus who moves them off dead-center.

"I told you that I am he; so, if you seek me, let these men go" (18-8).

Now the question that always divides Christians is whether Jesus sought martyrdom, or simply accepted it. Did Jesus want to go to the cross, or did he merely accept the cross rather than deny the gospel? Did Jesus have to go to the cross, or could he have chosen not to? I truly believe Jesus did not have a choice. I believe he chose freely and his choice was to remain faithful to that for which God had sent him. Jesus did not want to die, I am convinced, but even more than that, he did not want to fail in this mission which God had given him. Accepting death was preferable to accepting defeat.

### End or Beginning

So, Jesus did not lie, cheat or steal to get out of his dilemma. He did not "sneak away to fight another day," either. He remained true to his calling as the Christ. You and I can all be glad that he did, for because he was willing to pay that price, the gospel did not die on Calvary, but was resurrected with him. What seemed "the end of it all" became "just the beginning."

Often, we are confronted with the same kinds of choices. We can take a stand for the right, or we can find a way of avoiding the choice. Sometimes, like Jesus, we have to have the courage to stand up and be counted, even if the count is a paltry "one." That's not easy. I know. There have been times when I have rationalized that it would be better to keep my mouth shut then to open it and get in trouble. And sometimes that is good advice: unlike Don Quixote, we cannot joust with every windmill we see.

But there are also times when we must say to ourselves, "This far, but no further." And when that happens, it must never be because the choice was forced on us, but because, like Jesus, we would rather bear the pain and win the crown.

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## Farm Calendar

### Saturday, March 17

- Happy St. Patrick's Day!**  
Fulton Grange # 66 Dinner Theater, Fulton Grange Hall, Oakryn, 7:00 p.m.
- Western Pa. Beekeeping Seminar, Park United Presbyterian Church, Zelienople, Pa., 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Pa. Holstein Assoc. Irish Holiday sale, Meadville.

### Sunday, March 18

- N.W. Chapter of Pa. Auctioneers Assoc. 4th annual Seminar, Sheraton Inn, Middlesex, 8:00 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

### Monday, March 19

- Pesticide recertification training, Penn State Fruit Research Lab, Biglerville, 1:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Centre Co. Cooperative Extension Directors, Zimm's Restaurant, State College, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
- Huntingdon Co. 4-H Comp Planning meeting, Dave's Dream, 7:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, March 20

- Pennsylvania Agriculture Economy Conference, Keller Conference Center, Penn State,

- University Park, thru March 21. Capital Region Garden Center School, Centerville Quality Inn, Centerville, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., thru March 21.
- South Central Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association banquet, East Berlin Fire Hall, East Berlin, 7:00 p.m.
- National Agriculture Day, Capital Hill, Washington D.C., Ag Council of America.
- Mercer Co. Sheep and Wool Growers meeting, New Vernon Grange, Clarks Mill, 6:30 p.m.
- Dauphin Co. Farmers Association spring banquet, Dauphin Co. Ag Center, 7:00 p.m.
- Chester Co. Co-Op pesticide license update meeting, Brandywine Hospital Spackman Ed Building, Coatesville, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
- Chester Co. Co-Op extension meeting for commercial greenland farmers, Wedgewood Gardens, Glen Mills, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
- Huntingdon Co. pasture management meeting, Vo-Tech School, 7:30 p.m.

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**Lancaster Farming**  
Established 1955  
Published Every Saturday  
Ephrata Review Building  
1 E. Main St.  
Ephrata, PA 17522  
— by —  
**Lancaster Farming, Inc.**  
A Steinman Enterprise  
Robert G. Campbell General Manager  
Everett R. Newswanger Managing Editor  
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