

# Lancaster Farming

## OPINION

### What Do You Think?

Wild claims that the vast majority of Americans are demanding organic food is nothing but a marketing hoax, said the President of The Fertilizer Institute.

Gary D. Myers, who heads the trade association representing the fertilizer industry, said a Gallup Poll conducted last summer shows consumers understand the role of fertilizer in food production and are unwilling to pay over 10 percent more for organic food.

"Overall, half of those responding to the Gallup poll said they are not willing to pay more money for foods grown without the use of fertilizers," said Myers. "There is a small, niche market for organic foods, and that's fine. Consumers willing to pay the premium for organics should have that choice. However, polling results and claims that perpetuate the myth that a majority of Americans want and will pay for organic food is an intellectually dishonest ploy."

Myers cited a news item in a recent edition of an organic magazine claiming that 84 percent of Americans "have a preference for organically grown fruits and vegetables."

"Those kinds of wild claims are the result of playing word games," said Myers. "Are consumers willing to pay for those so-called preferences, and if so, how much?"

The Gallup Poll results showed the nearly half of the 1,000 persons surveyed said they were willing to pay more for organic food. Two of five, or 41 percent, said they were willing to pay up to 10 percent more. However, when the food cost increase is more than 10 percent, the number of positive responses dropped dramatically. Only 16 percent said they would be willing to pay up to 20 percent, and when foods costs increased over 20 percent the positive responses dropped into the single digits.

Recent studies conclude that food costs would increase 45 percent without the use of pesticides and fertilizers.

"Clearly, there is no national outcry for more organic food," said Myers. "In fact, demand has been so low that at least two large food store chains have discontinued the organic marketing sections in their stores. It's time to put a stop to this myth that there is widespread demand for organic food." What do you think?



### NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin  
Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent

#### To Check Water Supplies

Water is one of our most important resources, but it should be checked periodically. Many families depend on wells for their water supply, but they pay little attention to the water unless the pump fails or the well runs dry. Your water should be tested annually to determine its quality.

It is important to test water following any reconstruction or addition to the water supply or its distribution system. Water supplies should be checked whenever a disease occurs that may have been caused by unsafe drinking water. If water changes in taste, odor or appearance for no reason, it should be tested.

There are many tests and analyses that can be used. Two of the most important are for nitrates and bacteria.

#### To Check Stored Pesticides

The shelf life of most pesticides, when stored in their original container, is usually several years. The greatest problem with stored pesticides comes from freezing temperatures. Cold overwintering temperatures may cause a breakdown of the emulsifier in liquid materials. These materials may not mix properly when added to the spray water.

To determine if the pesticide will still mix properly with water, follow this easy procedure: (1) place 1/4 pint of water in a small container, (2) add 1/2 teaspoon of the pesticide, (3) shake or stir thoroughly (you should get a milky mixture), (4) let stand for about one hour. The spray mix should remain an even milky mixture. If an oily scum or layer forms on top, or if a layer of curds appear on top, don't use the material.

#### To Consider Paper Bedding

As a society, we generate a lot of trash, and paper makes up a lot of that trash. Much of that trash paper is ending up in our landfills, and our landfills are filling up. We need to find alternatives. One alternative is to recycle newspapers as bedding for animals. Many farmers are using paper as bedding and many homeowners are interested in recycling their paper as bedding. The challenge is connecting farmers who need paper with people who have paper to recycle. Farmers in Lancaster County who are in need of paper

should notify the Lancaster County Cooperative Extension office of their need by calling (717) 394-6851.

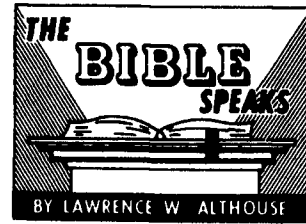
#### To Be Alert For Ticks

It seems like there is a season for everything... well the tick season is here. These pests may be on almost any dog or person that walks through uncultivated fields or woody areas from May to September.

Ticks await their victims on low-growing shrubs and on tall grass. They attach to, and feed on the blood of dogs and humans as well as many other animals.

To control the American dog tick, first clean the area of tall grass and weeds on which ticks await their victims. Also treat bushes 20 to 30 feet on either side of paths with Sevin. The dog should also be treated with a 5% Sevin dust at weekly intervals, or as needed, to control ticks.

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



WE CAN OVERCOME!  
May 20, 1990

Not only will we endure, but we will overcome: "Every one who believes that Jesus is the Christ is a child of God...For whatever is born of God overcomes the world..." (5:1a,4a).

By love—God's love for us and our love for others—we are as close to him as it is possible to get. 1 John calls this closeness *abiding* "in him and he in us" (4:13). If we abide in him and he abides in us then we will share the ultimate victory that will be his. If we live close to him, loving as he loves, then the victory will be ours, too. "Who is it that overcomes the world but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" (5:5). **BEYOND BELIEF**

So, ultimately it boils down to faith. Not just belief, but faith. This is not just a matter of the ideas that we cling to, but that which, we permit to empower our lives. One of my seminary professors, Paul W. Hoon, has said: "...the battlefield on which the believer overcomes the world is ultimately not that of thought or theology but the sphere of his daily living." It is much more than the faith we profess—it is the faith by which we live.

To me, that's what makes Christianity so vital. It has a theology, but it is essentially practical. It is a way of life much more than it is a way of speaking. And the essence of that way of living is love, the way we treat one another, the way we respond to each other's needs, the way we regard God's other children. When we are unloving it means we simply do not have sufficient faith in God. It means that we believe in ourselves and our fears more than we believe in him.

But, on our own we will not survive, let alone be victorious. We can only overcome if we first learn to love.

(Based on copyrighted Outlines produced by the Committee on the Uniform Series and used by permission. Released by Community & Suburban Press)

#### Background Scripture:

1 John 5:1-15.

#### Devotional Reading:

2 Peter 1:1-11.

Do you ever pick up the morning paper and, after scanning the depressing headlines, think to yourself: "The world is going to hell in a handbasket" — or words to that effect? Or perhaps a similar mood sweeps over you while watching the late evening television news. Nothing seems to be going right anywhere we look — inflation, the national debt, bank closings, acid rain, strife in Northern Ireland, civil war in Lebanon, apartheid in South Africa, corruption in Washington, D.C., and drugs everywhere in America.

It is so difficult for us when on every side things seem to be getting steadily worse. Yet, at the same time, our Christian faith counsels us to believe that God's kingdom will come and his will be done. We believe that with our minds, but our gut level feeling is sometimes something else. So we try to hang on, trusting in the promises of God, looking for a sign that will dispel our gloom and permit us to survive.

#### MORE THAN SURVIVAL

Human beings are great survivors. Sometimes I marvel at the true life stories of people who surmount all kinds of perils and dangers in order to survive. Somehow, these people manage to hang on. But the Christian promise is not about survival, but victory.

Northeast Forest Industry Safety Committee safety meeting, Triton Hose Co., Tunkhannock, 6:00 p.m.

#### Sunday, May 27

NW Keystone Jr. Beef Classic, Crawford Co. Fairgrounds, Meadville.

#### Monday, May 28

Memorial Day

#### Friday, June 1

Bradford Co. Dairy Festival, Athens, Pa., 7:00 p.m., thru June 2.

#### Saturday, June 2

Cecil Co. Farm Show, Western, Fairhill Grounds, 9:00 a.m.  
Washington Co. Sheep & Wool Field Day, Washington Fairgrounds, 8:00 a.m., thru June 3.  
Bradford Co. Dairy Festival, Athens, Pa.

(Turn to Page A11)

## Farm Calendar

### Saturday, May 19

Wills 4-H/FFA Show, Howard Co. Fairgrounds, Maryland, 10:00 a.m.

Pa. Hampshire Field Day, Blue-Acre Farm, Robesonia, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Farm Family Insurance Driving Clinic, Horse Park, Allentown, N.J.

Clearfield Co. 4-H Practice Roundup and Fun Show, Clearfield Co. Fairgrounds.

Dauphin Co. Extension Extravaganza, Dauphin Co. Ag and Natural Resources Center, Dauphin, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Spring Fling Craft and Bake Sale, Refton Fire Hall, Refton, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Berks Co. Dairy Judging, Davis Farm, 11:00 a.m.

### Monday, May 21

HEC-2 Flood Plain Hydraulics,

### PSU.

Centre Co. 4-H Sausage Stuffers, Halfmoon Grange Building, Centennial, 7:30 p.m.

Berks Co. Extension board of directors, Berks Co. Ag Center, 7:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, May 22

Elk Co. Lyme Disease Program, Extended Care, St. Marys, 7:00 p.m.

Clearfield Co. Spring Celebration, Eastern Star Building, Clearfield, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Reducing Your Water Bill: Water Conservation at Home, Multi-Service Center Auditorium, Clearfield.

Centre Co. Jams and Jellies Making Workshop, Logan Grange Hall, Pleasant Gap, 7:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Berks Co. Swine Club, Berks Co. Ag Center, 7:30 p.m.

## 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

Copyright 1989 by Lancaster Farming

