



OPINION

Buttered Bread

We often hear that agriculture doesn't have much clout in government because our numbers are so small in comparison to total population numbers. But from recent past events, this idea may not be true.

In recent US congressional maneuverings, farm supporters over-rode attempts to diminish sugar and peanut programs. And the attempt to set eligibility requirements to bar individuals with adjusted gross incomes of \$100,000 or more from pocketing federal farm payments was defeated.

Even in Pennsylvania, with all the hoopla over the budget, when all was said and done, farmers received their fair share even though in some areas more would have been better.

In research, "Not as bad as we expected."

In FFA Foundation support, "More than requested."

And you can go down the line to see that agriculture was not left behind. And of course, both parties want to say they helped the farmer the most. And each party wants to blame the other of robbing agriculture of its just dues. That's political rhetoric.

What really determines agriculture's wallop in both the national and state governments is that AGRICULTURE IS A LARGE PART OF OUR ECONOMY. In Pennsylvania, one in five jobs depends on agriculture. In the national food and fiber sector, agriculture represents 17 percent of the total GNP, 16 percent of employment and 17 percent of exports.

Never mind that farmers are exceedingly outnumbered at the ballot box. When it comes time to appropriate spending to support agriculture, the rest of the people still know which side their bread is buttered.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Be Aware Of Tobacco Black Shank

Black shank has been positively identified in a tobacco field near Bird-In-Hand according to Robert Anderson, Extension Agronomy Agent. It has been several years since this disease has caused much damage to the tobacco crop in Lancaster County. Black shank can be a serious and destructive disease of Pennsylvania Type tobacco. It is caused by a soil borne fungus which can survive in the soil for many years. A four or more year long rotation is recommended on farms which have had black shank.

Black shank can be recognized by a sudden wilting or drooping of all leaves on a plant. When the affected plant is cut open, the pith of the stalk near the ground level is usually separated into discs similar to those found in bamboo. Internal portions of the stalk are black in color. Similar damage can be found with lightning damage, however the discs are white with lightning damage. Once infected with black shank the plant does not survive.

Best control is with a long rotation or by switching to growing Maryland 609 tobacco.

To Observe Poultry Month

The Lancaster County Commissioners have proclaimed August as Poultry Month. So, this is a real good time to reflect on the impact this important industry has on the economy of Lancaster County. Poultry products in Lancaster County provide nourishment for over nine million people. The value of the poultry products sold totaled over \$187 million. It is estimated that nearly 10,000 people are employed in the many different areas of the poultry

industry in Lancaster County. The industry is strong because of the dedicated, well managed poultry farms along with a highly efficient and supportive allied industry. Eggs and poultry meat are two of the most nourishing foods in your health diet. Let's be supportive of this important part of our agricultural economy during Poultry Month.

To Check Leafhopper Injury To Alfalfa

The sudden invasion of potato leafhoppers caught some farmers off guard and inflicted damage to their alfalfa stands. Infected fields appear yellowish or bronzy in color. Their growth is severely stunted, and they may not mature properly. Once the damage is done, these stands will not respond well to spraying.

To speed up recovery of the stand, cut the damaged alfalfa about 4-5 weeks after the last cutting, regardless of its height or maturity.

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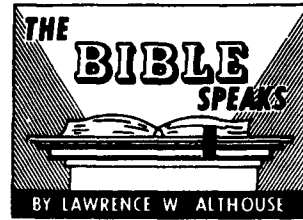
To speed up recovery of the stand, cut the damaged alfalfa about 4-5 weeks after the last cutting, regardless of its height or maturity.

Then observe the regrowth closely, and spray it for leafhopper control if necessary. To help the stand regain its strength, it will be beneficial to let the regrowth come into bloom before cutting.

To Renovate Old Pastures

Late August and early September are good times to establish a new pasture, or renovate an old one. In fact, this is a good time of the year to make any pasture or lawn seeding. The old sod should be destroyed by cultivation or by a herbicide. After the soil has been treated with lime and fertilizer, according to a complete soil test, it can be seeded and should produce good grazing for next summer.

The advantage of a fall seeding is to permit time for the new plants to become established before the 1991 hot weather arrives. The cool, moist fall months should give the plants a good start. The Agronomy Guide lists some good seeding recommendations.



Background Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3.

Devotional Reading: Matthew 6:22-34.

When I was a student in the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, there were two brothers on the same faculty, Dr. Solomon S. Huebner, the father of insurance education in the USA, and Dr. Grover G. Huebner, professor of foreign commerce. Their divergent personalities and double initials gave rise to nicknames: Sunny Sol and Gloomy Gus. Sunny Sol was the personification of optimism and inspiration; Gloomy Gus, seemed the congenial cynic.

I was one of Sunny Sol's many fans, but I never had any courses under Gloomy Gus. Still, I was told by other student who did that, although his style was not dynamic and inspiring as his brother's, he was nevertheless an excellent teacher whose pessimism could be as valuable as Sol's optimism. At the time, I found that hard to believe.

NEEDING BOTH KINDS

Over the years, however, I have found that in any organization -- business, government, church -- one needs both kinds of people and their influence must be balanced to bring the best results. We need dreamers to create new ideas, but we also need those who can analyze a new idea and be realistic about it.

So, although the Preacher is a pessimistic, eye-opening and his pessimistic conviction that "all is vanity" can try the toughest, most faithful, still he does have some important things to say, that stem from the depths of his cynicism. One of these is evident in Ecclesiastes 3. For everything

there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven..." This is a concept that we often overlook or forget. In the midst of life, we tend to forget that death is every much a part of our destiny as was birth. God creates us with "a time to be born and a time to die" (2a). God created life in a seasonal manner and we must not forget that to be human means to experience all those seasons, even if we don't like them. So the breaking down, weeping, mourning, losing, rending, hating, and even war are all part of the human experience. We much prefer the healing, laughing, dancing, embracing, love and peace, but none of these are constant in a world of free will.

LIFE IS SEASONAL

If the Preacher is saying that there is nothing we can do about these -- and that seems to be what he is saying -- I would not agree. I believe we can increase the experience of love, peace and joy in the world. In fact, that is what Christ calls us to do. My wife, Valerie, and I do a great deal to promote and teach health and wholeness. Still, we acknowledge that eventually these bodies of ours will wear out, break down and die -- for that is the way God designed and created us, all of us.

So there is wisdom in the Preacher's admonition to make the most of the time we have. So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should enjoy his work, for that is his lot" (33:22). Like that old saying, "Make hay while the sun shines," we need to make the most of the seasons God gives us. As Shakespeare puts it in Julius Caesar: "There is a tide in the affairs of men, which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune. Drifted, all the voyage of their life is bound in sails and mizzen."

Life must be taken as it comes. (Based on copyright material published by the Commission on the Un-American Activities by permission. Published by Commission on Un-American Activities.)

Farm Calendar

Saturday, August 4

- Carroll County, Md. 4-H/FFA Fair, Cooperative Extension Service, Carroll County.
- Cecil County Fair, Cecil County Fairgrounds, Fair Hill, Md.
- Susquehanna Co. 4-H Dairy Show, Harford Fairgrounds, 9:00 a.m.
- Performance Tested Ram Lamb Sale, Meat Animal Evaluation Center, Penn State U., 1:00 pm.
- Pa. Christmas Tree Growers summer meeting/trade show, Holiday Inn, Pottstown.
- 30th annual Old Time Wheat Threshing, Steam and Gas Engine Show, Denton, Md., thru Aug. 5

Sunday, August 5

- Deer Creek Fiddlers Convention, Carroll Co., Md. Farm Museum, Westminster, Maryland.
- 30th annual Old Time Wheat Threshing, Steam and Gas Engine Show, Denton, Md.

Monday, August 6

- Elk Co. Fair, Kersey, thru August 11.
- Butler Farm Show, Butler, thru August 11.
- Elk Co. Fair, Kersey, thru August 11.
- State 4-H Achievement Days, Penn State, thru August 8.
- Forage Field Day, James Akam Farm, Spartansburg, Pa., 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 7

- Gardner Center Educational Bu

Tour, University of Delaware, Lancaster Shopping Center, 7:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

1990 Farm Family Tent Fair, N.Y. State Grange, thru August 9.

New Carlisle Fair, Carlisle Fairgrounds, thru Aug. 11.

Bedford Community Fair, Bedford, thru August 11.

Butler Farm Show, Butler, thru August 11.

Elk Co. Fair, Kersey, thru August 11.

State 4-H Achievement Days, Penn State, thru August 8.

Forage Field Day, James Akam Farm, Spartansburg, Pa., 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 8

- Woody Ornamental Plant Identification Course, Penn State Berks Campus, 10:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., continued August 9.
- 1990 Farm Family Tent Fair, N.Y. State Grange
- University of Delaware Farm and Home Field Day, Georgetown
- Woody Ornamental Plant Identification Course, Penn State Berks Campus, 10:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Elk Co. 4-H Fair, Mantua Fairgrounds, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. thru August 11.
- R.K. Agriservice Field Day, Torr Leharon Fairgrounds, 10:00

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