



OPINION

A Word To The Wise Is Sufficient

President George Bush has proclaimed the week of September 16-22 as National Farm Safety Week. Every farm should have its own safety program where realistic training and accident prevention are a part of the management goal.

The National Safety Council recommends that all farm workers be trained in CPR and basic first-aid. Children should be assigned jobs suited to their age and capabilities and should not be allowed to operate heavy equipment or even drive the horses in dangerous situations.

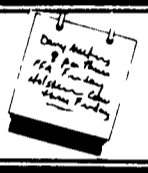
Equipment should be kept in good working order and family members and employees should be taught how to handle the equipment properly. These powerful machines deserve respect and the operator should take frequent breaks to prevent mental and physical fatigue.

Pesticides should be handled with care and the instructions on the label should be read and followed.

Locally, many farmers are filling their silos at this time. To accomplish the task, machines often run long into the night. And the farm operators don't rest until the job is done. But we want to urge you to be sure to take a break now and then so your reflexes don't become slow and cause you to take chances with moving chains, belts and cutter bars.

We know time is money when you need to get a crop harvested. But we also know many farm friends who would give all the money they have to get back the arm, leg or loved one they lost in a farm accident. A word to the wise is sufficient.

Farm Calendar



- Saturday, September 22**
Penn-Jersey Crop Management Field Day, Delaware Valley College, Doylestown, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- Pa. All-American Pa. Dairy Princess Pageant, Marriott Inn, Harrisburg, 6:30 p.m.
- N.J. Dorset Association annual Field Day, Perry Farm, Edgewood Rd., Whitehouse Station, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Bloomsburg Fair, thru Sept. 29.
- Oley Valley Community Fair, Reading Fair, thru Sept. 23.
- Westover Harmony Fair, Westover.
- Gratz Fair.
- Beaver Community Fair, Beaver Springs.
- Sunday, September 23**
Autumn Begins
National Association of Extension Home Economists annual meeting, Palmer House, Chicago, thru Sept. 27.
- Pa. All-American Careers and Opportunities Night, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 12:00 noon-8:00 p.m.
- Bloomsburg Fair, thru Sept. 29.
- Reading Fair.
- Monday, September 24**
Pa. All-American Dairy Show, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg, thru Sept. 27.

- 4-H/FFA Pa. Junior Dairy Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.
- Tuesday, September 25**
Pa. All-American Dairy Show, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg, thru Sept. 27.
- Common Ground: Conference On Food Growing Methods, Sheraton Harrisburg East, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Morris Cove Community Fair, Martinsburg, thru Sept. 28.
- Ephrata Fair, thru Sept. 29.
- York Co. state of the art milking and feeding, Farm Show Complex, 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 26**
Eastern National Holstein Sale, Harrisburg, 7:00 p.m.
- Adams Co. Farmers 39th annual meeting, Buchanan Valley Fire Company Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- West Lampeter Community Fair, (Turn to Page A29)

Farm Forum

Editor:
On behalf of the American Lung Association of Lancaster and Berks Counties, I wish to thank you for your important, life-saving editorial entitled "Don't Take Chances With Silo Gases,"

which appeared on September 8. Your message is certainly timely and is a fitting way to mark National Farm Safety Week, September 16-22, 1990. It has been my observation that

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NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Be Aware of Frosted Crops

Colder weather means frost. In fact this is good news to many of us who have had enough of hot, humid weather this summer. Livestock producers who have fields of sudan-sorghum hybrids, should keep in mind that when frost hits these crops they could be toxic to livestock for seven to ten days following the freeze. After this period, and the plants are dead, they may be used safely. However, any growth coming from the plant after a killing frost might also be toxic.

Another frost hazard will be to permit livestock to graze alfalfa or clover stands while the frost is still on the plants. This can cause severe bloating. Allow the frost to melt and the plants to dry before grazing. Good management is needed on various forage crops after a killing frost.

To Prepare For Wheat Planting

Wheat is an important crop in many of our farming programs and the selection of good seed will result in a better crop next year. Growers should be very careful when using homegrown seed by planting clean seed. Certified seed would be free of any problems. If you are planning to use homegrown seed, then do an extra good job of cleaning and treating. Vitavax 200 is a recommended fungicide for seed treatment. The fly-free date is either after the first killing frost, which some areas experienced on September 18, or in southeastern Pennsylvania, October 10.

Just a few reminders on planting wheat -- it should not be planted in the same field more often than once every five years; this time period will reduce the fungus carryover in the soil. Plow

the field as early as you can, then disc and harrow to kill as many weeds as possible. It's also a good idea to harrow the field thoroughly the day of seeding.

To Test And Weigh Forages

It is very important for dairy farmers to know how much forage dry matter their cows are consuming, because it affects the amount of grain that cows needs and how that grain should be formulated, according to Glenn Shirk, Extension Dairy Agent.

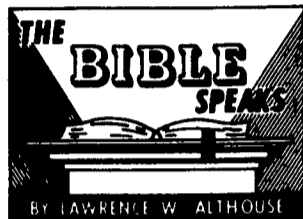
Inaccurate estimates of forage dry matter intake can adversely affect rumen function. Acidosis could result, and this can cause a whole host of costly problems such as: poor appetite, reduced production, depressed fat tests, sore feet, poor digestion and others.

Forage dry matter intake is affected by the moisture content of the forage, the amount fed and the amount refused or wasted. Therefore to estimate intakes

more accurately and to balance rations properly, it is important to weigh feeds and to check contents periodically.

To Fertilize Alfalfa Stands

After the last cutting of alfalfa is removed, it is a good practice to topdress the field with a phosphorus-potash fertilizer. Many growers have been doing this for years with good results. The fall application permits time for the soil elements to reach the root zone of the plants and become available for next spring's growth. Well fertilized alfalfa fields will produce more top quality forage and will be able to withstand adversities much better. Also, after the removal of the first crop next spring, another application of plant food should be made. Research continues to show that a nitrogen application on established stands of alfalfa is not a good investment. Apply only the amount recommended by your soil test results.



THE "DIRTY WORK"

September 23, 1990

Background Scripture: 1 Kings 21.

Devotional Reading: Psalms 36.

I used to know a husband and wife who were as different as day and night. The man was mild-mannered, undemanding, and generally accommodating to people. His wife, on the other hand, was very strong-minded and demanding. Those of us who knew them used to marvel at how different they were. The husband was usually regarded as "Mr. Nice Guy" and his wife gained a reputation quite to the contrary.

At times, we were curious when the husband would turn over to his wife a response that he could just as well have made himself. Eventually, some of us began to conclude that the husband sometimes used his wife to achieve what he wanted without having to bear himself the stigma for her words and actions. This man had learned to a perfection letting someone else do the dirty work.

Sulking for Profit

The story of Ahab, Jezebel and Naboth is thousands of years old, but is very contemporary in terms of human emotions and motivations. Ahab wanted Naboth's vineyard for himself, but he would not use his power as king to secure it. So, having failed to convince Naboth, Ahab used his tried-and-true tactic of sulking. "And he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food" (21:4). You can believe that Ahab would not sulk if he hadn't already found in the past that it got him his

way. If you have ever tried sulking — as I have — you've found that there's no point to it if someone doesn't respond to it!

He knew his wife Jezebel. "Why is your spirit so vexed that you eat no food?" she wanted to know. Ah, the very question he hoped she would ask! He sounds like a spoiled brat as he tells Jezebel that Naboth won't give him his vineyard. And Jezebel responds exactly as he had hoped: "Arise, and eat bread, and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite" (21:7).

Whose Story?

So, Jezebel, who did not fear God as Ahab did, solved the problem quickly and directly: she had Naboth unjustly charged and stoned to death. Returning triumphantly to her husband, she says: "Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money (see, it was his fault for not accepting your offer); for Naboth is not alive, but dead" (21:15).

This was the crucial point for Ahab. He could have said, "No, no, I didn't mean for you to go that far!" But, because the evil deed was done by his wife and not himself, Ahab feels no remorse and "as soon as Ahab heard that Naboth was dead... arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth, the Jezreelite, to take possession of it" (21:15).

Of course, by now you should be aware that this story is not really about Ahab and Jezebel as much as it is about you and me. Are there not times when we, too, allow someone else to do our dirty work? Other people who we can manipulate? Our company? Our city government? Our nation?

Ahab thought he had kept his hands clean, but he was wrong. Take a look at yours.

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