



OPINION

One Boycott Deserves Another

The animal rights' group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (P.E.T.A.) has started an advertising campaign that attacks eating meat and promotes a vegetarian diet, which Julie Franklin, public relations director, Pennsylvania State Grange, believes serves no purpose but to misinform the public.

Appearing in an ad with a cow called "Meat Stinks", Canadian country and western singer K.D. Lang says, "If you knew how meat was made, you'd probably lose your lunch. I know - I'm from cattle country. That's why I became a vegetarian. Meat stinks and not just for animals but for human health and environment."

Believing one boycott deserves another, KRVN, in Lexington, Neb., will boycott Lang's music in retaliation against her participation in an ad that discredits meat. The Pennsylvania State Grange, which represents about 40,000 farming and rural Pennsylvanians, hopes that many radio stations take her participation in such falsehoods as extremely serious and boycott her productions.

If Ms. Lang comes from "cattle country" she should know that this advertisement does nothing but misinform the public about their food's origin.

Animal agriculture is as traditional as human history and has provided a significant source of food for centuries. No one takes better care of the environment and their animals than livestock farmers and ranchers. Animal agriculture is their life and livelihood.

Every major health organization in the United States recognizes meat's positive nutritional contribution when it is eaten in moderation as part of a balanced and varied diet. No federal government report or health organization's set of dietary guidelines has ever recommended a vegetarian diet as being necessary to enjoy good health.

P.E.T.A. is an animal rights activist organization that is seeking to attain controversial goals. They have not demonstrated to us qualifications to advise the American public on nutritional matters or any other health or environmental matters.

Although P.E.T.A. has a guaranteed right to express its opinions, it also has a responsibility to speak honestly and accurately. The Grange thinks the American people deserve a factual, rational discussion of this issue and one that is not rhetoric.

We understand that P.E.T.A. plans to approach the broadcast media about running this ad as "public service announcements" free of charge. If this does, in fact, happen, we challenge our friends in the urban and city media to take an equitable stance and also air the cattlemen's response to these ads as public service announcements. For more information on the cattlemen's response contact the National Livestock and Meat Board, 444 Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Manage Horizontal Silos

Most of our permanent silos are filled, but we do have some livestock and dairy producers that need to store silage in temporary structures. In many cases this is a trench or bunker silo, mostly above ground. In these cases, it is very important to keep out excess water and air from the silage mass. This will require tightening down the plastic cover week by week as the silage settles. Also, surface water should be drained away from the silage area. There are cases where the black plastic is flapping in the wind during fall months. This usually results in a large amount of spoiled silage. Also available are the large plastic tubes that can be completely sealed.

To Beware Of Spiny Pigweed In Pastures

Redroot or redroot pigweed is a common, easily recognized annual weed in gardens and cultivated fields. We are also seeing the first cousin of this weed — spiny redroot — appearing in many areas of the county.

If you do not know what spiny redroot looks like, you can tell real quickly what it feels like by carefully rubbing your fingers along the stem. Two needleshape spines occur at the juncture of each leaf with the stem. These spines prevent all grazing animals from eating these plants. Consequently we are seeing large numbers of these weeds appearing in many pastures, along cow paths and in open spaces or loafing areas. Some have been found in alfalfa fields...a bad situation. These weeds now have mostly red stems and can easily be spotted. The plants should be cut before heading out and going to seed.

For control, use Banvel or any of the 2,4-D type herbicides. You can spot spray the plants now but the best time would be just about the time in May when corn planting time is over. The important thing is to remove the cattle and spray the pasture. A second application to kill late appearing weed seedlings would likely be needed.

Always follow label instructions when applying any pesticide.

To Sow A

Fall Cover Crop

Our concern for soil conservation should include a cover crop following corn, tobacco, or other row crops. This is an excellent practice and we encourage all farmers to keep their land covered with some vegetation during the winter months. The cover crop could be any winter grain crop or domestic ryegrass and field brome grass. Then next spring the growth can be pastured early and then plowed down or used in a no-till grain operation. Cover crops not only add organic matter but help to hold the topsoil during the winter months. They are well worth the investment.

You need to be aware that some herbicides such as atrazine and simazine applied at the higher rates, will affect germination, but if used at one pound of actual material per acre, it should be safe.

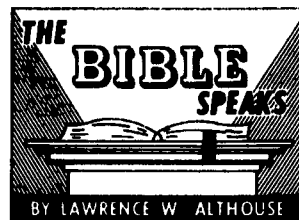
To Watch

For Unwanted Guests

Now that the weather is getting cooler you may find some unwanted guests in your barn and home. You won't see them too often perhaps, but they're there. These guests will destroy more food and property than they eat. The guests in question are rats and mice. As the weather gets colder, they migrate from outdoors to indoors.

Are you aware that one rat can cost you \$28 a year, and that rats cause an estimated 25% of all farm fires, and that rats destroy about 20% of all crops planted each year. Rats have a litter every 30 days...multiplying so rapidly a pair could have 15,000 descendants in a year's life span.

They kill small animals and chickens and also carry diseases to people and animals. Reasons enough to start a good rat control program.



A LYING SPIRIT

September 30, 1990

no enmity between them. Why couldn't Micaiah "go along" and say at least something that Ahab wanted to hear? Maybe Micaiah would have liked to do that, but something inside him wouldn't let him sell his soul so cheaply for the approval of others. That "something inside" was his relationship with God. So, when we lie — or by whatever other name we call it — we are violating our relationship with God.

Recently, I was at a seminar in which University of Pennsylvania Professor Martin Seligman reported on an extensive study that found that over the past several decades the American people have repeatedly elected as President those candidates who spoke primarily in positive terms about the country and its concerns, despite the fact that there are times when we need to be critical of where we are and where we are going as a nation. In other words, we vote for those who tell us what we want to hear. Political life is certainly an area in which it appears we do not value truth.

Valuing Truth

Micaiah played a kind of joke on King Ahab, for when he was brought before the king, he mimicked the message that Ahab had received from all the other prophets. But, Ahab knew his leg was being pulled: "How many times shall I adjure you that you speak nothing but the truth in the name of the Lord?" (22:16). So, Micaiah speaks again and this time he tells the truth as God has given it to him. Now, Ahab is upset again. Turning to Jehoshaphat, he says: "Did I not tell you that he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?"

Micaiah is joking no longer when he says: "the Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets" (22:23). Neither is the lying spirit that also pervades our society a laughing matter!

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Background Scripture: 1 Kings 22: 1-40.

Devotional Reading: Psalms 26.

A few days ago I read a column on the editorial page of our local paper. The columnist was very much disturbed because he concluded that the well-intentioned lie, not truth, had become the standard for our public and private life. If a public figure makes a mistake, we do not expect that he will ever really admit it. I get the impression that the general public does not expect that public officials will tell the truth. We even to honor people who lie on a higher level: in congress, in the counsels of government, in the courts, in city hall and in the market place.

Now, don't get me wrong, that doesn't mean large numbers of people would vote for "lying," per se. What they would probably vote for is terminology that makes lying seem like something else: promotion, advertising, propaganda, sales pitch, campaign oratory, and so forth. Teddy Roosevelt's son used to say, "Dad's all for peace—so long as it doesn't get in the way of the fighting." Lots of people are for the truth in much the same way.

Why Not "Go Along"?

The way to "get along" today is to tell people what they want to hear. That was the objection which King Ahab had against the Prophet Micaiah. "I hate him," he told King Jehoshaphat, "for he never prophesies good concerning me, but evil" (22:8). If, like all the other prophets of the time, Micaiah had prophesied good to King Ahab, there would have been

Farm Calendar

Saturday, September 29
Tri-Valley Community Fair,
Hegins, thru Sept. 30.
Ephrata Fair.

Eastern National Livestock Show,
Maryland State Fairgrounds,
Timonium, thru Oct. 2.

Sunday, September 30
Penn Ag 1990 Convention, Tof-
trees Resort, State College, thru
Oct. 2.

Eastern National Livestock Show,
Maryland State Fairgrounds,
Timonium, thru Oct. 2.

National Association of County
Ag Agents annual meeting, Red
Lion Sea Tac Hotel, Seattle,
Washington, thru Oct. 4.

Tri-Valley Community Fair,
Hegins.

(Turn to Page A30)

Farm Forum

Editor:

This year promises to be an exciting year for Pennsylvania state agriculture and the Pennsylvania FFA Association. In June, 11 FFA members were selected to become the 1990-91 Pennsylvania State FFA officers. Each state

officer has the responsibility of representing the over 8,000 Pennsylvania FFA members, conducting various leadership conferences, visiting FFA chapters, and promoting the agricultural industry and the FFA. During this year

(Turn to Page A31)

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