



# OPINION

## National 4-H Week

October 7 - 13 is National 4-H Week. 4-H is the Cooperative Extension Service's dynamic, nonformal, educational program for today's young people. The program combines the cooperative efforts of youth, volunteer leaders, state land-grant universities, federal - state - local governments, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The mission of the Cooperative Extension system in conducting 4-H programs is to assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills, and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society.

The 4-H Pledge is important to all members...

I pledge: My Head to clearer thinking,  
My Heart to greater loyalty,  
My Hands to larger service, and  
My Health to better living, for my Club, my Community, my Country, and my World.

The 4-H Pledge is an enduring symbol of the devotion generations of America's young people have given to the 4-H program. Its words embody the goals of 4-H. The Pledge is the heart of a very special union -- the union among 4-H members, who learn and grow through 4-H programs; the staff, both volunteer and Extension, who make 4-H a reality for young people throughout the nation; and the large and growing family of 4-H supporters and partners who make it possible.

The Pledge is the measure by which 4-Hers test their efforts to become the very best they are capable of and to give, through 4-H, that best back to their clubs, their communities, their country, and their world. The support of private sector partners, recognizing and rewarding their efforts on county, state and national levels, reinforces the enthusiasm and dedication of 4-Hers throughout the nation as they pursue their goals.

4-H is the world's largest youth organization. And we believe the interchange between rural and urban youths in 4-H clubs across America helps close the communication gap between these two segments of the population. Keep up the good work.



### NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin  
Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent

#### To Evaluate Farm Records

The 1990 cropping season is about over and soon it will be time to summarize your farm accounts and be reporting to the IRS. In addition to the need of good farm records for tax reporting purposes, I'd like to suggest these farm records be used for future farm planning and in making major farm decisions.

When time permits and as the outside work winds down this fall, it is a good idea to spend some time in your office and do some "pencil pushing" regarding the most profitable parts of your farming business. Your records of success or failure of the various enterprises are the best guide to future expansion or termination.

#### To Understand Natural And Biological Control Of Pests

The concept of Natural and Biological control of pests is not new. Farmers have been practicing it for several decades. They have disrupted the normal life cycles of pests by rotating crops and by incorporating crop debris into the soil.

Scientists have been breeding and selecting new varieties of

City, Ocean City, Md.  
Berks Co. Dairy Farmers' Association annual dinner meeting, Ontelaunee Grange Hall, 7:15 p.m.

**Saturday, October 20**  
York Co. Holstein Club banquet, Thomasville Fire Hall, 7:00 p.m.

Practical Aspects of Sheep Nutrition, Extension Conference Center, Cook College, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, October 21**

**Monday, October 22**  
118th annual Pennsylvania State Grange Convention, West Chester, thru Oct. 25.

Water clinic, Sheffield High School, 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Central Susquehanna Valley greenhouse tour and meeting, Dale Whitenight's Greenhouse, Northumberland Co., 4:30 p.m.

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crops that are either resistant to, or more tolerant of a variety of pests. Over 20 years ago, parasitic ways had been released to prey on the alfalfa weevil, and the need for farmers to rely on chemicals to control this pest has been eliminated almost completely.

New biotech procedures, such as genetic engineering and tissue culture, are helping scientists speed up development of new control measures. Farmers also are concerned about food safety, environmental quality and health. They prefer not to use chemicals on the food their families eat, or the crops their herds consume or that which they market, if other effective, safe and economical alternatives exist.

Thus, the need for integrated pest management (IPM) exists, where chemicals serve as a backup to natural control measures.

#### To Store

#### Corn Carefully

Corn harvest for grain is a very important crop for most farmers. Therefore, good corn storage is very important. It should be protected from the weather given proper ventilation for drying, and then protected from rodents. This latter menace is one that needs more attention on many farms. Mice and rats like to make their

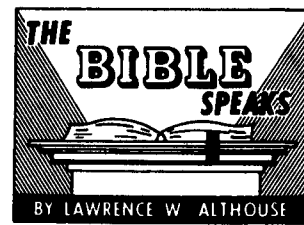
homes in corn cribs and storage places when given the chance. Make an effort to eliminate all nesting places and practice good sanitation to keep the population down. Keep in mind that rats have a new litter every 30 days... multiplying so rapidly a pair could have 15,000 descendants in a year's life span.

All rat baiting stations should be located where children and pets cannot come in contact with the bait. Rats and mice are destructive and are costing farmers a great deal of money.

#### To Appreciate Lancaster County

While attending the National County Agent's meeting in Seattle Washington last week, we had the opportunity to visit farms in the beautiful Pacific Northwest area. It was surprised to learn that their rainfall is less than Lancaster (36" per year to our 43"). Forest producers are their largest agriculture industry; they also raise a great deal of high quality potatoes.

The speakers were very informative and inspirational but the most important part for me was the exchange of ideas and concerns with agricultural agents from all states in the U.S. It makes you really appreciate the many good things that we have at home.



**DON'T PROPHESEY AT BETHEL!**  
October 14, 1990

#### Background Scripture:

Amos 7.

#### Devotional Reading:

Psalms 2:1-14.

A study conducted by Professor Martin Seligman of the University of Pennsylvania indicates that in our era the American people have repeatedly voted for the presidential candidate who is most positive and optimistic in his campaign speeches. Time and again, according to this study, the American electorate has rejected the candidacies of presidential nominees whose outlook concerning the nation and its problems was negative. The majority of voters seem to prefer candidates who do not find much wrong with our situation as a nation and, if they do find something wrong, they want a candidate who will tell them that the situation can be simply remedied.

#### THE BAD NEWS MESSENGER

We all understand those findings, I think. It is understandable that we relate better to the optimist than the pessimist, even though we know sometimes we need to come face to face with the negative realities. Sometimes we need someone to tell us what is wrong so that we may make necessary changes in our community and

national life. Still, the fact remains: no one likes a messenger who brings bad news. We may not kill them, as the Greeks and others used to do, but neither do we elect them to office.

The fact is, no matter how much we may approve of prophecy in general, few of us really can stand it in particular. This is no less true when our group is criticized than when we are personally singled out. In fact, when our community or our nation is denounced, we often react much as Amaziah the priest reacted: "Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear his words" (7:10). "NO PROPHET!"

Get out of town, Amaziah told Amos: "...go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary..." (7:12). Amaziah had no problem with Amos' profession so long as he practiced it somewhere else. But Amos tells him that this is not his profession, but God's call to deliver a message, and he does. It was not the message Amaziah or the kingdom wanted to hear. They would have preferred to hear that there were some problems in the land, but on the whole, everything was pretty good.

Has anything really changed in the world in this regard? Are we not just as resistant to a critical report as they were? Prophets are okay so long as they stay where they belong. And where is that? Anywhere but in Bethel and where we live!

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## Farm Calendar

### Saturday, October 13

W. Va. Angus Fall Mountain Classic, Jackson's Mill.  
Md. Sheep Breeders' Association annual banquet, Carroll Co. Ag Center, Westminster.  
Crop management meeting, Burd Farm, Uniontown, 11:00 a.m.  
National 4-H Week, Oct. 7-13.  
Pa. National Horse Show, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg, thru Oct. 20.  
Unionville Community Fair.

### Sunday, October 14

Pa. National Horse Show, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg, thru Oct. 20.  
Berks Poultry Fanciers Association Fall Show, Berks Co. Ag Center, Reading, 4-H Facility, 7:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

### Monday, October 15

Maryland Association of Extension 4-H Agents fall meeting, Quality Inn, Westminster, Md., thru Oct. 17.  
Penn State Income Tax Preparation Workshop, Holiday Inn, Harrisburg, thru Oct. 16.  
Berks Co. Cooperative Extension 76th annual meeting, Berks Co. 4-H Center, 6:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, October 16

Maryland Association of Extension 4-H Agents fall meeting, Quality Inn, Westminster, Md., thru Oct. 17.  
Penn State Income Tax Preparation Workshop, Holiday Inn, Harrisburg.  
Rutgers Coop Extension/Penn State University Livestock Seminar, Gardner Farm, Hampton, 7:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, October 17

Maryland Association of Extension 4-H Agents fall meeting, Quality Inn, Westminster, Md.

### Thursday, October 18

Meeting on poultry health and condemnations, Sheraton Ocean City, Ocean City, Md., thru Oct. 19.  
Dillsburg Community Fair, thru Oct. 20.

Lancaster Co. 4-H Swine Club banquet, Bird-In-Hand Family Restaurant, Bird-In-Hand, 6:30 p.m.

Herd Health Seminar, Brown's Restaurant, Portersville, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

### Friday, October 19

Meeting on poultry health and condemnations, Sheraton Ocean

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