



OPINION

Farmer's View Must Be Heard

In Pennsylvania, more and more issues are emerging in the area of solid waste and its use. But one basic point seems to be forgotten. All of our efforts to deal with pesticides, solid waste, septage from septic tanks, sludge from wastewater treatment plants, and all of the other throwaways are really efforts to protect our groundwater.

A Pennsylvania committee to address groundwater public policy has been assembled. This committee is a joint effort by Cooperative Extension, the Soil and Water Conservation Society, The Freshwater Foundation, and the League of Women Voters. According to Guy Temple, extension agent, Union County, the goal is to provide citizens and public officials with timely, relevant information from credible, scientific sources about groundwater quality problems, policy alternatives, and their consequences.

Almost every aspect of the rural groundwater quality issue breaks with tradition. Compared with soil erosion and surface water quality, groundwater quality problems and solutions are more complex and scientifically uncertain. Because most rural land uses represent contamination threats, stakeholders in the groundwater issue run the gamut from farmers to homeowners to municipal water suppliers. Perhaps the issue's most important feature is that human health is the primary force driving demands for policy change. Concerns over adverse human health effects from drinking contaminated groundwater have added intensity and urgency to the issue and is bringing it to the forefront of environmental policy-making at federal, state, and local levels.

Making public policy choices about groundwater quality presents an enormous challenge. This challenge can be met if we work to inform the policy debate. While physical and technological information about groundwater problems and solutions is integral to this educational process, we must remember to focus on the key management variables — the policies and institutions that influence human choices about technologies and practices that affect groundwater quality.

And in all the discussions, the farmer's view must also be heard.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Pick and Store Apples

Whether you grow apples or just like to eat them, it's important to store them properly.

Cool apples will keep longer. Ideally, they should be stored at 33°F, at 90 percent humidity, and in dim light or darkness.

Now as to picking, it's a good practice to store the fruit in shade as it is picked, then allow it to stand in the orchard overnight to cool. Then, place the apples in storage early in the morning before the temperature rises too much.

If you leave apples in a packing shed or in piles under the tree for one week, you'll shorten their storage life by about five weeks. So, keep apples cool, maintain good air circulation during storage, and your apples should keep a long time.

Chester Co. first annual 4-H Beef Show and Sale.

Bedford Cattlemen's Association Feeder and Club Calf Sale, Bedford Fairgrounds, 1:00 p.m.
Goat Health Conference, J.O. Keller Conference Center, University Park, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Pa. 4-H Horse Show, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg, thru Oct. 28.

Uniontown Poultry and Farm Show, thru Oct. 28.

Sunday, October 28
Pa. 4-H Horse Show, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg.

Uniontown Poultry and Farm Show.

Monday, October 29
Water clinic, Tidioute High School, 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 30
Lebanon Co. Holstein annual meeting, Zoars Social Hall, Mt. Zion, 7:00 p.m.

Clinton Co. Farm City Banquet, Nittany Grange Hall.

Wednesday, October 31
Halloween

Thursday, November 1
Pa. Holstein Junior All-Pennsylvania entry deadline.

Md. Ag Ed Foundation annual dinner, Martin's West, Baltimore, Md.

(Turn to Page A39)

To Plan Winter Weed Control In Alfalfa

As the alfalfa plant slows down and prepares to go into dormancy, other plant populations in that same field can be increasing in vigor and growth. These are the winter annual weeds: chickweed, shepherds purse, yellow rocket and some grassy weeds which overwinter. All are in their young stages of growth.

You'll not see crop injury now, but wait until that first cutting comes off next May. Those same little weeds all will have flowered and set seed by that time. Not only do yield losses occur but field curing problems and lower hay quality results.

Fall applied herbicide(s) will largely eliminate the costly winter weed problem. The Agronomy Guide lists a number of effective materials. Follow label instructions for application rates.

To Check Ventilation Equipment For Winter

Exhaust fans in dairy and poultry houses have a heavy ventilation job to do. They remove moisture and dust, and in many cases run almost continually from October to April.

To make your ventilation system ready for winter, several items

may need attention. The fan blades, motor enclosures and louvered shutters need cleaned frequently. Loose belts are common on belt driven fans. Fan output varies directly with fan speed. A 10 percent loss in R.P.M.'s of the fan means a 10 percent loss in air delivery.

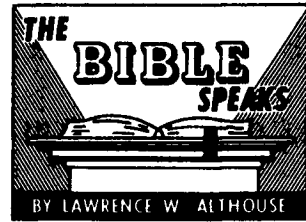
Check the thermostat for accuracy by hanging a thermometer beside it for easy comparison. Be sure the sensing element is clean and free from dust.

To Be Aware Of Evergreen Needle Drop

Don't push the panic button if some of your evergreens are dropping their needles this fall. It's normal for pines, spruce and similar evergreens to drop one year's growth of needles this time of year.

The needles you see falling are those nearest the center of the tree. The younger, green needles are at the ends of the branches. Scotch pines will lose their 3-year-old needles... while red pine drops its 4-year-old needles.

During this period of shedding, the trees may look like they're dead or dying, but as soon as a hard wind or rain hits them, the old needles will fall to the ground and the tree will look normal again.



WHEN WE WEARY GOD

October 21, 1990

Background Scripture: Isaiah 7. Devotional Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7.

Nothing sounds more impossible than that human beings should have the power to make God weary. But that's what Isaiah says: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?" (7:13). Isaiah does not mean that God is physically exhausted, but that his patience is. God was "tired" of Judah's lack of faith in him.

It is difficult for us to imagine God with a patience that can be exhausted. This is directly contrary to our understanding of God. We must remember, however, that Isaiah is interpreting God in human terms. He is imputing to God the same mortal limits that we all have. It is like saying, "If I were God, I'd certainly be fed up with Ahaz and his kingdom." But, of course, we are not God, no matter how often we may forget that all-important fact.

A MATTER OF TRUST

Although it is not likely that Ahaz and the people of Judah actually wearied God, their response to him must have been very displeasing (to use once more a human term!). Their lack of trust in him resulted in a breakdown in

their relationship with him. So, when they "wearied" God, as Isaiah put it, they were the ones who suffered from that disruption of the relationship.

What was it about Ahaz and the people of Judah that damaged this relationship? Essentially, it was a lack of trust. Perhaps that is not apparent when we first read this chapter. We can sympathize with the people of Judah. The teaming-up of Syria with their Israelite cousins certainly was a legitimate reason for concern. But Isaiah does not say that they were simply "concerned"; he says: "When the house of David was told, 'Syria is in league with Ephraim,' his (Ahaz) heart and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind" (7:2).

"ASK A SIGN!"

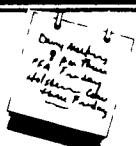
It was one thing for them to be concerned, but something else to be terrified out of their minds. Their terror was an overreaction that could only mean they did not trust God to save them, despite the fact that with his help they had already repulsed these untied armies. They were disregarding the help he had already given them.

"Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be as deep as Sheol or high as heaven" (7:10), God challenged Ahaz. Ahaz's refusal to ask a sign of God indicated that he really didn't believe the sign would be granted. So to save both himself and God of this embarrassment, he refused.

And that's the way it will always be when our ultimate trust is in ourselves, not the Lord.

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

Farm Calendar



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.

Tuesday, October 23

Lancaster Co. Poultry Association (LCPA) annual fall banquet, Willow Valley Inn, Palm Court, 6:00 p.m.

Pa. State Grange Convention, West Chester, thru Oct. 25.

Lycoming Co. Cooperative Extension 76th annual meeting, Eldred Township Fire Hall, Warrensville, 7:00 p.m.

Milk Pricing Workshop, Hamlet's Restaurant, Bloomsburg, 1:00 p.m.

District III Jersey Breeders dinner

meeting, Bird-In-Hand Restaurant, 7:00 p.m.

Centre Co. District DHIA meeting, Family House Restaurant, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 24

Pa. State Grange Convention, West Chester, thru Oct. 25.

Celebration banquet, 50th anniversary of first conservation district in Lancaster Co., 7:00 p.m.

DHIA board meeting, Adams Co. Extension Office, 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 25

Bradford Co. annual meeting.

Pa. State Grange Convention, West Chester.

73d annual Schuylkill Co. Cooperative Extension meeting, New England Fire Company, 6:30 p.m.

Chester Co. Holstein Club annual banquet, West Fallowfield Christian Day School, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, October 26

Pa. 4-H Horse Show, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg, thru Oct. 28.

Uniontown Poultry and Farm Show, thru Oct. 28.

Saturday, October 27

Dutch Country Calf Sale, BCCA, Lebanon Fairgrounds, 1:30 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 1990 by Lancaster Farming

