

OPINION

Refrigerated Eggs

FDA recently placed shell eggs on the potentially hazardous food list, thereby requiring mandatory refrigeration. Specifically, shell eggs in a food establishment (food processors, warehouses, distributors and retail food stores) must have an internal temperature of 45 degrees F or below until sold or used.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has notified everyone concerned that state egg and food inspectors will be enforcing the requirement beginning on January 1, 1991. This gives the egg industry and its customers several months to make any necessary adjustments.

According to the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation, FDA's action negates the need for the mandatory refrigeration legislation now in the Pennsylvania General Assembly. A number of scientists believe that proper refrigeration of eggs will significantly reduce the number of human outbreaks of Salmonella Enteritidis associated with eggs.

Certainly to keep eggs cold from farm to consumer should give a positive message to the public that producers and distributors are willing to share the responsibility to get the edible egg to the family table in perfect condition. But the consumer, private or commercial, should also learn how to prepare food, especially how to cook food properly. If eggs are properly refrigerated and properly cooked, they provide one of nature's most nutritious, inexpensive foods.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Prevent Pneumonia

As temperature and weather conditions vary considerably from day to day and from hour to hour, precautions need to be taken to prevent pneumonia. Pneumonia causing organisms are normally present in the respiratory tract, but under periods of stress an animal's resistance can be lowered to the point where it can no longer fight off the infection. So, it's important to minimize stress on animals. Keep barns well ventilated, but avoid cold drafts. This may require frequent adjustment of doors and windows, or the proper installation and use of fans. Good ventilation prevents the buildup of stagnant, moist germ-laden air. That's important. Also avoid overcrowding. During inclement and rapidly changing weather conditions, one should also minimize stresses associated with transporting animals, weaning, changing feeds, deworming, vaccinating, etc. When necessary, consult your veterinarian for advice on immunization and treatment.

To Observe Weed Populations

Now that most of the corn is harvested, we can plainly see what weeds failed to be controlled in those fields. We are seeing more of the persistent, hard-to-control weeds appearing in our crop fields during the past 8-10 years. In part, this is because we have changed our farming methods, particularly tillage techniques and we're not

using crop rotations in the case of continuous corn. Bindweeds, horsenettle, hemp dogbane, curly dock, Canada thistle, Johnsongrass, and yes, even woody plants such as brambles and small volunteer trees have appeared in increasing numbers. We need to note the presence of these weeds now and then prepare to deal with them.

When you notice a new weed, have it identified and take appropriate control measures before the weed becomes a menacing problem. If weeds are presently escaping from your control efforts, find out how to change your weed management program.

To Hunt Safely

The small game hunting season for rabbits and pheasants opened on Saturday, October 27. We need to remind ourselves to be courteous and considerate while hunting on farms. We encourage all hunters to practice good relations between farmers and hunters. Criticism of hunting often starts because a few hunters forget the landowner is his host. By observing a few sensible hunting manners, hunters will keep themselves from becoming uninvited guests.

Most landowners permit reasonable hunting. Asking permission to hunt is a small courtesy in return for a pleasant day in the

field; yet too few people follow this rule. Landowners may actually need protection from indifferent, careless and destructive hunters. When the trouble starts, many farmers post their land for protection from irresponsible hunters.

It takes very little time and costs nothing to observe a few common courtesy rules while hunting: ask permission before hunting, close gates, pick-up litter after eating lunch and stay out of unharvested crops. Keep a safe distance from buildings and livestock while hunting and be sure to respect the property of others as you would expect others to respect yours.

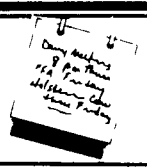
For Farm Show Entries

January, and Pennsylvania Farm Show time, seems like a long time away. But, really it is not, because now is the time to be making your livestock and dairy entries for the Pennsylvania Farm Show. This should be a banner year for the Farm Show since it's the 75th Anniversary year.

Just a reminder that November 1 is the deadline for these entries — and that is close at hand.

So, if you are interested in exhibiting at Farm Show, you can obtain entry blanks and a premium book from your County Extension Office. The Farm Show runs from January 6 through 11, 1991.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, October 27

Dutch Country Calf Sale, BCCA, Lebanon Fairgrounds, 1:30 p.m.

Chester Co. first annual 4-H Beef Show and Sale, Kimberton Fairgrounds, 9:30 a.m.

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, Tidoute 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.

Potter Co. crop management meeting, Downey's Country Cottage, Ulysses, 10:30 a.m., repeats at Maple View Ag Center, Coudersport, 1:30 p.m., repeats Seneca Highlands Vocational Technical School, Port Allegany, 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 31

Happy Halloween!

Thursday, November 1

Pa. Holstein Junior All-Pennsylvania entry deadline.

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

Centre Co. Farm-City dinner, Penns Valley Area H.S., Spring Mills, 7:00 p.m.

Westmoreland Co. Farm-City Night, Mountain View Inn, Greensburg, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, November 2

Rocking Pond Guest Production (Turn to Page A31)

Farm Forum

Editor:

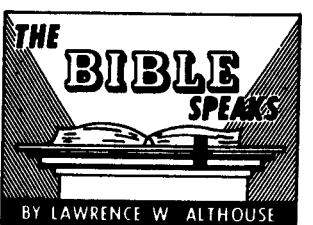
I note that Gov. Casey will be in Lancaster for the groundbreaking for a new 1 1/2 mile section of Rt. 23 from Lancaster east to Rt. 30. While that decision has been made, the more important question is whether Rt. 23 will be built as a new four-lane expressway through New Holland.

It was announced in August that PennDOT would conduct an environmental and cultural study to decide whether or not the highway should be constructed. As planned, the new highway would cut through some of the county's best farmland as well as Plain Sect

communities, historic buildings and archaeological sites.

However, some people think the decision has already been made. State Transportation Secretary Howard Yerusolim has stated he would like to see the highway built. The Lancaster County Planning Commission wants the expressway built all the way to Morgantown. I purchased a map of Lancaster County from the American Automobile Association that shows the highway already in existence past New Holland.

Hopefully, the \$742,000 study (Turn to Page A31)



SPREADING IT BEFORE THE LORD
October 28, 1990

Background Scripture:

2 Kings 19:8-22, 32-34.

Devotional Reading:

Isaiah 40:1-11.

One of the issues with which I have wrestled throughout my life as a Christian is that of the will of God. Time and again I have come back to this problem, only to have to work it through again at some later time. All my answers to this question are always temporary and tentative.

Frequently when I pray, I am aware that if God were to affirmatively answer my prayer, he might have to deny the prayer request of someone else. How does that work, I have wondered? When two prayer requests conflict, does he bestow his blessing on the one whom he likes the best? No, of course not. Is it a matter of who gets his prayer request in first? No, not that either. Or is it a matter of knowing the right way to pray for one, while the other belongs to a religious group that is not as well-informed? No, that is unthinkable! So how does it work?

"MY OWN SAKE"

Perhaps this story from 2 Kings suggests a working — though not final — answer. God says through Isaiah: "For I will defend this city to save it, for my own sake and for

the sake of David my servant" (19:34). God gives an affirmative answer to Hezekiah's prayer, because it meets his own purposes: to maintain his integrity before the nations and to fulfill his promise to David. One might also conclude that if Hezekiah's prayer had run contrary to God's purpose, God's response would have been different.

Was it not in this same vein that Jesus would pray many years later: "Father, if thou art willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42). Thus, we petition God for two reasons: (1) to share with him our hopes, desires and concerns, and (2) to align our lives to his will. When our hopes, desires and concerns coincide with his will, the answer to our prayer may come as it did to Hezekiah. But when it doesn't — and there are many instances of this in the Bible, too — the answer we get to our prayer is no less an answer, even though it is not what we hoped it would be. At that time we have to trust God and leave it in his hands.

OPEN THY EYES

Hezekiah is one of the few Jewish kings about which the Old Testament has something good to say. One reason is obvious: he was a man of faith who prayed. When he received the threatening letter, he "went up to the house of the Lord, and spread it before the Lord" (19:14). You and I today have the same recourse: whatever comes to us in our daily walk — pain, fear, injustice, joy, love, or victory — we need to spread it before the Lord and pray.

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