



OPINION

Thanksgiving Overshadows Our Complaints

The harvest season is nearly over again, and we have the beginning signs of winter. The leaves are falling, and most corn fields are brown. But some fields have the green of a new growth of reseeded winter grain for cover and a new crop next year.

Geese honk their way south and the animals have started to grow heavier coats.

It's Thanksgiving time again, a day to remember our blessings and share a meal with friends and family over a stretched-out dinner table.

This time of year is also the time when we celebrate farm/city week. Activities across the state bring urban and farm families together in a relaxed atmosphere of mutual understanding.

As we share our life's work and experience with city friends and neighbors, we are reminded just how good it is to be farmers. We don't need to fight traffic on the way to work, and unlike the factory worker who never sees the finished product, we live our work--from planting to picking; farrowing to finishing and calving to milking.

And our children grow up around us as tender plants.

Surely farm families have a lot to be thankful for this time of year. And as we share our Thanksgiving with family and friends from the country or from the city, let's let our prayers of thanksgiving overshadow our complaints for at least one day.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
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Agricultural Agent

To Understand Soybean Feeding Value

A soybean is not a soybean according to a feeding value study conducted by Penn State. According to Robert Anderson, Extension Agronomy Agent, the study which looked at over 150 soybean samples grown across the state between 1988 and 1989 indicates that the feeding value of soybeans is quite variable. The study looked at the oil content and protein content of Pa. grown soybeans. The oil content of the beans ranged from a high of 21.9% to a low of 15.3%. While the average protein content of the beans in the study was above the book feeding value of 40% it also had a wide range. The highest protein level reported by the study was 43.8% and the lowest was 30.1%. Livestock feeders who are feeding soybeans as a source of protein should have a feed analysis before attempting to balance a ration.

To Be Careful Around Flowing Grain

Many farms move grain from

one bin to another, onto trucks or the feed grinder. One of the major hazards of moving stored grain is to become covered up and smothered by it. It is very dangerous to be standing in a grain bin when it begins to flow. It takes only a few seconds for an unloading auger to remove enough grain for a person to start sinking into the grain. Never enter a grain bin without first "locking out" all the power sources; also, never enter the bin alone without another person being present. Children should be warned about entering grain bins because of the danger of "bridging" of the grains or the shifting of large areas. All employees should be alerted to the hazards of flowing grain.

To Be Careful When Cleaning Manure Pits

Many manure pits will be emptied at this time of year; it's an opportunity to clean out the pit before cold weather arrives. When this volume of manure is agitated there is greater danger of toxic and explosive gases being released. Every precaution should be taken. If there are animals above the pits, then maximum ventilation should be provided. When the pit is empty or partially empty, no one

should enter the pit without a respirator or gas mask. There may be dangerous gases present. Also, no smoking or open flames should be nearby. These pits are the modern way to store manure, but they do present a hazard to both humans and animals.

To Appreciate The End Of Harvest Season

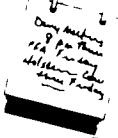
Once again we have come to the end of another growing season and the end of the harvest.

The 1990 year was very favorable in most areas for field, orchard and garden crops and this has meant good production of food and feed. Some areas of the country cannot say the same.

The harvest is now 95 percent plus completed. There now comes a good feeling of satisfaction when all is safely gathered in. And it brings rewards of a feeling that you've done your best.

Rewards from crop production come as a result of a choice selection of seeds and plants; of careful preparation of the seedbed; of applying soil nutrients, tilling soil and weeding; of cooperation from weather's rain or sunshine and of the owner or manager inputs. Harvest time follows ... and now a time of joy and thanksgiving should prevail.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, November 17

- Lancaster Co. Farm-City Tours, 1 p.m.-5 p.m., thru Nov. 18.
- York Co. 4-H Dairy banquet, Winterstown Fire Hall.
- York Co. 4-H Swine banquet, 4-H Center, Bair Station, 7 p.m.
- Lehigh Co. 75th annual banquet and meeting, Schnecksville Fire Hall, Schnecksville, 7 p.m.
- Susquehanna Co. Farm City Feast, Mt. View High School, 7:30 p.m.

- American Finals Rodeo, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg, thru Nov. 18.
- Farm-City Week, thru Nov. 22.
- Forest Landowners' Workshop, Berks Co. Ag Center, Leesport, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sunday, November 18

- Lancaster Co. Farm-City Tours, 1 p.m.-5 p.m., thru Nov. 18.
- American Finals Rodeo, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg.
- York Co. Farm City Tours, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
- Farm-City Week, thru Nov. 22.

Monday, November 19

- Franklin Co. 4-H achievement banquet, First Lutheran Church, Chambersburg, 7 p.m.
- Farm-City Week, thru Nov. 22.

Tuesday, November 20

- Franklin Co. Farm-City banquet, Kauffman Community Center, 6:45 p.m.
- Penn State/U. of P. informational meeting on Johne's disease and dairy industry, Embers Quality Inn, Carlisle, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

- Pennsylvania Forage Conference, Elk's Club, Boalsburg, 9 a.m.
- Franklin Co. Farm-City banquet, Kauffman Community Center, 6:45 p.m.

- 14th annual agriculture industry banquet, Willow Valley Resort and Conference Center, 6:30 p.m.

- Farm-City Week, thru Nov. 22.
- Blair Co. Ag Forum, Big Wrangler Steakhouse, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, November 21

- "Where Does The Dairy Program Stand?" Tom Jurcak, Bloomsburg Fairgrounds Office, 1 p.m.

- Farm-City Week, thru Nov. 22.

Thursday, November 22

- Happy Thanksgiving!

- Farm-City Week.

Friday, November 23

- Farm-City Week.

Saturday, November 24

- Montgomery Co. DHIA banquet, 4-H Center, 6:45 p.m.

Sunday, November 25

- Farm-City Week.

Monday, November 26

- Buck Season Starts!

Tuesday, November 27

- Three-day course on insects, disease, and weeds of trees and shrubs, Penn State Great Valley, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., thru Nov. 29.

Wednesday, November 28

- Three-day course on insects, disease, and weeds of trees and shrubs, Penn State Great Valley, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., thru Nov. 29.

Thursday, November 29

- 1990 Southern Maryland Crops Conference, Fire Hall, Mechanicsville, Md.

- Northampton Co. DHIA/Holstein Association annual meeting and banquet, Stockertown Memorial Hall, 7 p.m.

- Three-day course on insects, disease, and weeds of trees and shrubs, Penn State Great Valley, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Friday, November 30

- Pa. Holstein Milk, Fat and Protein Production Contest entry deadline.

- York Co. Cooperative Extension annual meeting, Seven Valleys Fire Hall, Seven Valleys, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 1

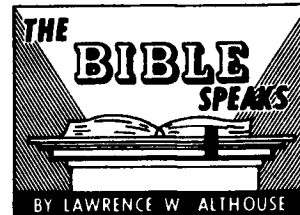
- 69th National 4-H Club Congress, Hilton Towers, Chicago.

- Deadline for 5 percent savings on membership dues, Pa. Holstein Assoc.

Sunday, December 2

- Maryland Farm Bureau annual meeting, Sheraton Hotel, Ocean City.

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CONTEMPT FOR THE MESSAGE

November 18, 1990

Background Scripture:

Jeremiah 36

Devotional Reading:

Lamentations 3:19-33

So far as I can tell, King Jehoiakim's burning of Jeremiah's scroll is the first recorded book-burning in history. Unfortunately, it isn't the last and in our world today similar measures are often employed to shut off the flow of opinion and information. In its most extreme form, this attitude is expressed as: "Kill the messenger and burn the message."

So, over the centuries lots of messengers have been killed and even more messages have been burned or otherwise destroyed. This happens because the killers and the burners are always people of great power, particularly destructive power. But their power is never so great that it can prevail for long. As the poet says (and I confess I've forgotten which one): "Truth crushed to earth shall rise again."

ANOTHER SCROLL

Sometimes it is assumed that this is because truth is not a thing in itself — in fact, it is constantly changing — nor is it any less mortal than we are. What endures is God and it is only because of him that truth is not allowed to perish under the heels of tyrants.

That is what we find when we study the story of Jeremiah, Baruch and King Jehoiakim in Jeremiah 36. God has a message for Jeremiah to deliver to King Jehoiakim. But the king doesn't want any messages from the Lord and he has Jeremiah debarred from entering the house of the Lord where prophecies are usually delivered. Jeremiah, of course, knows that there is more than one way to deliver a message and he dictates it to his faithful disciple, Baruch. When, at last, Baruch is taken to the king, he reads the scroll, but Jehoiakim cuts up the scroll in little pieces, showing his contempt for the message from God.

Once again, Jeremiah finds another way to transmit the message. God tells him to dictate to Baruch yet another copy of the message. God is determined that his truth will endure, even though at the moment it seems that Jehoiakim has all the power he needs to destroy it. The king is all-powerful and the message seems so fragile. But behind the message is the Creator of the Universe. No mere king, dictator or tyrant is powerful enough to withstand God.

And what is this message for which the King had such contempt? It is not so much a prophecy of doom as it is an invitation, indeed a plea, to repent of evil and return to God. Despite rejection after rejection, God still says, "It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I intend to do to them, so that every one may turn from his evil way, and that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin" (36:3).

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