



OPINION

Autumn Finishes Year

The Autumn season finishes the year,
Hangs harvest moon in cooler atmosphere
Grain ripens, wheat and oats leap into shocks,
We hasten toward the last year's equinox
For Winter hides behind a northern sky,
Floats in each wavering wind that flurries by
Thanksgiving time, corn hurries toward the barn,
As ice forms isles on meadow-brook and tarn
At borderland of every fertile field,
Marauding crows peck at remaining yield
Of grain dropped by machine or man, unseen...
They chatter as they sweep the furrows clean.
Apples, like small, red worlds, plunge down the night
On orchards, in mounds beautiful and bright
Fall changes little as the years go by,
The prairie folk are glad ... and so am I,
For every single blessing gives a reason
That we rejoice at this Thanksgiving season!

Stella Tremble,
Lycoming Co. Extension,
Home & Family Notes



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Plan Work Schedules In Layer Houses

If you are planning to work with your layers, such as applying a miticide to control lice or mites or do any noisy repairs to the feeders, fans or waterers ... this work should be done in the afternoon. The reason for this is -- it's after the hen has laid her egg for the day, and she is a lot less susceptible to injury and damage to the future eggs. Your everyday chores won't upset them because they are accustomed to them, but these unusual conditions can upset their regular cycle.

Just a word on the number of birds per cage. It may seem like a good idea to add one extra bird per cage, but this could lower your hen-housed production. There are

a.m.-3 p.m.
Potter Co. DHIA annual meeting, Penn York.

Agronomy Ag-Service Schools for Eastern Pa., Bradford Co. Extension Office, Towanda, 9:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 5
York Co. Milking School, York Co. Extension Office, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Legal and Financial Issues of Farmland Preservation, Brandywine River Museum, Chadds Ford, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

(Turn to Page A24)

a number of density experiments and they all show a lowered production per hen when you add that extra hen.

To Control Weeds In Alfalfa

Have you been bothered with some of the winter time weeds such as chickweed or Shepherds purse in your alfalfa stands? If so, now would be a good time to apply a herbicide to knock out these weeds. Too many alfalfa growers wait until they see a heavy growth of these weeds and then think of spraying.

All weeds are easier to kill when small and before they choke out the alfalfa plants. The period between Thanksgiving and Christmas is excellent for applying herbicides to alfalfa stands. The material to use will vary with the age of the stand and whether or not any grass is there as a companion crop. We suggest that growers refer to the Agronomy Guide, or to their local pesticide dealer for suggestions relating to materials. The important thing is to do the spraying while the weeds are small.

To Observe Withdrawal Time

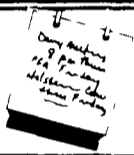
The use of drugs and antibiotics are needed in many cases to protect the health of livestock, poultry and dairy animals. Their use is quite common in many farm operations. However, the misuse of

these materials is where trouble can start. When these items are administered to animals or poultry, the owner should read the label for directions relating to withdrawal periods for milk cows or time between treatment and slaughter for meat. It's only good common sense that these regulations be followed. To short-cut the period of time is only jeopardizing the product and the entire farming business. Don't take chances with our valuable food products. Also, keep accurate records of all treatments. In case excess tolerance is found, it might save time and money.

To Prepare For A Safe Deer Hunt

The first two rules of safe hunting are -- be seen and make sure of your target. Hunter or blaze orange worn on the head, front and back will distinguish a hunter from any other object in the woods. Pennsylvania law requires hunters to wear this very visible color which can be seen at great distances. In addition to wearing the bright color, avoid hiding in thick brush. Most hunting accidents occur when one hunter does not see or recognize another hunter as a person. Before you raise a firearm, identify the target beyond any doubt. Check to make sure that the entire line of fire is clear of other hunters, livestock or buildings. Let's have a safe hunting season.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, November 24
Montgomery Co. DHIA banquet, 4-H Center, 6:45 p.m.

Sunday, November 25

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 Association.

Sunday, December 2
Maryland Farm Bureau annual meeting, Sheraton Hotel, Ocean City.

Waldorf Winter Fair, Susquehanna Waldorf School, Marietta, 12 p.m.-6 p.m.

Monday, December 3
Tioga Co. Lamb Pool, Tioga Co. Fairgrounds, 8 a.m.

Dauphin Co. 73d annual meeting, Dauphin Co. Ag and Natural Resources Center, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 4
York Co. Milking School, York Co. Extension Office, 9:30

Farm Forum

Editor:

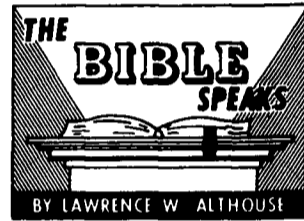
A friend of mine has for years given me his old Lancaster Farming papers. Years ago I had admired and envied the farming life, though I do little now it's still the only way of life.

The reason for this letter is to get your help or information on a pressing problem facing everyone. I work for a large corporation (General Motors) in Martinsburg, W.Va. There at our plant we have a great amount of wooden skids that we crush and send to landfills. Landfills are filling up and we are trying to recycle our waste. We generate mountains of cardboard which we shred and sell, all metal we sell, and in plant papers, soda

cans, etc. are now being collected and being donated to charities locally. But our waste wood is a problem, at one time we suggested buying a skid chipper but we still would have to discard the chips to landfills. My question is what can we do with our wood.

It seems such a waste of a natural resource as wood, and it is a shame this can not be of use to some one. Could you please help me with any information you may have.

Robert W. Weaver
Editor's Note: Anyone with ideas for Mr. Weaver may send them to the editor of Lancaster Farming, and they will be forwarded.



ON FEEDING SHEEP

November 25, 1990

Background Scripture:
Ezekiel 34: 1-16.

Devotional Reading:
Psalms 146

This passage, Ezekiel 34, can be read on three different levels.

First of all, it can be read as a stinging condemnation of the leaders of Israel in exile. Likening them to shepherds, God lists a long bill of particulars against them; they have fed themselves instead of their flocks, they have not protected the weak, the crippled and the sick, nor have they made any attempt to bring back those who have strayed. In every department, they have ignored their flocks.

We might well make the same accusations against some of our political and religious leaders today: they feed themselves and not their flocks. Whatever it is that they are about, the welfare of their constituents does not occupy much of their attention. Clergymen may spend so much of their time in building churches that they have little left over for tending their flocks.

GOD AS SHEPHERD

As surely as Ezekiel 36 is a stinging critique of Israel's leaders

— and perhaps even ours — so it is also a beautiful passage representing God's care for his own flock. "I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out" (36:11). He will nourish the people of Israel and help those who are afflicted: "I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the crippled, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will watch over; I will feed them in justice" (34:16). It is a striking image and one which Jesus utilized in his own ministry.

There's a third way to look at Ezekiel 34: as a challenge to each of us. This passage's initial appeal rests on its assurances of what God will do for us. But it can also stir us to see it as a call to do something for someone else. If God is like a shepherd to his flock and if Jesus is the Good Shepherd, shouldn't those of us who strive to follow him adopt this same shepherd's roll?

NOT FED MY SHEEP

Isn't this the kind of ministry to which Jesus called his disciples — seeking the lost, binding up the crippled, strengthening the weak, and watching over the prosperous. As Jesus is our Good Shepherd, so we are called to be good shepherds to others. That means more than including them in our prayers, and wishing them well. Essentially, it means feeding sheep, ministering to the deepest material and spiritual needs of those in need.

Let it not be said of our day as it was of Ezekiel's, "Because there was no shepherd..."

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