



OPINION

Definitely Looking For You

Pennsylvania's premier agricultural event, the State Farm Show, will celebrate its 75th birthday this week in Harrisburg. Officials say this event will be bigger and better than ever.

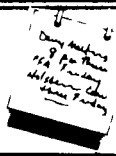
Encompassing 14 acres under roof, the Farm Show offers a unique location to display the newest in equipment, technology and supplies. It provides an opportunity for exhibitors to compete with their peers and provides a common meeting ground for rural and urban citizens alike to exchange information and renew friendships. The show features thousands of animals and exhibits, tons of delicious food and popular evening entertainment.

Among items to be noted as new this year are the increased premiums that now total \$196,000; a historical marker on the Farm Show grounds, a life-size butter sculpture and several limited edition toy tractors and trucks, produced to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the show.

Another change, the famous food booths of the Pennsylvania commodity and agricultural organizations have been removed from the main exhibition hall to the East Building, in what is now called the Pennsylvania Food Court.

The great January event in the calendar of Pennsylvania's agriculture is poised to happen again this week. Along with you, we are pleased to be a part of this annual event. Please stop by our Booth Number 274 in the main exhibition hall and say "Hi." We will definitely be looking for you!

Farm Calendar



- Saturday, January 5**
Farm Show Begins!
Pennsylvania Farm Show, Farm Show Complex, open for judging only.
- Sunday, January 6**
Pennsylvania Farm Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Jan. 11.
- Monday, January 7**
Pennsylvania Farm Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Jan. 11.
Annual Dairy Industry Conference, Stouffer Dublin Hotel, Dublin, Ohio, thru Jan. 8.
Farm Women Society annual convention, 10 a.m., Farm Women banquet, Penn Harris Motor Inn, 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 8**
Pennsylvania Farm Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Jan. 11.
1991 Eastern Pa. Turf Conference and Trade Show, Valley Forge Convention Center, Sheraton-Valley Forge Hotel, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., thru Jan. 11.
Farm Women Society business session, Room E, Farm Show Building, 9 a.m.
Clearfield Co. income tax meeting, DuBois Holiday Inn, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 9**
Pennsylvania Farm Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Jan. 11.

- 1991 Eastern Pa. Turf Conference and Trade Show, Valley Forge Convention Center, Sheraton-Valley Forge Hotel, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., thru Jan. 11.
- Thursday, January 10**
Pa. Beef Council annual meeting, Harrisburg Sheraton East Hotel, 6:30 p.m.
Pennsylvania Dairy of Distinction annual meeting, Pennsylvania Farm Show, Room C, 2 p.m.
Butler Co. income tax meeting, Days Inn, Butler, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Friday, January 11**
Pennsylvania Farm Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Jan. 11.
1991 Eastern Pa. Turf Conference and Trade Show, Valley Forge Convention Center, Sheraton-Valley Forge Hotel, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., thru Jan. 11.
Indiana Co. income-tax meeting, Indiana Rustic Lodge, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Franklin Co. Crop Management Association annual meeting, Antrim House, Greencastle, 7 p.m.
Pa. Nut Growers' annual meeting, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.
Penn State Water Quality Workshop, Derrick City Fire Hall, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
- 1991 Eastern Pa. Turf Conference and Trade Show, Valley Forge Convention Center, Sheraton-Valley Forge Hotel, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Bedford Co. income tax meeting, Arena Restaurant, Bedford, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Clearfield Co./Penn State forage testing van, Clearfield Army Reserve Center, Clearfield, 12 noon-3 p.m.
- Saturday, January 12**
North Country Food First Workshop, St. Joseph School, Malone, N.Y., 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Forest Landowners' Workshop, Mountain View Inn, Greensburg, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Sheep and Lamb Health Management Seminar, Maryland State



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Be A Better Manager

As we look ahead to 1991, it is difficult to realize just what major problems will confront the average farmer. It remains to be seen what effect farm legislation, exports and taxes will have on agriculture. However, it is evident that profits will be difficult to realize, and some very good management will be needed to come out in the black. Today's farmer must be a better businessman than his forefathers. A farmer must be able to handle labor, money, equipment and keep up-to-date on all regulations and cultural practices. A farmer must be able to plan ahead and to be organized with all the responsibilities. A farmer should practice good public relations with the neighbors and respect the rights of others. Good management is just as important in farming as it is in any other industry or business. Work at it and it will pay dividends.

To Transfer Silage

Livestock and dairy producers who have silage stored in temporary structures might be planning to move this feed into upright silos in the next month or so. Many producers use the temporary storage until some of the material is fed out of the upright silo. By transferring into the upright silo, mechanical feeders can be used. The objective is to move the silage during cold weather. When transferring during warm weather

and Trade Show, Valley Forge Convention Center, Sheraton-Valley Forge Hotel, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Bedford Co. income tax meeting, Arena Restaurant, Bedford, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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(above 50° F) there is danger of more heating of the silage. No preservative should be needed. The faster the material can be moved into the upright silo, the better it will settle and remove the air.

To Separate New Animals

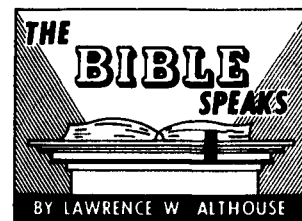
The addition of a new animal to the herd or flock is a common practice. However, there is always the chance of bringing new infections into the herd. Too many diseases and problems have been brought onto the farm by the owner. At this time of year and in this part of the state, the PA Farm Show provides an opportunity for showing and the purchase of new animals. To those who are exhibiting animals, and to those who might buy a bred gilt, or other animals, I'd say be sure to separate these animals from the rest of the herd or flock for at least 30 days. The other alternative is to treat all animals in the herd or flock for the same infections as the new animals have received. Sanitation

and separation are very important items in good health programs.

To Be Sure Ice Is Safe For Skating

Farm ponds make great ice skating rinks... that's so long as the ice is strong enough. The general rule on thickness is that two inches will support one person and three inches will support a line of people. Thickness is not always the most accurate guide though. Other factors include color and age. New ice is stronger than old ice, and clear blue ice is stronger than slush ice. Be especially cautious with ponds that are either fed by a spring or have a fast moving current. The thickness of these ponds will vary considerably.

The most important thing is to have rescue equipment at the pond site. It is wise to have a straight ladder, rope and inner tube nearby... it could save a life. I would urge owners of farm ponds to use caution in permitting skating unless the ice is thick enough.



STAYING POWER

January 6, 1991

Background Scripture:
Matthew 13:1-23.

Devotional Reading:
Ecclesiastes 2:4-11.

In the past I have probably misused the so-called Parable of the Sower. I have previously focused on the unreceptivity of the various soils of which Jesus spoke: the side of the path, the rocky soil, and the thorny ground. In doing so, I have shifted emphasis away from the sower to the soils, a rather negative transition, to be honest.

As I read this parable anew, however, I realize that instead of an indictment of people's unreceptivity, it is actually a message of encouragement focusing not on the soils, but upon the sower. Jesus may be responding to the possible discouragement of the disciples. They have observed that no matter how skillful and powerful Jesus is, some people hear the Good News from him but are seemingly unmoved by it. Perhaps this is particularly on the disciples' minds because, as Matthew tells it, there are great crowds of people coming to hear him. How many of these, they must wonder, will respond favorably and commit themselves to him?

THE OTHER SEEDS

Not to worry, says Jesus, and verse 8 is the heart of the parable and the story: "Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. "In other words, don't worry about the seed that falls on unresponsive soils — you always have that — but concentrate on the seed that falls on the good soil! The parable is really good news,

not bad. Yes, there are lots of people who will not respond to the gospel, but there will always be those that will and we must take our satisfaction from them, for great results can come from even small numbers of receptive disciples.

Some months ago a woman came to me for counselling. When she left I felt that I hadn't really helped her and when she didn't return for additional sessions, I was convinced. A few weeks ago during a worship service, this woman, as part of a church interpretive dance troupe, performed a striking interpretation of the Lord's Prayer. I was interested to read in the bulletin that it had been choreographed by my counselee. After the service was over, she made a point to come to me and tell me that the dance interpretation was the result of our counselling session. Not only had she been helped, but that session had borne fruit for others as well — even though I thought I failed.

UNSEEN RESULTS

Teachers and preachers often have that kind of experience. They think no one is responding to what they are saying, only to learn later that someone not only responded, but greatly profited. A man with whom I hadn't been in contact in many years wrote me a letter in which he said a sermon I preached had changed his life. I was shocked: I thought he slept through my sermons! Apparently not all of them. So, whether you are a preacher, teacher or everyday witness for Christ, never doubt that God is able to accomplish his purposes, even without our awareness.

The New English Bible rendering of Matthew 13:2 puts it this way: "...but as it strikes no root in him he has no staying power, and when there is trouble or persecution on account of the word he falls away at once." This parable, thus, is an appeal to our "staying power." Jesus is telling us not to focus on those who do not respond to the gospel, but to hang in there and concentrate on those who do.

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