



OPINION

During National FFA Week

Each year FFA Week is held during the week of George Washington's birthday to recognize his leadership and commitment to American agriculture. This year FFA members all over the country will promote FFA and agriculture education and the food and fiber industry this week from February 16 to 23.

FFA is a national organization of 387,042 members in 7,634 local chapters preparing for careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture. Local, state and national activities and award programs provide opportunities for students to apply knowledge and skills acquired through agricultural education. Agricultural education classes stress hands-on experience in diverse areas of agriculture.

It is because of this hands-on part of the FFA program that we believe students are prepared for life better than in any other part of the public school system. Not only do students interested in agriculture benefit from FFA. City students also learn under this year's theme: FFA—Leadership for a Growing Planet.

In Pennsylvania the largest FFA chapter is at Saul High School in the Philadelphia school system within the city limits. Their students give up personal time early in the morning and late in the evening to take care of their animal and horticulture projects. Because of the FFA influence, Saul has become the school of choice in the city's public school system and many more students apply for admission than can be accepted. For many of these inner city students, the way out of the ghetto is not through a big league baseball or an NBA basketball contract but through FFA.

Unfortunately, in some other school districts in the state, the FFA chapter and the agricultural education program do not receive the full support from the school administration and the school board. We believe these school leaders who are less than enthusiast for FFA and ag education should be given a tour of the Saul program. Let them talk to the students. Let them talk to the parents. Let them talk to the graduates, especially those graduates who have gone on to Penn State and other institutions of higher learning.

Let them do it during National FFA Week.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Mend Pasture Fences and Remove Debris

Pastures can provide cattle a lot of good, nutritious forage, and it's a place for them to get fresh air, exercise and sunlight. Before too long, we will be turning our cattle out to pasture, but let's not turn them out too soon. It's best to let the sod develop and the ground firm up. Spend the time now to fix fences and pick up trash and debris before the grass grows too tall and before you're tied down with spring field work.

It might also be helpful to section off the pasture in order to make best use of the grass. For example, wet areas and flat areas may be fenced off from other areas. This will enable you to keep cows out of wet areas until the ground firms up, and could help prevent the development of foot problems. During the early spring flush of pasture growth, you could keep cattle out of the flat area; save it for hay, and feed it to cows later in the summer.

To Store Supplies Safely

Many farmers have purchased and accepted early deliveries of seeds, fertilizer and other supplies. Proper storage of these items is important. I have seen bags of fertilizer stored too close to a barn door, or to an open window; the same with farm seeds. Extra moisture on these materials, or under them on a damp floor, can cause problems. Also, it is very important to keep seeds away from chemical weed killers. These herbicides may reduce, or kill the germination of the seeds. Also, children, pets and livestock should not have access to stored seeds or farm chemicals. All of these materials become more expensive each year. It's only good management to store them carefully.

To Be Aware Of

Alkaline Water For Pesticides
If your water is alkaline, especially if the pH is 8 or greater, you

may have trouble getting good results from the pesticide spray material you are using on cropland. Water supplies in many areas have sufficient natural alkalinity to cause a "breakdown" of certain pesticides.

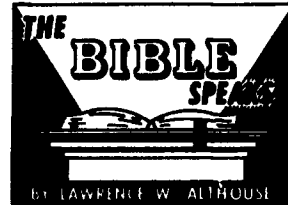
This means pest control may be somewhat less than desirable, or even non-existent because the ingredient will be rendered inactive before it even reaches the plant or pest. If the spray is allowed to stand several hours before spraying, as much as 50 percent or more of the active ingredient may be decomposed.

Pesticide specialists tell us that a pH in the range of 4 to 6 is recommended for most pesticide sprays. You can adjust spray solutions to this range by buffering agents. In general, the insecticides are affected more severely by alk-

aline water than fungicides or herbicides.

To Prepare For Dormant Sprays

Many types of trees are infested with various kinds of scale insects. These pests attach themselves to the bark and twigs and shrubs and suck the strength from the plant. One of the best treatments is to apply a dormant spray oil before the buds start to open. The date of the spray will vary with the weather. However, on many fruit trees and shrubbery this will be late February and early March. The spray should be applied before the buds open. In addition, a spray during May or June while the insect is in the crawler stage is strongly suggested; materials for this spray can be Imidan, Sevin or Malathion. Scale insects should be controlled -- the way is to use a dormant spray.



PAUL ON MARRIAGE

February 17, 1991

Background Scripture: I Corinthians 7:1-40.

Devotional Reading: Genesis 2:18-24.

If you are going to read I Corinthians 7, the place to start is with verses 26, 29 and 31. In fact, it is absolutely essential. Here's why:

"I think that in view of the impending distress..." (26)

"... the appointed time has grown very short..." (29)

"For the form of this world is passing away" (31)

In order to understand what Paul is saying about marriage and other relationships in I Corinthians 7, we must first realize that Paul's opinions are based on his conviction that the second coming of Christ was imminent. Otherwise, I Corinthians 7 sounds like a Biblical denigration of marriage. Paul is not really concerned with either marriage or celibacy; what he is concerned with is the Parousia, the return of Christ and the Kingdom of God.

THE PAROUSIA DELAYED

Paul assumes that the Christians of Corinth are no less certain of Christ's imminent return, so he begins Chapter 7 with the assumption that what he is saying about sex and marriage will be understood to be an interim teaching -- what to do between now and the date when the Parousia begins. Then -- during that brief time of waiting -- and only then does this teaching apply: not before, not after. In 7:20, he says: "Everyone should remain in the state in which he was called" and again in 7:26, "In view of the impending distress it is well for a person to remain as he is. Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek mar-

riage." Why: so that both married and unmarried may be optimally ready for the return of Christ.

Of course, Paul's expectation was in error. The Parousia did not come soon, or even in Paul's lifetime. In fact, it still hasn't arrived to this very day. So Paul's teaching about "stay as you are" is no more applicable to us than it was to the Corinthian Christians. Furthermore, Paul is very careful in I Corinthians 7 to say that his advice is not binding as Christian truth per se. "I say this by way of concession, not of command" (7:6). At another point he specifies, "...I say, not the Lord..." (7:12). And: "Now concerning the unmarried, I have no command of the Lord, but I give my opinion..." (7:25). Once more: "But in my judgment..." (7:40).

BETTER TO MARRY

Paul was wrong, not only about the Parousia, but, I believe, about the purpose and value of marriage. Genesis says, "It is not good that the man should be alone." Paul doesn't seem to agree. His view is that of a celibate bachelor. It is obvious that he thinks of marriage strictly as a means of sanctifying the sexual relationship: "For it is better to marry than to be aflame with passion" (7:9). I'm sorry that Paul seems not to know anything about the other blessings of marriage: friendship, companionship, mutual sharing and support.

Paul's purpose was not to lay down rigid rules, but to help people to be as well prepared as possible for the Parousia. Having said that married and unmarried should remain as they are, he says nevertheless, "But if you marry, you do not sin" (7:28). His advice to slaves is similar. "Were you a slave when called? Never mind" (7:21). But he modified this with: "If you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity."

Paul's purpose then is pastoral: "I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord" (7:35). Even if we don't accept his conclusions, we can appreciate his loving pastoral concern.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, February 16 FFA Week

Mid-Atlantic Herding Stock Dog Club Herding Clinic, McVeytown.

Sunday, February 17 FFA Week

Atlantic Breeders Co-Op meeting, Country Table Restaurant, Mt. Joy, 7 p.m.

Atlantic Breeders Co-Op meeting, Northern Lancaster #1 West, Farm and Home Center, 7 p.m.

McKean Co. Dairy Nutrition School II, Port Allegany, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Clarion Co. pesticide update credits, Clarion Co. Park, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Berks Co. Ag Zoning meeting, Berks Co. Ag Center, Leesport, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Atlantic Breeders Co-Op District 7

meeting, Huntsdale Fire Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Atlantic Breeders Co-Op District 15 meeting, Mercer Co. Extension Office, 11:45 a.m.

New Holland Vegetable Day, Summit Valley Elementary School, 9 a.m.

Mercer Co. ADC meeting, extension center, 12 noon.

Crawford Co. farm management meeting for youth, Courthouse, Meadville, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, February 19 FFA Week

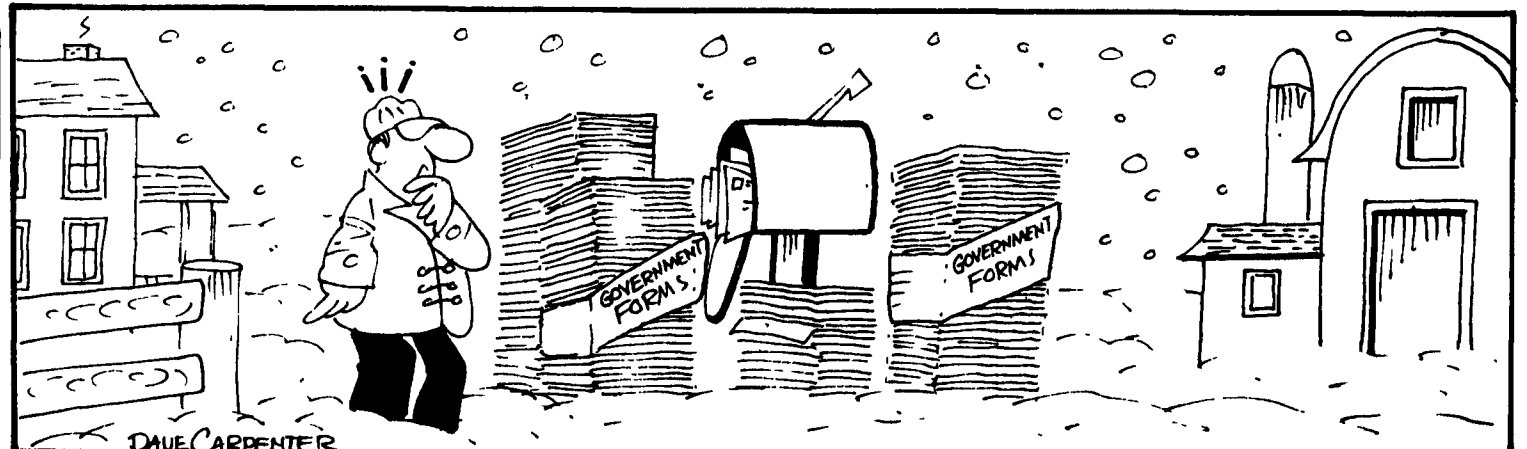
Atlantic Breeders Co-Op meeting, District 5, Hoffman Building, Quarryville, 7 p.m.

Atlantic Breeders Co-Op meeting, District 4, North Lancaster (Central), Harvest Drive Restaurant, 12 noon.

American Dairy Association and Dairy Council, Inc. 31st annual meeting, Sheraton Inn, Syracuse, N.Y., 9:30 a.m.

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