



OPINION

Be Careful Around Manure Pits

Manure handling is probably the most disagreeable chore on the farm--and the most dangerous. While manure pits and tanks are convenient and efficient, they can be the source of danger when safety management standards are not followed.

David Konn, Jr., York County Conservation District, says that to be more safety conscious around manure pits and eliminate tragic situations connected with them, the following tips should serve as a reminder.

- During manure decomposition, hydrogen sulfide, ammonia, carbon dioxide and methane are produced. All can be dangerous. Allow a foot or two of air space to accommodate concentrations of these gases at the surface of the pit.
- Never enter a manure pit without proper breathing apparatus. Even an empty pit can be a killer.
- Never smoke or allow any flame sources in the area of a manure pit. Methane can be present in just the right amounts to trigger an explosion or fire.
- Provide as much ventilation as possible in the pit and the building during agitation.
- Install a fence to keep out small children and other unwanted visitors.
- Make sure scrape off ramps are structurally sound and that they have safety gates across them. These gates should be made of heavier gauge steel compared to the perimeter fencing.
- Slow down when scraping into a pit. It only takes one slide or skid to result in a tragedy.
- Manure ponds and surrounding areas should be kept clean and free of rodents. When mowing pond areas, the mower operator should be careful on steep banks to keep equipment from rolling.
- Post signs on these facilities and fences that warn of the dangers of the manure pit.

Be careful around the manure facilities on your farm. In the past, farmers have lost their lives working around manure pits. Don't let someone on your farm have a tragic accident around the manure pit.



NOW IS THE TIME
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Protect Against Plant Poisoning

Many common plants will cause poisoning symptoms in humans and animals.

These plant poisoning symptoms vary greatly. Some plants will only cause a skin irritation such as a rash or red itching area. Other plants, if eaten, will cause nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea to heart problems, convulsions, coma, and death. Fortunately, most plants *do not* cause severe poisoning.

To prevent a plant poisoning from occurring:

- Teach children never to put leaves, stems, bark, seeds, nuts, or berries from any plant into their mouths.
- Keep poisonous house plants out of reach of all children, including infants.
- Never eat a wild plant or mushroom unless you are positive of its identity.
- Store bulbs and seeds out of sight and out of reach of children.

If anyone eats a poisonous plant, follow the following first aid instructions:

If a plant or plant part is swallowed or chewed on: 1. Give 1 to 2 glasses of milk or water right away, unless the person cannot swallow, is in a comma, or having a convulsion. 2. Call the Poison Control Center. 3. Have on hand at home syrup of Ipecac (ask your pharmacist for it) and Epsom salts. Do not use either of these unless instructed to do so by the Poison Control Center.

For skin contact with a poisonous plant, gently wash the skin with a mild soap and water and rinse right away.

To Be Sensitive To Environmental Issues

Protecting the environment will be a major political issue in the 90s.

The problem is we want the other person to do it rather than

Cambria Co. 4-H Achievement Night.

Wednesday, July 3

Butler Co. Fair, Butler, thru July 6.
Forest Co. Fair, Wolf's Corners Recreation Assn., Tionesta, thru July 6.

(Turn to Page A31)

ourselves. The urban resident blames agriculture for being the major polluter while farmers are looking to pass the blame to someone else.

The truth is we all could be doing a better job of living in harmony with the environment. Recent research studies show agriculture as an industry is doing an excellent job of protecting the environment.

This should be of no surprise to farmers. The profession of farming requires a working knowledge of the environment.

Farmers are constantly working with and managing the environment in order to produce food and fiber. A destruction of the earth's environment would mean the end of agriculture. However, we must do better.

As agriculture continues to change and grow, farmers are going to need to adapt new technology. Genetic engineering, new management practices, and nutrient management are a few new

tools that will help agriculture to continue protect the environment.

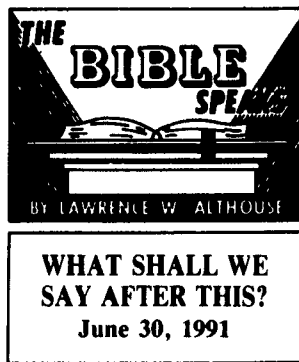
We need to tell people that agriculture is a very important industry that respects and supports the environment. By working together, we all will be able to live in harmony with the environment.

Have A Purpose In Life

A purpose in life keeps you focused on the present. This helps you maintain enthusiasm for your day-to-day work.

The more enthusiastic you are, the more you will attract the attention of positive, enthusiastic people and the more successful you will be.

Identify your purpose in life, work to achieve it, keep a positive attitude, and turn every roadblock into an opportunity. Remember, success breeds success and positive attitudes create successes. So, be happy and have fun while you are accomplishing your life's purpose.



"TOO MANY WRONG THINGS"

I can understand how Ezra felt. There have been times in my life when I have felt such a sense of guilt before God that it seemed nothing could lift it from me. I have called upon parishoners who have confided to me that their sins were "too great for God to forgive." I had a classmate in high school who committed suicide a year after graduation, leaving a note in which he said, "I've done too many wrong things for God to forgive me."

When we own up to what we have done and what the cost of that sin is, we often feel that there is no way God can forgive us. Then, like Ezra, we could well pray, "And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken thy commandments" (9:10). Words seem so inadequate when we have done such harm or inflicted such pain. "I am sorry; I repent," seems so inadequate. Ezra felt this way "Behold, we are before thee in our guilt, for none can stand before thee because of this" (9:15b).

The writer of Ezra tells us that while Ezra was thus confessing, weeping and "casting himself down before the house of God," a great assembly of people gathered around him and wept also. But one man, Shecaniah, said to Ezra, "We have broken faith with our God and have married foreign women from the peoples of this land, but even now there is hope for Israel in spite of this" (10:2).

That's what we need to remember when the weight of guilt seems to squeeze the hope of God out of our lives: "even now there is hope." Even in the midst of our degradation, we must remember there is no sin so great that God cannot, will not forgive it -- if we repent. Our guilt may be monumental, but God's grace is greater than any evil we can produce.

(Based on copyrighted Outlines produced by the Committee on the Uniform Series and used by permission. Released by Community & Suburban Press)



Saturday, June 29

Eastern Regional Shorthorn Field Day, Howard Co. Fairgrounds, West Friendship, Md., 8:30 a.m.

Pennsylvania Floral Industry Expo, Lancaster Resort Hotel, Lancaster, thru July 2.

Md. Shorthorn Association Eastern Regional Field Day, Howard Co. Fairgrounds, noon-4 p.m.

Fayette Co. Farm City Day, Bob and Joy Jackson Dairy Farm, 12 p.m.-5 p.m.

Schnecksville Fair, Schnecksville. Cumberland Co. 4-H Dairy Day, North Middleton Park, Carlisle. American Jersey Cattle Club, Ramada Hotel and Convention Center, Hagerstown, Md., thru July 1.

Pa. Angus Field Day.

Sunday, June 30

Horseman's Introduction To Driving, Rose Hill Manor Park, Frederick, Md., 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
Md. Polled Hereford Association Field Day, Howard Co.

Fairgrounds. American Jersey Cattle Club, Ramada Hotel and Convention Center, Hagerstown, Md., thru July 1.

Monday, July 1

Pa. PDCA Judging School, Lawrence and Butler counties, thru July 2.

5-Acre Corn Club enrollment deadline.

Butler Co. Fair, Butler, thru July 6.
Forest Co. Fair, Wolf's Corners Recreation Assn., Tionesta, thru July 6.

American Jersey Cattle Club, Ramada Hotel and Convention Center, Hagerstown, Md.

Tuesday, July 2

Lancaster Co. 4-H livestock judging day, Manheim Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Pa. PDCA Judging School, Lawrence and Butler counties. Butler Co. Fair, Butler, thru July 6.
Forest Co. Fair, Wolf's Corners Recreation Assn., Tionesta, thru July 6.

Lancaster Farming
Established 1955
Published Every Saturday
Ephrata Review Building
1 E Main St
Ephrata, PA 17522
— by —
Lancaster Farming, Inc.
A Steinman Enterprise
Robert G Campbell General Manager
Everett R Newswanger Managing Editor
Copyright 1991 by Lancaster Farming

