



# OPINION

## Be Careful

A new report from Penn State's College of Agriculture indicated that farm fatalities declined between 1985 and 1989, but emphasizes that farming remains a hazardous occupation.

"Pennsylvania farm Fatalities During 1985-89" compares the number and type of fatalities during the last half of the 1980s with those that occurred between 1980 and 1984.

"The overall trend is fewer fatalities per number of farms," says Dr. Dennis Murphy, professor of agricultural engineering, who compiled and wrote the report. "An average of 51 people died in farming accidents each year during the first period, while an average of 39 died each year between 1985 and 1989."

Despite these findings, Murphy says the report indicates an urgent need for farm safety education programs -- particularly for younger and older farm workers, who normally are not found in other hazardous occupations. "Fifty percent of the total farm fatalities between 1985 and 1989 involve children under 14 and workers 65 and over," he says. "That's up almost nine percent from the 1980-84 period."

"That these groups account for half the total fatalities dramatically underscores why agriculture remains a dangerous industry. Both age groups are extremely difficult to reach with traditional safety education programs."

Two-thirds of the accidents to the 65 and older group are tractor-related, with a large majority of those involving an overturn. "This strongly supports the notion that older workers lose their abilities to safely operate tractors," Murphy says.

The younger group were much more likely to be killed as extra riders on tractors. Also, a substantial number of young victims are run over while on the ground. "Most of these accidents happen to very young children -- under five years old -- who are playing around a tractor when the equipment is started and moved," Murphy says.

Tractors accounted for just over half of the 194 fatalities that occurred between 1985 and 1989. Sixty percent of the tractor deaths were due to rollovers, with the remaining fatalities involving extra riders, drivers falling or being thrown off the tractor and victims being run over on the ground.

Machinery-related fatalities made up 14 percent of the total. "Corn handling machine accidents were responsible for 34 percent of the machinery deaths," Murphy says. "Silage handling, hay baling and manure handling machinery each had 11 percent of the fatalities."

Incidents involving animals were responsible for six percent of the total fatalities, while drownings accounted for 3.6 percent. The remaining 21 percent were caused by a variety of other accidents, including slips and falls, vehicle and tree accidents, suffocation, electrocution and fires.

Murphy compared the number and types of fatal accidents that occurred during the two five-year periods and found little difference in either type or incidence. "The types of accidents that kill farm workers have not changed much over the last decade," Murphy says. "Agriculture remains an extremely hazardous industry."

Be careful.



## NOW IS THE TIME

By John Schwartz  
Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent

### To Remember Safety

I am seeing the results of too many farm accidents. Hospital stays, emergency room visits, and funerals as a result of an accident are all things we can do without.

To avoid accidents, you must constantly think safety and realize an accident can happen to you. Some areas to be especially concerned about this fall season are:

- Silo gases — work in pairs and keep silos, feed rooms and stables well ventilated.

- Big machinery — we are seeing bigger machinery with a lot of power. Respect it. Keep guards in place, stop machinery before mak-

## Farm Forum

### Editor:

According to the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Board US milk production for 1991/92 is projected at 149.6 billion pounds. This estimate is marginally higher than the previous year's production of 149 billion pounds. My question is how can milk prices drop so much in one year when the supply of milk moved only slightly up? How can 600 million pounds of milk, --- LESS than 1 1/2 days supply--- drop prices so much? Not since the thirties have dairy farmers faced the collapse of prices and drought together.

Besides investigating the price-fixing of major dairy processors in school milk programs, (Pet, Inc. of St. Louis agreed to plead guilty in SC Federal Court to rigging prices charged to schools, (2c per half-pint or \$3.63 cwt) according to Federal Prosecutors) maybe the Justice Department should investigate prices paid to farmers. (Pizza manufacturers announced yesterday that they were raising prices due to increased costs of cheese!!!)

Just pause for a minute. On my last milk check, there was a 15c deduction for milk promotion, the 5c tax for Graham-Rudmann deficit reduction (Think--- is there any other group in this country helping to reduce the 368 billion dollar deficit besides dairy farmers?) Do

(Turn to Page A23)

(Turn to Page A39)

ing repairs, adjustments, and before attempting to unplug a clogged machine.

- Be aware of curious children — take a few extra seconds and walk around and look underneath machinery before moving it.

- Keep alert — take rest breaks and switch operators.

Remember, you are important to your family and friends!

### Composting Farm Mortality of Poultry

The proper disposal of farm mortality of poultry is becoming an increasing concern among poultry producers.

With the rapid expansion occurring in the local broiler and turkey industries, farmers need to consider a safe and economical way to dispose of farm mortality. This is necessary to eliminate water pollution, reduce the spread of disease, and increase farm income.

On-farm incineration is becoming extremely costly and produces odors unacceptable to neighbors. Many rendering companies cannot accept the increase number of birds. Thus, composting becomes a very viable alternative.

The concept, developed at the University of Maryland, has been tested by many universities and farmers. Composting produces a disease-free product, very little

odor, and an environmental safe product at a very low cost.

If you are planning on expanding your poultry operation, building your first poultry barn, or replacing your current poultry disposal system, I would encourage you to consider composting. Information is available by contacting me at the Lancaster County Cooperative Extension Office, 1383 Arcadia Road Room 1, Lancaster, PA 17601.

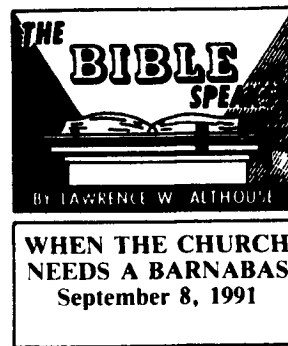
### Crops Following Corn

Robert Anderson, extension agronomy agent, reminds all farmers to read pesticide labels before planting crops following corn, especially small grains.

A primary concern is the possibility of herbicide carryover. This year's lack of rainfall will increase the possibility of herbicide injury.

If your herbicide program contained atrazine or simazine (Princep), there is a minimum restriction of 10 months from the time of application and planting a small grain crop.

So, before planting any crop following corn this fall, review your herbicide program for that field and read the appropriate labels to make sure that crop may be planted. A few minutes reading the label could save you a lot of money by eliminating a crop failure.



### Background Scripture

Acts 9:26-30; 11:19-30; 12:25

### Devotional Reading

Acts 12:25 through 13:3.

In my life I have known many churches named for St. Paul. In contrast, I can recall only one or two—if that—honoring St. Barnabas. In the way the world reckons these things, that is probably appropriate, for no one would ever dispute that Paul's contribution to Christianity has been far, far more important and lasting. If these men were alive today, Paul would undoubtedly be a churchman on the level of the Pope or Billy Graham, while Barnabas would be a worker behind the scenes.

Still, we know that God does not necessarily see and evaluate things as the world does. In the ministry of Jesus there are a number of people whom he notes appreciatively, even though they were regarded as "unimportant" by society: the good Samaritan, the widow who gave her mite, the lepers he healed, among others.

### TOO FEW, TOO LOW

We need to keep this in mind when viewing our own discipleship. Too often we discount that we can do for Christ because it

seems our endowments are too few and our place in the scheme of things too low. Without taking anything away from the Pope and Billy Graham whom I have picked because of their obvious status in Christendom), it may well be that what you and I do as Jesus's disciples is no less important in God's sight than what these two world-celebrated Christians do.

Barnabas is a case-in-point. When Paul was converted to Christ, Barnabas was accorded a certain amount of status in the church, enough so that, as the writer of Acts tells us, "But Barnabas took him (Paul) and brought him to the apostles, and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, and had preached boldly in the name of Jesus" (9:27). Later, it is Barnabas who is sent to Antioch and, as a result of his efforts, a large number of people "turned to the Lord" (9:21).

### WITHOUT BARNABAS

From there, Barnabas went to Tarsus "to look for Saul," and having found him, he took him back to Antioch where the two ministered together for a whole year. Later, Saul became the successful apostle and Barnabas slipped from notice. So today we revere Paul and barely remember Barnabas; but it is obvious from Acts that had there been no Barnabas, there might not have been a Paul.

The church may not be aware of it—because it pretty much judges as the world does—but often it needs you and me as much as it needs its Popes and Billy Grahams.

## Farm Calendar

### Saturday, September 7

Mon Valley 4-H Dairy Show, Westmoreland Co. Fairgrounds.

Penn Jersey Crop Management Field Days, Rutgers U. Snyder Farm, Pittstown, N.J., 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Bucks Co. Farm and Conservation Tour.

S.E. Pa. 4-H Horse Show, Berks Co. 4-H Center, 8:30 p.m.

### Sunday, September 8

4-H District Dairy Show, Clearfield, thru Sept. 9.

113th PennAg Convention, Western William Penn, Pittsburgh, thru Sept. 10.

### Monday, September 9

Green Township Fair, Commerce, thru Sept. 14.

Southwest 4-H Dairy Show, Clearfield Co. Fairgrounds.

Bellwood-Antus Farm Show, Bellwood, thru Sept. 12.

Poultry Management and Health Seminar, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, noon.

Tiogo Co. Wool Pool.

Lancaster Co. Bee Growers meeting, Farm and Home Center, 7 p.m.

### Tuesday, September 10

Albion Area Fair, Albion, thru Sept. 14.

### 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

