



# OPINION

## Save A Life

Add silo gas and silo fires to a list of calamities likely to compound livestock farmers' troubles in a drought year like we have now. Such occurrences are likely throughout our circulation area.

Public health spokespersons, along with farm safety specialists for the Cooperative Extension Service at land-grant Universities, agree that extra precautions should be taken to avoid human tragedies.

According to Stephanie Leonard from the Institute of Agricultural Medicine and Occupational Health at the University of Iowa, several kinds of nitrous fumes, or silo gas, can be formed in silos during early stages of the ensiling process. All have a disagreeable odor.

Their colors range from red through orange to dark brown. Since they are heavier than air, they drop to the ground or roll along the floor like water and settle in low spots. Adjacent feed rooms and stable areas in barns can become death traps.

Thomas Bean, Ohio State, says farmers should be particularly careful about silo gas in a drought year. Livestock are as much in danger as the farm family. Dead flies, rodents, cats or birds in the silo or surrounding area should be taken as danger signs.

Silo fires, unlike hay bale fires, result when the moisture content is low. Air leaking into the silo helps fuel the fire. If the forage is too dry, heat cannot be dissipated fast enough, and the internal temperature rises until spontaneous combustion occurs. This process is called pyrolysis.

David Baker, farm safety specialist at the University of Missouri, says that as pyrolysis continues, oxygen within the silage feeds the smoldering fire. If the surrounding silage cannot support combustion, the fire may die, leaving a charred cavity. More frequently, the fire will spread slowly until it reaches the surface by burning through combustible materials.

It's important that you make sure the material put into the silo has enough moisture for the ensiling process. And whenever you work around the silo, run the forage blower for a while before entering the silo area. The life you save may be a family member's.

### Farm Calendar

#### Saturday, September 21

Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Pageant, Penn Harris Convention Center, Camp Hill, reception 5:30 p.m.; dinner 6:30 p.m.; pageant 8 p.m.

Small Beef Herd Workshop, UNILEC Building, DuBois, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Bloomsburg Fair, Bloomsburg, Columbia Co., thru Sept. 28.

Taste the Harvest, First Philadelphia Troop Armory, Phila., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Woodlot Management Seminar, Tioga Co., 9 a.m.-noon.

Annual Dorset Sheep Club Field Day, Perry Farm, Whitehouse Station, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

#### Sunday, September 22

Mercer Co. Holstein picnic, Dale Kepner Farm, Sandy Lake, 12:30 p.m.-4 p.m.

#### Monday, September 23

Autumn Begins!  
1991 All-American Dairy Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Sept. 26.

Pa. Junior Dairy Show, Harrisburg.

Tuesday, September 24  
Ephrata Fair, Ephrata, thru Sept. 28.

Morrison Cove Community Fair, Martinsburg, thru Sept. 27.

Wednesday, September 25  
Northeast United Egg Producers Trade Show, Host Conference Center, Lancaster, thru Sept. 26.

Estimating and Bidding workshops, Penn State Great Valley, Malvern, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Eastern National Holstein Sale, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.

West Lampeter Community Fair, Lampeter, thru Sept. 27.

Thursday, September 26  
Northeast United Egg Producers Trade Show, Host Conference Center, Lancaster.

N.E. 4-H Leader's Forum, Hershey, thru Sept. 29.

Tri-Valley Community Fair, Hegin, thru Sept. 29.



**NOW IS THE TIME**  
By John Schwartz  
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

#### To Pick Up Farm Show Premium List

The "1992 Pennsylvania State Farm Show Premium List" is now available at Pennsylvania county cooperative extension offices.

If you are planning to exhibit at Farm Show, you need to pick up your premium list right away.

There have been several changes for the 1992 show. First,

### Farm Forum

#### Editor:

Sorry to be so late with a thank you to you and your staff for our Dairy of Distinction Award. We are busy getting our farm ready for a county tour stop and there just aren't enough hours in the day.

We are deeply honored to have been chosen for this award. We appreciate the coverage you have given us, the reception at Ag Progress Days and especially the picture. It is beautiful and something we will always treasure.

Thanks again - we will continue to strive to keep our farm looking as good as possible.

Harold, Marlyn, Elaine and Troy Hill  
Sandy Lake

Wood Industry Workshop, "Marketing and Salesmanship," Towanda Extension Office, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Landscape Maintenance Estimating and Bidding Workshop, Penn State Great Valley, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Penn State Crop Expo '91, John Shearer Farm, York Co.

Eastern National Livestock Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, Md., thru Oct. 1.

Chester-Delaware Co. Farmers' Association annual fall banquet, Upper Octoraro Presbyterian Church, Parkesburg.

York Co. Crop Demonstration Tour, 4-H Center, Bair Station, 1 p.m.

Balancing Industrial Development and Wetlands Protection, Keller Conference Center, Penn State, 8 a.m.

(Turn to Page A35)

the show will run from Saturday, January 11 to Thursday, January 16, 1992. Second, the scoring for several classes, especially eggs, have changed. Third, with the change in dates, entry deadlines have changed.

With a lot of closing dates occurring in early November, you need to be thinking about making your entries now. Remember, if you are showing poultry or livestock, certain health rules and health papers are required. These take time to process. Read health requirements now and take the necessary steps to protect your animal's health and those of other exhibitors.

#### To Inspect Crop Damage By Deer

The Pennsylvania Game Commission has a program to help farmers deal with the large deer population in many areas of the state.

The Deer "Hotspot" Program, as it is commonly referred to, will open those farms with a deer problem for a special hunt.

The Pennsylvania Farmers Association estimates that deer destroy \$34.6 million worth of crops on Pennsylvania farms last year. If you have a problem with too many deer on your farm, contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission before October 1 for information about this program.

#### To Be Cautious About Heated, Uncured Silage

Feeding cows uncured, heated silage may reduce dry matter intake, milk production, and fat tests.

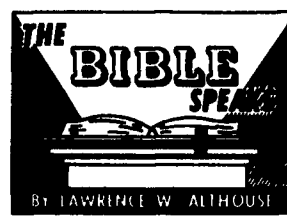
These problems are harder to avoid when you are working with one silo. However, there are some things that may be done to minimize risk.

- Temporarily switch the herd to a hay feeding program.
- Have a small supply of cured silage to feed for about a month while the silo is being filled and the silage is curing. This may be in the form of a stack or bag or an extra silo. If you do not have an opportunity to create a pile before this year's main silo filling season for this year's use, then consider making one this year that you may use next year.

#### To Attend The Northeast Poultry Trade Show

Do not forget to attend the Northeast Poultry Trade Show, September 25 and 26, at the Lancaster Host.

The exhibit hall is open each day from noon to 5 p.m. Admission to the exhibit area is free. Come and see the latest in poultry equipment and services.



**WE ALSO ARE HUMAN!**  
September 22, 1991

Background Scripture: Acts 14.

Devotional Reading: Romans 5:1-11.

No one could ever say that Paul and Barnabas were ignored wherever they went. When they presented the Good News of Jesus Christ it appears that people either were for them or against them. In Acts 14, we are told that at Iconium Paul and Barnabas spoke "boldly for the Lord" and they also performed "signs and wonders" (14:3). Yet, despite all that, the writer of Acts reports: "...the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles."

Apparently the opposition became strong enough — threats to stone them — that Paul and Barnabas fled to Lystra, where it seems the people are much more favorably disposed toward them. One reason: Paul performs a healing on a man who had been crippled from birth. This dramatic event unleashes a rush of popular acclaim, the people of Lystra proclaiming: "The gods have come

down to us in the likeness of men!" (14:11).

#### TORN GARMENTS!

The people of Lystra are largely of Greek background, so they assume that Paul and Barnabas are two of their Greek deities, Zeus and Hermes. You may wonder why Paul and Barnabas upon hearing this, "tore their garments."

This was a traditional Jewish response to anyone who spoke blasphemy. Paul and Barnabas regarded these claims as blasphemous and Paul protests: "Men, why are you doing this? We also are men, of like nature with you, and bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God. . . ." (14:15).

We still have this problem today. If anyone appears to be specially gifted in Christendom — as a preacher, healer, or evangelist — we tend to put these people where only God should be in our lives. These people ought to remind us, "We, too, are human." How many people become estranged from Christianity when they find their pastor is also a human being? (Pastors frequently forget this, too!).

#### FORGETTING HUMAN NATURE

In our society, we often demand that leaders — spiritual and otherwise — be something more than human beings. To do is really quite blasphemous. While it is true that these people often fail us, we also fail our Lord in giving these people the place that belongs solely to him.

IN MY ECONOMICS CLASS, THEY SAY THAT SUPPLY AND DEMAND, ESTABLISHES THE PRICE, ONE IS PAID FOR A PRODUCT.



DAVE CARPENTER

WELL, WHOEVER MADE UP THAT RULE, WAS NEVER INVOLVED IN AGRICULTURE.



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