

Lancaster Farming

OPINION

A Reassuring Presence

In a country awash in fads and technological changes of every kind that frequently die before they ever are accepted, there is one constant and reassuring presence in our society.

American agriculture is an industry as old as our country and one of the most productive in the world. This industry of 20 million people is more than tradition. It is a key element of our economy and something we can never take for granted. Yet during these days of anti-farm campaigns, some of us have forgotten about the importance of agriculture in our daily lives.

We've forgotten the average American farmer now produces food and fiber for 128 other people, both here and overseas. We've forgotten that American agriculture is one of the world's largest commercial industries. And, we've forgotten that we spend less than 10 percent, on the average, of our disposable income on food, compared with as much as 60 to 70 percent in some other countries.

In short, our society has forgotten that U.S. agriculture is a gem of productivity, unparalleled for its quality, safety, abundance and price.

Sure, agriculture isn't perfect, but it is working every day to improve its products and practices. It is continuing to research products that will provide an even more healthful, safer and affordable food supply. It is continuing to discover new, environmentally sound production practices. And, it will continue to feed a population that is growing dramatically every year.

A picture of American agriculture today shows a productive and stable industry continuing to evolve. A picture of the industry 20 years from now shows agriculture much the same and better. Given its established and successful track record, should we have any doubts?

Farm Calendar

Saturday, September 28
Woodlot Management Workshop For Forest Landowners, Pa. College of Technology, Earth Science Center, Montgomery, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

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

Sunday, September 29
Eastern National Livestock Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, Md., thru Oct. 1.

Monday, September 30

Tuesday, October 1

Lancaster Co. Farmers' Association annual banquet, Leola Family Restaurant, 6:45 p.m.
Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative Association annual meeting, Sheraton U. Inn, Syracuse, N.Y., 1 p.m.-4:30 p.m.; banquet at Goldstein Auditorium, Syracuse U. Student Center, Syracuse, 6:30 p.m.

No-till meeting, Sheraton Jetport, Allentown, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Lebanon Co. Extension annual meeting, Schaefferstown Fire Hall, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 2

New Holland Farmer's Fair, New

Holland, thru Oct. 5.
No-till meeting, Harbor Inn, Philipsburg, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Susquehanna River Basin meeting, Pa. Game Commission Headquarters, Elmerston Ave., Harrisburg, 10 a.m.

Thursday, October 3
Keystone International Livestock Show, Harrisburg, thru Oct. 7.

No-till meeting, Days Inn Conference Center, Butler, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Friday, October 4
Keystone International Livestock Show, Harrisburg, thru Oct. 7.

Saturday, October 5
Keystone International Livestock Show, Harrisburg, thru Oct. 7.

Elk Co. Town and Country Day, Sunday, October 6
National 4-H Week

Keystone International Livestock Show, Harrisburg, thru Oct. 7.

Herding Dog Classic, Mifflin Co. Youth Park, Reedsville, 8 a.m.

Monday, October 7
National 4-H Week

Keystone International Livestock Show, Harrisburg.

Manheim Community Farm Show, Manheim, thru Oct. 11.

Holidaysburg Community Fair,



NOW IS THE TIME
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Learn About Constructed Wetlands
On Tuesday, October 8, Dr. Donald Hammer of the Tennessee Valley Authority will be discuss-

Holidaysburg, thru Oct. 10.

Tuesday, October 8
National 4-H Week

Production Nursery Bus Tour, Western Pa., thru Oct. 9.

Pa. Holstein Association membership activities committee meeting, State College, 10:30 a.m.

Production concerns swine meeting, Country Table Restaurant, Mount Joy, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

"Ways To Grow" Satellite Conference, Red Schoolhouse, Honesdale, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Nursery Educational Bus Tour, Indiana Co., thru Oct. 9.

Wednesday, October 9
National 4-H Week

Lancaster Farmland Trust Preserving Land Conference, Millersville University, Gordinier Conference Center, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Nursery Educational Bus Tour, Indiana Co.

Thursday, October 10
National 4-H Week

Unionville Community Fair, Unionville, thru Oct. 12.

1991 Annual Fall Conference for Bovine Practitioners, Holiday Inn, Frederick, Md., thru Oct. 11.

Pa. Council of Cooperatives annual meeting, Days Inn Penn State, State College, thru Oct. 11.

Pa. Holstein Association youth committee meeting, Pa. Holstein Office, State College, 10:30 a.m.

Hal F. Doran retirement recognition, Days Inn Penn State, State College, reception 5:30 p.m., dinner 6:15 p.m.

PEMA luncheon meeting, Olde Hickory Inn, Lancaster.

Friday, October 11
National 4-H Week

Eastern Pa. 4-H Beef Lamb Show and Sale, Allentown Fairgrounds, show 2:30 p.m., sale Oct. 12, 10 a.m.

(Turn to Page A19)

ing constructed wetlands as a method to dispose of animal wastes. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the basement meeting room of the Farm and Home Center in Lancaster.

Constructed wetlands are designed and built similar to natural wetlands to treat wastewater. They consist of a shallow depression in the ground with a level bottom. The flow is controlled in constructed wetlands so the water is spread evenly among the wetland plants. Controlling the flow allows natural processes to occur and clean the wastewater more efficiently. Constructed wetlands may be an alternative for farmers with lagoons.

Hammer is one of the world's leading authorities on constructed wetlands. He has conducted a lot of research in this area and has written and lectured extensively on the subject. Plan now to attend this important meeting on a possible alternative for handling livestock wastewater.

To Consider

Hospital Pen Management

Chester Hughes, extension livestock agent, reminds us the hospital area of your feedlot may be as important to cattle recovery as your diagnosis and treatment program.

A good hospital facility should provide shelter and convenient

access to feed and water. The pens should be uncrowded and easily accessible from the treatment chute. Proper sanitation of treatment equipment, pens, water troughs, feed bunks, and hay racks will prevent unnecessary infection and give your cattle a better chance of recovery.

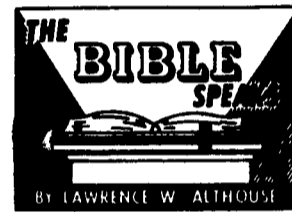
By penning according to disease problems and cleaning waterers daily, you reduce the likelihood of creating additional infection. Cattle in your hospital facility should receive good quality hay free choice and a nutrient and energy dense feed ration.

To Keep Cows Bred

One of the key areas of profitability in livestock is having animals bred at the right time. Each month an animal is open is costing you income in the future. This is especially true for dairy cows.

It is estimated each missed heat period will cost the dairy farmer about \$100. You should be focusing on getting cows bred. Feed cows properly to keep them in good flesh. Keep cows healthy and free of uterine infections. Maintain heat expectancy charts and observe heat diligently.

Use proper inseminating techniques and check cows for pregnancy. Taking time each day to manage your breeding program will help you increase your income.



GOOD TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Background Scripture: Acts 15:1-35.

Devotional Reading: Galatians 5:25-6:10.

Because Paul fails to mention the Jerusalem conference in his epistles, there are those who question if it ever occurred. That question is beyond my competence, but I can say that if it took place along the lines Luke describes, this even could well serve as a model for handling conflicts in the church.

There was a time when I thought that there should be no conflicts in the church. I have come to realize that that is unrealistic. As we reminded ourselves in our examination of Acts 14, we are all human beings, not gods, nor God. So long as we are human we will sin and there will be conflicts among us.

HANDLING CONFLICTS

The key, then, is not whether there will be conflicts in the church, but whether we are Christian enough to resolve those conflicts when they occur. Christians will stumble and fall, but they will

also get up and walk again. Unfortunately, in too many churches, people forget to get up after they have fallen.

Although the conflict that concerned Antioch is not something that would concern us today, we can understand why it was so troubling to them. Did Gentile converts first have to become Jews? There were Jewish Christians from Judea who were coming to Antioch and telling the converts that this was essential.

They could have had a real knock-down, drag-out battle over this, splitting the church between two groups who decide to go their own way. That's what happens so often today. A large church in our neighborhood recently lost 2,000 members over such a dispute.

LISTENING CAREFULLY

But note how the people of Antioch and the leaders in Jerusalem handled this. First, the church at Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem to present the matter. The leadership listened carefully to these men: "The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter" (15:6). After prayerful consideration, they worked out a compromise. Then they wrote a letter to be personally delivered to the Antioch church, saying "For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and us to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things..." (15:28).

When Christians can seek first the Holy Spirit and then compromise as they did, conflicts can be healed.

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

