



OPINION

A Very Good Time To Write A Letter Of Appreciation For FFA

National recognition will be given to FFA members from across the nation this week, as the world's largest annual youth convention is held in Kansas City, MO. We're talking about the 64th National FFA Convention where more than 24,000 FFA members, guests and supporters meet for action-packed sessions and addresses by top speakers from the fields of agriculture, government and entertainment.

The keynote speaker on the program is none other than George Bush, president of the United States. But other speakers are also impressive. Carolyn Suzanne Sapp, 1992 Miss America; Captain Gerald Coffee, former POW; Scott McKain, former national FFA secretary; and Jack Parnell, former Deputy Secretary of Agriculture; to name a few of the speakers. In addition, the participants have the opportunity to meet their young peers from all 50 states, Guam, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Of course, many awards will be given at the national level. And new national officers will be named. And while this one convention is important in the life of the National FFA Association, it's the every day activities of the 7,744 local chapters preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture that is really important.

In many local school districts, the FFA program is under attack from urban sentiments and budget restraints. But when you consider the importance of agriculture to the national economy, and the education received by the 382,748 national members, the FFA chapters across the country deserve better support from all segments of the public.

Now is the time to write a letter of appreciation for your local FFA chapter. This letter should be sent to the school board president, the supervising principal, and any other opinion leader in your school district. With the national convention in the news, it's a very good time to write this letter.



NOW IS THE TIME
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Keep Guns Away From Children

The past week I have read two incidents where small children have accidentally killed family members with a gun. In both cases the children thought the gun was a toy.

This reminds us the importance of keeping guns under lock and key and away from children. Also, we need to teach children to respect guns and the proper procedure for handling guns.

With hunting season here, take time to properly store your guns when not hunting and never allow children to play with your guns. Taking a few extra precautions now could prevent a serious accident and even the loss of a loved one.

Benefits of Winter Cover Crops

Cover crops have been grown for many years to protect soils from winter rains. When crops such as corn, soybeans, and tobacco are harvested, the soil is unprotected during the winter months, when much soil erosion may take place.

Cover crops also provide additional organic matter for soil tilth improvement when plowed down in the spring. A recent advantage associated with the growing of cover crops is the reduction in the amount of nitrogen which will leach in the soil.

Remember, nitrogen is only leachable in the nitrate form. Nitrates are formed from other sources of nitrogen during the growing season by soil microbes.

Tuesday, November 12

Appalachian Regional Fruit School thru Nov. 14.
Lancaster Co. Holstein banquet, Hoffman Building, Quarryville, 7 p.m.
Penn State Tax Institute, Butler, thru Nov. 13.
Schuylkill Co. Estate Planning Workshop, 7 p.m.-10 p.m.
Showcase of Sustainable Ag, Holiday Inn, Columbus, Ohio, thru Nov. 13.
North American International

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At the end of the growing season there are unused nitrates in the soil. Cover crops may reduce that amount by up to 120 pounds. Also, cover crops use other plant nutrients and provide an excellent spring feed for livestock. Do not forget the important role cover crops may play in developing a nutrient management plan and protecting water quality.

To Consider Restructuring Your Business

The current economic situation forces all businesses to reexamine themselves and find ways to become more competitive. This is especially true for our farms.

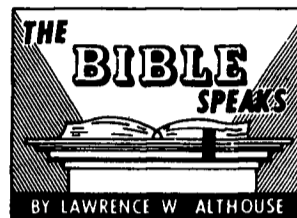
This is called strategic planning. Strategic planning involves finding the answers to many questions. These questions include: 1. What are our strengths? 2. Where can we improve our operations? 3. What things do we need to do to become more profitable? 4. How are we

going to pass the business to the next generation? 5. What records do we need to keep? 6. What will be the consumer demands for the next 10 years? and 7. What type of activities should the farm be involved in?

These and other questions start helping you to focus on what your farm will look like in the year 2000. By developing a plan to restructure your farm now and then starting to implement it will help you stay competitive.

The business environment is changing at a faster rate than ever. The successful farms will be the ones that identify shifts in consumer demands and make the necessary adjustments. As you develop your plan, take advantage of the help available through your banker, farm and community organizations, cooperative extension, readings, and meetings.

Feather Prof's Footnote: Nothing is impossible for the person who does not have to do it.



WHEN LIFE ISN'T FAIR
November 10, 1991

Background Scripture: Acts 21:17-40; 22:25 through 23:11.

Devotional Reading: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10.

Life is often full of irony. We often assume that if we do rightly, things will generally work out with some degree of fairness. Intellectually, we know that isn't necessarily true, but at some deep, gut level, that expectation is often indelibly recorded and becomes dominant in our expectations.

We are surprised to find that in situations where we have not done rightly — or as rightly as we might have done — we sometimes are spared the penalty or consequences we know that fairness demands. That's what makes it seem so unfair when, having done rightly in a particular situation, it still turns out badly for us.

Several years ago, I was entrusted with the management of some assets for a member of my family. There have been times in my life when I have been careless or stupid, but in this particular responsibility I did my best and my best was productive of good results. Nevertheless, I have been penalized for doing the job I was asked to do and I have repeatedly complained, "It isn't fair! It just isn't fair!"

GOOD PEOPLE, BAD DEALS

And it isn't fair — but I am always reminded that life is not fair and no one has ever promised that it would be. There are lots of times when good people get bad deals. And there is never any guarantee that, if we do rightly, we will be rewarded or even receive equit-

able treatment. So, when that happens — when life is not fair — how do we handle it?

There is irony in that, although there were times when Paul clearly acted or spoke in a way that was sure to give offense to the Jews, in Acts 22 and 23 Paul is doing all the right things. Upon arrival in Jerusalem, he reports on his mission to the elders of the church there. When the elders advise him to demonstrate his respect for the law by joining four men who have taken a vow to perform the Jewish purification rite. They assure him: "Thus all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told about you but that you yourself live in observance of the law" (21:24b).

SUPPOSING WRONGLY

Paul does all the right things, but it still turns out unfairly. Although he had not taken any Greeks into the temple area — an act punishable by death — some of his foes assume that he did: "For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple" (21:29). When a riot breaks out and Paul is beaten, Roman soldiers, assuming that Paul is an Egyptian rebel bent upon revolt, take him into custody. Then, when rioting breaks out again, the tribune, not knowing that Paul was a Roman citizen, has him scourged to extract evidence from him. This is unjust because it is not legal to scourge an unconvicted Roman citizen.

How does Paul handle all of these injustices? He informs the tribune of his citizenship and tries to reason with the mob. In other words, he does what he can, but he doesn't fly into a rage or fall into a depression because he is being treated unfairly. He doesn't like it, and he'll do whatever he can to get justice, but he knows his injustice is because of his commitment to Christ and he will not give up his commitment — even if it means being treated unfairly.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, November 9

Lancaster Co. 4-H Dairy Awards Presentation, Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.
North American International Livestock Expo, Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center, Louisville, thru Nov. 22.
Susquehanna Co. 4-H Dairy Achievement Night, Montrose Presbyterian Church, 8 p.m.
FFA National Convention, Kansas City, Mo.
Groundwater Leadership Seminar, Hazelton Campus, Penn State, 9 a.m.
Southeast Livestock Leader Training, Berks Co. Ag Center, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, November 10

Showcase of Sustainable Ag, Holiday Inn, Columbus, Ohio, thru Nov. 13.
North American International Livestock Expo, Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center, Louis-

ville, thru Nov. 22.

Monday, November 11

Veteran's Day
Poultry Management and Health Seminar, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, noon.
York/Adams Dairy Herd Reproductive Workshop, 4-H Center, Bair Station, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Penn State Tax Institute, Edinboro, thru Nov. 12.
Holstein steer meeting #2, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Sheep management meeting, Montoursville Vo-Ag Building, 7:30 p.m.
Central Dairy 4-H, 4-H Center, 7:30 p.m.
Showcase of Sustainable Ag, Holiday Inn, Columbus, Ohio, thru Nov. 13.
North American International Livestock Expo, Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center, Louisville, thru Nov. 22.

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