



# OPINION

## Safety With Animals

Farm animals require proper care and management. Accidents associated with caring for and handling farm animals can hurt both people and animals, and cut into profits. Protect yourself by thinking safety each time you enter places where animals are kept.

- Wear protective clothing, footwear, gloves and headgear as the job demands.
- Provide good footing for handling operations. Keep floors and ramps clean and clutterfree.
- Train all workers in safe livestock handling.
- Have adequate restraining and handling facilities and equipment.
- Leave yourself an "out".
- Be careful with animals that are frightened, hurt, sick or have young. Be cautious around strange animals. Handle males, especially bulls, with respect.
- When treating or caring for sick or birthing animals, wear rubber gloves and other needed protective garb. Don't smoke or eat until you've washed and changed contaminated clothing. Practice good sanitation. Protect yourself and others from animal-borne diseases (zoonoses) such as undulant fever, tetanus, salmonella, rabies and leptospirosis. Inoculate pets.
- Use the appropriate respirator when working in confined housing to protect against organic dusts and other air pollutants, and when performing maintenance or cleaning jobs which cause dust. Use a self-contained breathing device when entering confined spaces where toxic gases may be present. Ventilate such spaces as much as possible before entering.
- Protect children by keeping them out of animal facilities, bins, silos and other hazardous areas. Be safety-conscious when working with animals.

## Farm Calendar

### Saturday, February 1

- Delmarva Equine Seminar, Chesapeake Community College, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Ephrata Area Young Farmer's Association annual banquet, Mt. Airy Fire Hall.
- Chester 4-H livestock banquet, Devereaux Soleil Farms, Glenmoore, 6:30 p.m.
- Kidding Seminar, Delaware Valley Milk Goat Association, Boyertown Borough Hall, Boyertown, 1:30 p.m.
- Mercer County pesticide core update, extension office, 9 a.m.-noon.

### Sunday, February 2

- 27th annual Penn-Del ISA Shade Tree Symposium, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey.
- PDA pesticide applicator testing, York Pleasant Acres, 8 a.m.-noon.
- Dairy Herd Reproductive Workshop, UNILEC Building, DuBois, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., repeats Feb. 10.
- Keystone Cornucopia, Harrisburg Hilton, 6 p.m.

### Monday, February 3

- Farm Income Tax Review and Update, Huntingdon Extension Office, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
  - Clearfield Co. Conservation District Multi-Service Center, Clearfield, 3:30 p.m.
- ### Tuesday, February 4
- Genetics Workshop, Rostraver Grange.
  - York Co. Soil Fertility Workshop, Pleasant Acres, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
  - Capitol Region Turf/Ornamental School, Farm Show Complex, thru Feb. 5.
  - Part-Time Farming for Profit, UNILEC Building, DuBois, 7 p.m.-9 p.m., repeats Feb. 11, 18, and March 3.
  - Beef Evaluation Evening, Midway Diner, Reading, 5:30 p.m.
  - Lancaster Co. Cattle Feeder's Day, Farm and Home Center, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
  - South Jersey 1992 Dairy Conference and Trade Show, Elmer Grange Hall, 6:45 p.m.-11 p.m.
  - Pennsylvania Young Farmer Association Winter Conference, Holiday Inn, Grantville, thru Feb. 6.
  - Mercer Co. Pasture Workshop,



## NOW IS THE TIME

By John Schwartz  
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### To Protect Electronic Equipment

The past several years has seen a big increase in the use of electronic equipment on the farm.

Many farmers are using computers and do not even know it. Computers are monitoring the environment in poultry and swine houses by controlling the fans, heaters, and even the curtains.

Feeders are being controlled by computers. With this increase use of electronic components, farmers need to be concerned about protecting this equipment from power surges, spikes, and noise.

The equipment to protect your electronic components is relatively inexpensive compared to the cost of replacing damaged computers and other electronic devices. You should be looking for surge protection that will handle at least 210 joules (amount of energy device will handle before it fails), response time of less than or equal to 1 nanosecond, EMI/RFI filtering, multistage layer of defense (at least 3), and maximum clamping rating of 330 volts (maximum voltage allowed to get through the device).

By providing adequate surge and noise protection now, you will be helping to prevent a major repair bill in the future.

### To Follow Withdrawal Times

Drug residues continue to be a major consumer food safety issue. To maintain consumer confidence in our food products, we must make sure all antibiotics are used correctly.

Today's testing procedures are able to detect smaller and smaller traces of drug residues. If you must use an antibiotic, make sure you

Extension Center, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Ohio Fruit and Vegetable Growers, Toledo, Ohio, thru Feb. 6.

### Wednesday, February 5

Vegetable meeting, Washingtonville.  
Dairy Breeding Workshop, Rostraver Grange.  
Bucks-Montgomery Dairy Day, Family Heritage Restaurant,

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read the label and follow all directions.

The keys are: make sure the drug is licensed for the animal you are treating, the proper dosage is used, and withdrawal time is followed. Keep a written record of the animal treated, lot number and name of drug used, dosage given, and dates and times the drug was administered.

By using antibiotics only when needed, in the proper dosage, and following withdrawal times, we are helping to protect our markets. All it takes is one misuse of drugs or chemicals to cause people to stop buying your product and create large economic losses.

### To Be The Best

Difficult economic times, like we are now experiencing, force the best to become better and the good to go out of business. This is especially true in our highly competitive agricultural industry.

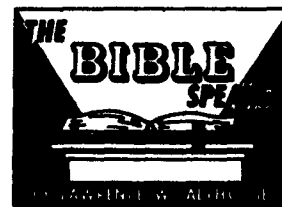
Whether you are a grain, dairy, pork, or poultry farmer — independent or contract producer — you must be looking for ways to become better.

This means spending more time with your animals and crops. Making sure the little things are getting done on time and correctly will improve performance and income.

Such items as having cows bred on time, poultry house warmed up before chicks or poults are placed, frequent gathering of eggs, ventilation system properly adjusted, and the equipment and buildings cleaned and properly maintained all help in staying competitive.

Look for and demand better ways to do things. Set higher standards for yourself and work to achieve them. By following the 4-H motto of "To make the best better," you will be insuring your place in farming.

*Feather Prof's Footnote: "Take time to be friendly — it is the road to happiness."*



## THE LIMITS OF LOVE

Background Scripture: Luke 10:25-37.

Devotional Reading: Mathew 22:34-46.

Have you ever noticed that the parables that Jesus tells seem to have nothing to do with what people believe? The parables always teach us how to live our daily lives. Yet, very often these very practical teachings on how to live have a great deal to do with what we believe.

This is what we see in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. It begins with a question about belief from a lawyer or scribe -- one learned in the religious law: "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Luke tells us that he did this "to put him to the test." He hoped that Jesus would give an unorthodox answer that would spark a doctrinal argument. But Jesus refused to be trapped and turned the question back on the scribe: "What is written in the law? How do you read?" Anxious to show his expertise, the scribe replied with a quotation taken from Deuteronomy 6:4 and Leviticus 19:18: "You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbor as yourself." In response, Jesus says: "You have answered right; do this, and you will live."

### KNOWING & DOING

But the scribe once more seeks to embroil Jesus in a theological controversy: "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus could very well have answered him, with a oneliner: your neighbor is anyone needing your help whom you can help. Instead, however, he tells a parable that says that and more. Remember, the scribes prided

themselves on knowing the law. But in the parable the "hero" is a Samaritan. As a lay person he would "know" far less than a scribe, and as a Samaritan even what little he "knew" would be wrong!

By the careful way in which Jesus crafted his story, he discreetly showed that it is more a matter of doing than knowing. The priest who "passed by on the other side" certainly knew what to do, but didn't. The Levite also knew the right answers, but he too refrained from doing what he could. All Jews knew that Samaritans were all wrong in their religious views. For one thing, they believed the right place to worship God was on Mt. Gerizim, not Mt. Zion in Jerusalem. Yet, although the Samaritan was guilty of "wrong beliefs," he did exactly the right thing: he helped the robbery victim, despite the fact that the victim was a Jew, a sworn enemy of any Samaritan.

### LET'S BE REASONABLE

In a sense, the scribe had asked, Jesus to say something about the limits of loving one's neighbor. We can understand that because we too often wonder if love doesn't have some reasonable limits. Obviously, we must help someone in our own family who is in need. We all "know" that, although we may not all act upon it. The same is true of our friends. But what about the family next door whom we hardly know and actually don't much like -- they, with their loud stereos and dog who seems to like our yard a lot more than theirs?

And what about the people on the south end of town who live in perpetual squalor and unemployment? What about those Hare Krishnas who always accost us when we go to the airport? And even if all the others are my "neighbors," surely that doesn't include Saddam Hussein!

The answer is no less hard for us than it was for the scribe: in Christ there are no limits to love.

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

**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  
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