



# OPINION

## Old Fashioned Method To Solve Modern Problem

For a long time poultrymen have wrestled with the problem of how to dispose of dead birds from their operations. If the losses come when the birds are small, the problem involves less volume. But large carcasses create more headaches.

As Lancaster County Agent John Schwartz says, "Rendering is less of an option in recent times."

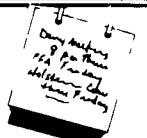
In addition, to bury the dead birds causes environmental problems that make this option illegal. And incineration causes odors and brings complaints from the neighbors.

A report on page one of this issue tells of the old method of composting and how one poultryman has solved the problem. Floyd High, a Lancaster County farmer, uses this method successfully.

In the composting process, not only do the bones and feathers disintegrate, but the heat that is generated is of high enough temperature to destroy all the viruses and diseases. A very low cost method, composting works in large or small operations.

We believe composting of dead birds in poultry operations is a true case of an old-fashioned method that has great merits to solve a modern-day problem.

### Farm Calendar



#### Saturday, February 8

Pa. Junior Holstein Convention, Sheraton Inn, Warrendale, thru Feb. 9.

Sustainable Ag Conference, Keller Conference Center, Penn State U.

Cumberland Co. Holstein Association annual meeting, Penn Township Fire Hall, Huntsdale, 10:45 a.m.

#### Sunday, February 9

Pa. Junior Holstein Convention, Sheraton Inn, Warrendale.

#### Monday, February 10

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

Hay Auction, Westmoreland Co. Cooperative Extension, 11 a.m.

PNA Nursery and Landscape Conference, Hershey Convention Center, thru Feb. 13.

Dairy Herd Reproductive Workshop, UNILEC Building, DuBois, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Atlantic Breeders Cooperative District 7 meeting, Penn Township Fire Hall, Huntsdale, 7:30 p.m.

Pasture Management Workshop, Days In Airport, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

ABC District 2 meeting, Felton Fire Hall, 7 p.m.

Agricultural Business Management Series, Corry Higher Education Council, 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

#### Tuesday, February 11

Lancaster Co. Crops Day, Farm

and Home Center, 8:30 a.m. Cecil Co. Dairy Day, Calvert Grange Hall, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Ag Chemical Safety Compliance Conference, Gettysburg Ramada Inn, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Swine producers meeting, Memorial Lutheran Church, Shippensburg, 1 p.m.

Pa. Frame Builders Conference, Friendship Fire Hall, Lebanon, thru Feb. 12.

Part-Time Farming for Profit, UNILEC Building, DuBois, 7 p.m.-9 p.m., repeats Feb. 18 and March 3.

Adams Co. Pork Producers meeting, Memorial Lutheran Church, Shippensburg, 1 p.m.

Bradford Co. Forage Day, Wysox Fire Hall, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Poultry management meeting, dead bird composting, Ephrata H.S. Ag Dept., 7:45 p.m.

Pa. Holstein Association Mifflin Co. annual meeting, Allensville Community Building, 7 p.m.

ABC District 1 meeting, Ontelaunee Grange Hall, Leesport, noon.

ABC District 2 meeting, West Fallowfield Christian School, 7 p.m.

ABC District 8 meeting, Conneburg Fire Hall, 10:30 a.m.

ABC District 9 meeting, Central H.S., Martinsburg, 7 p.m.

ABC District 14 meeting, The Barn Restaurant, Smithville, 7:30 p.m.

ABC District 15 meeting, Vernon



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

**To Increase Poultry Biosecurity**  
We are in the middle of a major Laryngotracheitis (LT) outbreak. This highly contagious viral disease reminds us of the importance of biosecurity.

If at all possible, do not visit other poultry farms, backyard poultry flocks, auctions selling poultry, or poultry exhibits. If you must visit these places, wear coveralls, hat and boots.

Disinfect your boots and place your clothing in a plastic bag. When you return home, wash your clothes using a disinfectant, shower, and change clothes before checking your own birds.

Do not allow other people to walk through your poultry house. Also, look for ways to reduce bird stress (temperature, ammonia, moisture, etc.).

By following good biosecurity and staying away from other birds, you will greatly reduce your chances of having a major disease outbreak.

**To Control Water Leaks**  
Water leaks in poultry houses are one of the most serious production problems we have. Water leaks cause wet manure which increase ammonia levels, odors, and flies.

The only way to remove moisture from a poultry house is through the ventilation system. By adding extra water to the house in the form of water leaks means you must move more air through the

Central Hose Co., Meadville, 7:30 p.m.  
ABC District 15 meeting, Auction House Restaurant, Middlefield, noon.  
ABC District 16 meeting, Asbury UM Church, Waterford, noon.  
Penn Jersey Bovine Reproductive School, Riverton Restaurant, thru Feb. 12.

**Wednesday, February 12**  
Veterinary Nutrition Forum, Days Inn, Lancaster, 6 p.m.  
Susquehanna and Wyoming counties Forage Day, Claverack Building, Montrose.  
Delmarva Corn/Soybean Confer-

(Turn to Page A31)

house.  
On cold days this is not very practical. In addition, salmonella could become a major problem. Bacteria needs moisture in order to grow. By keeping the poultry house dry you are reducing the opportunities for salmonella to grow. By taking care of water leaks right away, you are solving many problems.

#### To Prepare For Dry Weather

Historical weather data suggests that droughts appear in 25- to 30-year cycles. Based on this information, the 1990s could be the next drought years (dust bowl of the 1930s and the drought of mid-1960s).

We are seeing wells, springs, and streams at very low levels for this time of year. In addition, the subsoil is very dry.

We should be thinking about

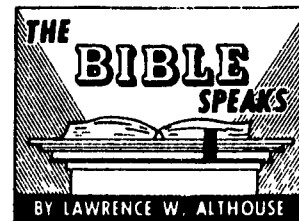
planning strategies in case we have another dry year. To compound the problem, we have more people living in the area and using more water per person than we did in the 1960s.

Water rationing could become a reality. Some items to consider are reducing number of animals on farm (by using one less chicken per cage or by culling low producing or marginal cattle), looking for ways to reduce water waste and use, locating new water supplies, and storing water.

Attention should be given to crop selection, planting times, and tillage methods.

You might want to consider purchasing crop insurance. By doing some planning now, you could reduce your losses if we experience another dry year.

*Feather Prof's Footnote: "Take time to laugh — it is the music of the soul."*



#### WHO IS #1?

Background Scripture: Matthew 20:12-28.

Devotional Reading: John 13:12-17

We live in a world where being "number one" is extremely important. That is how success is measured. As we climb the ladder of our vocation or avocation, we become more successful — at least as society reckons it. As Jesus reckons it, however, success may have nothing at all to do with society's measurements. As in almost everything else, the teachings of Jesus about being "number one" are radically different from what the world teaches us.

Once again, we Christians are somewhat schizoid on this score. We embrace Jesus' teachings on this matter, but we generally run our churches by the world's standards. Who is successful in the church? The clergyman who pastors the largest church or becomes bishop. The layman who wields the most influence and holds the highest positions of lay power.

I have no aspirations of ever being a bishop. Nevertheless, if tomorrow I were informed that I had just been elected bishop, I would certainly feel successful beyond my greatest expectations. The same would be true if I were offered "the largest pulpit in Methodism." That would be success, wouldn't it?

**LORDING IT OVER**  
That standard of success has been with us a long time. It was this standard that led the mother of James and John of Zebedee to ask Jesus, "Command that these two sons of mine may sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom" (Matthew 20:21). What mother wouldn't want that

for her sons? Jesus recognized this human desire: "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them." Having the power to "Lord it over" someone else has always been the world's measure of success.

Until Jesus came, saying: "It shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whosoever would be first among you must be your slaves; even as the Son of man came not to be served but to serve..." (20:26-28). Once again, Jesus recognizes the human desire to be great or first. He does not criticize James, John and their mother for wanting to be first in the kingdom of heaven next to Jesus. What he does do, however, is to give them a radically different way of being the greatest: by being a servant to others.

Once again, Jesus is looking to the long run, instead of the short run. In the short run, "lording it over" others seems to be the way to success. But, in the long run, that doesn't work or count for real success. What works in the long run is the willingness to serve, rather than to be served. Only in serving others can we truly be "number one."

#### WILLING TO SERVE

Writing on this is a very uncomfortable experience for me, for I know how likely I am to judge success, not by the standards of Jesus, but by those of the secular world. I believe with all my mind that a Christian must be willing to serve others as Christ did, but I don't very often live by those beliefs. If someone came to me today, not to tell me that I had been elected bishop, but to inform me that God had chosen for me the servant's role in a specific situation, could I feel that same degree of satisfaction? Could I view this as a superior means to becoming "number one."

Could you?

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