



OPINION

The Real Investment

The annual fund raising banquet of the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation is set for Wednesday, April 22, 1992, in Hershey at the convention center. For the first time in seven years, ticket sales are ahead of the previous year. Sales are evaluated weekly in relation to the same time frame for the previous years. Banquet co-chairmen, Tom Bross III, Don Horn, and Scott Sechler reported this exceptional progress at a meeting in Lancaster in late March.

The fund raising event annually caps the events of the Federation and brings together a broad spectrum of poultry industry people. The money's raised keep the Federation running for the next year.

While sales are ahead, there are still previous and potential industry people who have not yet purchased tickets for the banquet. The banquet features country music star Ronnie Milsap and the evening begins with a social at 5:30 p.m.; dinner at 7:00 p.m. and entertainment from 9 to 10 p.m.

And while the banquet is a worthwhile reason to purchase tickets, the support of the Federation is even more important. Anyone in the poultry business will want to contribute by ordering tickets. The banquet is a nice dividend, but the real investment is in the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, April 11

Adams County Beef Ball, New Oxford Social Club, 6 p.m.
 Learning Lamb Carcass Evaluation, Live Evaluation, 4-H Center, Bair, Sheep and Wool Festival 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
 75th Little International Livestock Exposition, Penn State Ag Arena.
 York County Sheep and Wool Festival, 4-H Center, Bair, 8:30 a.m.

Sunday, April 12 Palm Sunday

Monday, April 13

Adams County Beef Ball, South Mountain Fairgrounds, Arendtsville, 6 p.m.
 Adams County Dairy Promotion Committee, Josie Hess Farm, 91 Whisler Road, Gettysburg, 7:30 p.m.
 4-H Dairy Bowl, Berks County 4-H Center, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 14

Urban Forestry Workshop, Penn State University, Wilkes-Barre Campus, Technical Center Room 101, 8 a.m.-4:15 p.m.
 Lehigh County Small-Scale Farming Workshop, Lehigh County Ag Center, 7:30 p.m.
 Wetlands Seminar, Penn State Fruit Laboratory, Biglerville, 7 p.m.
 First spring spray meeting for fruit growers, Edenville Community Center, 7:30 p.m.
 Agricultural Business Today, Schuylkill Chamber of Com-

merce Building, Pottsville, 7-9 p.m.

Wednesday, April 15

Peach and Young Apple Pruning and Training, Penn-Vermont Fruit Farm, Rolling Hills Road, Bedminster, 1-3 p.m.

Thursday, April 16

Ag Issues Forum, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim 7:30 a.m.-9 a.m.
 Learning Lamb Carcass Evaluation, Godfrey Bros. Meats, Loganville, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 17 Good Friday

Southwestern Pa. Pork Producers meeting, Alwine Civic Center, Greensburg, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 18

18th annual Freestate Invitational Spring Sale, Frederick Fairgrounds, Frederick, Md., 1:30 p.m.
 Easter ham and chicken dinner, Berks County 4-H Community Center, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Franklin County apple queen contest and banquet, Shady Grove Community Center, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 19 Happy Easter!

Monday, April 20

Farm Accident and Rescue Seminar, Memorial Hall, Emporium, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, April 21

Delmarva Poultry Booster Banquet, Wicomico Youth and Civic Center, Salisbury, Md.
 Lehigh County Small-Scale Farm-

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NOW IS THE TIME
 By John Schwartz
 Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Not Forget The Cows

The arrival of spring is accompanied by a rash of farm activities. These include tilling the land, applying lime and fertilizer, hauling manure, seeding crops, and making hay.

Along with these spring jobs is the need to continue your herd management jobs. Identifying and balancing these job priorities becomes a juggling act during rush seasons of the year.

The dairy herd is the main source of income for a dairy farmer. Therefore, herd management should not be shortchanged during the spring rush season.

Rather than neglecting the herd or hiring untrained workers to perform herd chores, keep the best cow people near the barn and give them ample time to manage the herd.

Having the field work done in a timely fashion is also very important. Therefore, if necessary, hire someone to help with routine barn chores or field work so you will have your best people handling the critical spring planting jobs.

Also, you might want to consider using the services of custom operators for certain jobs.

To Jump Start Equipment The Right Way

Vehicles and machinery that have been idle during winter may be difficult to start. If you need to jump start a piece of equipment that has a weak or discharged battery, be sure to follow these safety tips provided by Sam Steel, director of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Safety Council.

First, connect the positive cable marked with a "+" or red clamps to the positive terminal of the weakened battery. Then clamp the other end of the positive cable to the positive post of the charged battery.

Next, connect the negative cable to the negative post of the good battery. Finally make the last connection of the negative cable to the engine block or frame of the non-starting vehicle.

By keeping the clamps of the weakened battery separated, one

reduces the possibility of unwanted stray sparks causing an explosion or fire.

When jump starting a vehicle, always wear safety glasses to protect your eyes from acid or battery parts in the event of an explosion.

Once the vehicle is started, remove the cables in reverse order. Be careful not to allow the cables to contact each other when removing them.

To Be Considerate Of Neighbors

Spring starts many outside activities for both farmers and their urban neighbors. As we start our spring activities, try to be considerate of your neighbors.

Handle manure prudently. Pick the time for spreading manure when your neighbors are unlikely to be outside. Avoid spreading on weekends and holidays. Develop

good public relations.

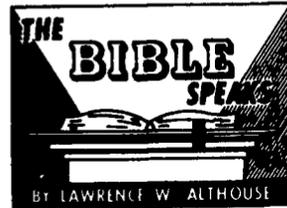
Nuisance complaints often stem from a lack of goodwill and poor image. Share their concerns and show them the steps you are taking to alleviate them.

Avoid unsightliness by improving the landscape of your farm. Remove any unsightliness that might suggest that your farm could be a source of odors, flies, or other cause of nuisance.

Plant trees or shrubs to screen areas. Make sure these trees are at least 50 feet away from buildings to allow adequate air movement.

A small investment in landscaping may prevent more costly actions. Remember, legal fees and court costs are very expensive. Spending a little to be a good neighbor could be one of the best investments you make.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "If you refuse to accept anything but the best, you very often get it."



THE TRUTH
 April 12, 1992

Background Scripture: Mark 15:1-41.

Devotional Reading: Isaiah 53:1-12.

There are people I know who would be more kindly disposed toward Christianity if it weren't for the cross. Not the crosses in our church, you understand — those are beautifully gilded and bejeweled — but the cross so much as the crucifixion — that awful picture of Jesus dying in agony and shame. As one woman was overheard to say, "I don't like the crucifixion — it's so common!"

I can understand a little bit why some people find the cross so objectionable. I have been in great churches and cathedrals where every picture, every stained glass window, every statue seemed to perpetuate a crucifixion state of mind that twisted and distorted the Gospel from The Good News to perpetual Bad News. Some religious art has struck me as absolutely ghastly and not a few hymns.

GALLILEO & NEWTON

Yet, I know that the cross is central to Christianity because it dares to tell us the truth. Halford E. Luccock, a great professor of homiletics when I was a theological student, has written this commentary on Mark 15:24 — "And they crucified him."

According to the traditional story, Gallileo took a long and deep look at a swinging chandelier in a cathedral, and saw behind it the truth about the heavens, the movement of the earth. According to tradition, Newton took a long and deep look at an apple falling from a tree, and saw behind it the

truth of gravitation. So those who have taken a long and deep look at Calvary have seen behind it the truth about God and man.*

That is probably why we find the cross so unattractive and even repulsive because it tells us the truth about God and human beings. Some of us would rather live with our illusions than face up to unpleasant truths. Among these are the truth about what can happen to good people: they can end up on a cross. We would like to believe that living a good life was insurance against crosses, but it isn't. In fact, living by God's guidance may bring crosses closer. That isn't the way we'd design the world, if we were doing it, is it?

The cross also tells us the truth about a word we don't even like to use: sin. The cross tells us that sin destroys. The really horrible thing about Calvary is that it claimed the life of a good man, a man more completely dedicated to God's will than any other who ever lived. But the sinfulness of human nature nailed an innocent Jesus to a cross. Those of us who would like to think that people are getting better and better every day — or at least some people — don't like what the cross says about the depths to which people can sink. **GOOD NEWS**

But, if the cross tells us the truth about humanity, it also tell us the truth about God and that is Good News! Humanity did the very worst that it could, crucifying an innocent man God's own Son, and Calvary proved that the worst that we can do is not equal to the best that God can do. God goes to the cross with us, but God is not used up by our crosses. His love overcomes the biggest and meanest crosses we can find.

Maybe it was that which caused the centurion on Calvary to say in admiration, "Truly this man was a son of God" (15:39). Watching Jesus on the cross, the truth about God was revealed to him as again and again it is revealed to us, so that the cross stands not as the enduring symbol of human depravity, but as the eternal sign of divine grace.

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