

Lancaster Farming

OPINION

During the last seven years, six workers on New York state farms were killed when they became entangled in self-unloading forage wagons. Most were youthful workers. Somehow, they missed the message that forage wagons are dangerous.

Prevention techniques are not complicated but are often ignored. The purpose of new safety devices on forage wagons is misunderstood and the devices are misused. Consider the following safety precautions recommended by John G. Pollock, Farm Safety Specialist at Cornell University.

Keep wagons well maintained. Workers climb into running units because of a breakdown. The urgency of keeping the haying operation going overrides the need to work safely. Preventive maintenance before the haying season can greatly reduce downtime. Conveyors, augers, and beaters should work smoothly, without excessive clatter. Moving parts and PTO drives should be shielded if possible. The safety trip bar should be operational.

The safety trip bar should not be used as a drive-control device. The trip bar is an emergency mechanism; it will not prevent accidents. It may reduce the severity of an injury but the trip bar is designed to work when an entanglement occurs. Using the trip bar as a drive-controller may give false security to workers believing it is acceptable to work close to the beaters when they are running. Always shut down the power to the wagon before working on or near any power shafts, pulleys, gears, augers, conveyors and especially the beaters.

Observe other wagon safety rules. Move wagons at reasonable speeds. Don't coast downhill. Avoid ditches, steep banks, and obstacles. Keep tires in good repair. Don't overload the wagon. Keep riders off wagons. Be cautious when hitching and unhitching wagons: block the wheels to prevent unwanted movement. Use a tractor large enough to provide proper braking for the loading of the wagon.

Equip heavy highway haulers with brakes. Saving some money when purchasing wagons and trailers through not buying brakes may be a fatal mistake. Listen carefully to the advice of the manufacturer and dealer. Brakes may not be required but they are smart business.

Be particularly safety conscious on public roads. Young workers often have the task of hauling wagons back and forth from field to storage facility. You must be confident that the worker is skilled and mature enough to handle the job. Know the laws and obey them. Use good road manners by staying in your lane. If traffic backs up behind you, pull over and stop to let it pass. Be courteous even if other drivers are not.



NOW IS THE TIME

By John Schwartz
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Increase Biosecurity

The recent laryngotracheitis (LT) outbreaks, and now the new bronchitis outbreak in chickens on the Eastern Shore, reminds us of the importance of good biosecurity programs.

Every poultry and livestock farmer should have a biosecurity program for their farm. This includes limiting visitors, requiring all visitors to put on clean clothes and hats and wear clean and disinfected footwear, and isolating all new animals before introducing them to the rest of your animals.

Also, you need to examine your own biosecurity program. Keep visits to other livestock and poultry farms to a minimum. Always wash, shower, and put on clean clothes before working with your animals.

Have a pair of shoes or boots that never leave your farm. This should be the footwear you put on to care for your animals.

By practicing good biosecurity, you will reduce the risk of introducing unwanted disease organisms on your farm.

To Buy Effective Fence Charger

How many miles an electric fence charger claims it can power has little to do with its ability to control livestock.

Most fence manufacturers apply a mile rating based on the fencer's theoretical ability to maintain 500

to 700 volts on a wire under laboratory conditions. Since it takes 2,000 to 3,000 volts to control livestock or 4,000 volts for sheep and predators, the number of miles on the fencer label has little to do with the real-life fence on your farm.

You may use the mile rating to compare one fence charger with another. A 20-mile fencer should be twice as powerful as a 10-mile fencer.

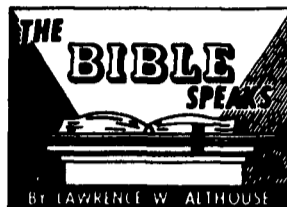
Low impedance fencers, which put out less voltage and more amperage than conventional fencers, are rated by joules. A joule (equal to a watt for one second) is a more meaningful rating for fencer effectiveness.

A one or two joule fencer is adequate for most livestock fences. A 5 to 12 joule fencer is recommended for sheep and predator fences.

To Prevent Environmental Mastitis
Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, reminds us the incidence of environmental mastitis usually increases in rainy seasons and in periods of warm, moist conditions. These infections are caused by coliform and strep non-ag bacteria. To help reduce these problems, many dairy farmers do not wash cows' udders prior to milking. Instead, they dry wipe the udder and dip the teats in a sanitizer solution. Thirty seconds later, they wipe the sanitizer off the teat with a clean towel and attach the milker unit.

It is also important to keep stall beds, alleys, and pens clean and to fence cows away from wet sloppy areas.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "People make the law, churches make the people."



THE
LIVING STONES
May 3, 1992

Background Scripture: I Peter 2:1-25.

Devotional Reading: Isaiah 62:1-23.

It seems to me that I've read something on the Saturday religious page of our newspaper about a few Christian rock bands that try to interpret the Gospel of Jesus Christ to young people through rock music. If I were contemplating such a ministry — and I'm not! I might be tempted to call my musical group "The Living Stones" (with perhaps some apologies to "The Rolling Stones").

There is a good Biblical precedent, I Peter 2:4,5 — "Come to him, to that living stone, rejected by men but in God's sight chosen and precious; and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house..." Peter uses an interesting analogy here in a passage that is sometimes summed up as "the stonemasonry of Christ." Actually, his analogy of a "living stone" seems an absolute contradiction. Stones are not living things. They are the very epitome of that which is without life. Peter is apparently aware of this contradiction and is using it knowingly to contrast Christ with the lifeless stones of the temple. For it is a "spiritual house" which we have in Christ, not a material one.

CHRIST'S "STONESHIP"
We still have some trouble with that today, don't we? When we speak of the church we are likely to think primarily of the building that houses a local congregation. Or, if not the church building, then at least the church as an organization or institution. But, no matter how beautiful the church building, or how admirable the church organization, we know that the true

Church APRIL of Jesus Christ is a living "spiritual house" composed of "a holy priesthood". The building gives us a good place to worship and teach and the organization helps us to equip and direct our ministries, but it is the living people of God who are the true Church.

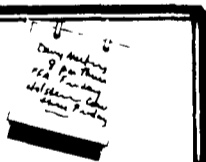
Peter expands on this analogy, reminding his readers that Jesus is the "cornerstone chosen and precious" in God's sight. The Church is built upon him and no one else, but this living cornerstone was "rejected by men" and he recalls Psalm 118:22, "The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner" (2:7). Christ is also likened to "A stone that will make men stumble, a rock that will make them fall" (2:8) and it is certainly true that for many people Jesus, the "living stone," has been a stumbling block" instead of a "cornerstone."

OUR "STONESHIP"
But Peter is also concerned that we be "like living stones... built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (2:5). To be in Christ's Church, then, is not a matter of qualifying by virtue of who we are, but what he wants of us. Too often, Christians act as if by being members of the church they thereby belong to a sanctified "ingroup." We are in the church, not to show the world how worthy we are, but so that God can use us for his purposes. We cannot afford to chortle:

*We are God's chosen few,
All others will be damned:
There is no place in Heaven
for you,
We can't have Heaven
crammed!*

So it is with humility and commitment, not pride, that we read: "...you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people..." These are not ranks to boast of, but jobs to be about. For we are all those things, not because of our great worthiness, but because God has a job for us to do: "that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness, into his marvelous light" (2:9)

Farm Calendar



Saturday, May 2

- Annual Spring Shorthorn Sale, Mercer 4-H Park.
- York County Goat Field Day, Rose Spenkle's Troubled Acres Farm, York/New Salem, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- The 19th annual Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, Md., 9 a.m.-6 p.m., thru May 3.
- 4-H County Council, Bradford Extension Office, 7:30 p.m.
- Keystone Select Limousin Sale, Greene County Fairgrounds, Waynesburg.

Sunday, May 3

- Sundae Sunday, Penn State.
- The 19th annual Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, Md., 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Monday, May 4

- Pa. Grange legislative banquet and afternoon workshops, Sheraton Inn, Harrisburg.
- 4-H Tractor Safety Certification Program, extension office, Towanda, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
- Hands on Approach to Erosion Control, Camp Lackawanna, Vasberg 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

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Farm Forum

Editor

I just sent in my vote to Dump the National Dairy Board. Our advertising campaign is an insult to our intelligence as dairy farmers. Nowhere on any dairy product is the fat free content shown. Four percent milk is 96% fat free. Four percent cottage cheese is 96% fat free. Ten percent ice cream is 90% fat free. My point is that consumers understand large numbers showing the fat or fat free content of the products they purchase. It doesn't take too much intelligence to see which numbers our diet oriented society will react

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