



# OPINION

## Take Action

Every year, the hog industry in the U.S. loses millions of dollars in decreased production from a single health problem...mange.

According to the American Association of Swine Practitioners, the effects of this insidious parasite are not as obvious as death loss, but mange does affect profitability in many hog herds.

If your pigs are mange infested at weaning, they may have lower weaning weights, and their rate of gain, feed efficiency and mortality rate can be quite poor. And weaner pigs with mange are especially susceptible to greasy pig disease, because of open wounds caused by scratching themselves. With a combination of mange and greasy pig disease, mortality can run as high as five to 10 percent if left unattended.

The most serious consequence of mange is reduced pig productivity and profits. Even low-level infestations can reduce feed efficiency in grower and finisher pigs, the veterinarian reports. In more severe cases, grower and finisher pigs infested with mange can require 10 to 12 percent more feed to gain the 200 pounds from 40 to 240 pounds. That gets to be a very expensive itch.

Mange can cause less obvious losses as well. A mange-free sow is not constantly irritated by the biting, burrowing mite, and will lay quietly for longer periods. This can result in less crushing of pigs. Milk production can be better and feed conversion can be improved.

The American Association of Swine Practitioners says you can reduce the obvious...and hidden...costs of mange. Take the first step today and have your veterinarian test your herd. Then take action against this costly parasite.



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

### To Protect Skin From Pesticides

Now that we are in the spring planting season, we need to remember to handle pesticides safely.

When pouring granular insecticides, stand sideward instead of downwind or upwind from the insecticide. If you keep the wind at your side, it will blow the dust away from you.

Based on a University of Illinois study, certain parts of your body absorb pesticides faster than other parts. Your scalp, forehead, and groin have the fastest absorption rate.

To avoid absorption, just cover up. Wear gloves, goggles, long sleeves, coveralls, or apron and a nonabsorbent plastic hat.

### To Reduce Exposure From Pesticides

The following are ways you may reduce your exposure to pesticides:

- Always read and follow label

## Farm Forum

### Editor:

Farmers Union recently held a series of meetings in rural communities and asked people to list their major concerns. Without exception, health care was always near the top of the list.

In urban and rural America, people are calling for health care reform. There are many reasons Farmers Union has called for a single payer national health care plan.

The Government Accounting Office estimates that \$67 billion in administrative costs could be saved by switching to a single payer plan. In this system, all citizens could receive quality health care regardless of their medical history or financial situation.

President Bush has suggested a series of tax credits to address the nation's health care situation. The Congressional Budget Office says that such a system would only help the people who already have insurance. Why should we settle for a band-aid, solution when a plan that would reduce costs and

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instructions.

- Keep application equipment in good working order, especially hoses and valves.

- Maintain good personal hygiene. Wash with soap and water after using pesticides and before eating, smoking, or using the toilet.

- Routinely shower or bathe after work. Remove clothing and shower quickly if you get splashed or sprayed with a pesticide.

- Wash clothing daily and do not overfill the washing machine.

- Use about 25 per cent more detergent for work clothes than for a regular load.

- You may use chlorine bleach, unless you have been applying ammonia-based fertilizers or certain other products. Check label directions before washing.

### To Prevent Ketosis In Dairy Cows

Rapid loss of flesh by cows in early lactations may lead to ketosis

and fatty livers.

This causes impaired kidney function, which results in lowered resistance to stress and disease, more reproductive problems, and lower milk production.

Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, offers the following ideas to help prevent these problems:

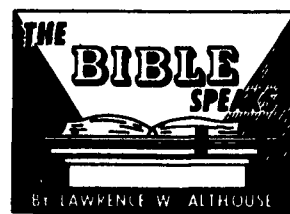
- Have cows on a good dry cow program and in proper flesh before calving.

- Have fresh feed and water readily available at all times and keep the mangers and waterers clean.

- Maximize dry matter and energy intake after calving. Do so gradually to avoid throwing cows off feed. Be sure they receive plenty of good quality forages.

- Keep the cow comfortable and minimize stress.

*Feather Prof's Footnote: "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." — Eleanor Roosevelt.*



**WANTED: A CLEAR CONSCIENCE**  
May 10, 1992

**Background Scripture:** I Peter 3:14 through 14:11.

**Devotional Reading:** Psalms 96:1-13.

One of the main things that people get wrong about being a disciple of Jesus Christ is on this question of suffering. Some people join the ranks of Christian disciples as a kind of insurance against having to suffer — either in the short or long run. Some of these people, then, are disillusioned when they find that Christian discipleship not only doesn't necessarily protect us against some types of suffering, but it may actually insure that we will suffer.

Essentially, we have three choices. First, we can try to avoid suffering by betraying our faith. That's what Peter did on the night when Jesus was betrayed: by denying that he even knew Jesus, he escaped suffering. Two, we can suffer deservedly for doing something wrong. Break a law or act unethically and there is usually a price to be paid. Lastly, we can hold fast to our faith, avoid wrongdoing, and suffer only for the sake of our faith. For Peter assures us: "...even if you suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed" (3:14).

### THE PRICE

Peter goes on to say, "For it is better to suffer for doing right, if that should be God's will, than for doing wrong" (3:17). Is he saying that it might be God's will for us to suffer? No, I think he is saying that it is God's will that we remain faithful even if it causes us suffering. This is what bothers some people — the thought of "being good" but still having to suffer. But why should that so surprise

us? Isn't this the example we have in Jesus, who suffered cruelly and died, "the righteous for the unrighteous." (3:18). Being the most righteous man ever did not save Jesus from suffering and death. If we are righteous, our righteousness will save us only from suffering that is deserved. Undeserved suffering, on the other hand, may be part of the price we have to pay to be faithful to Jesus Christ.

I have never believed that God means for us to suffer or causes it, but I do believe that God can use our suffering when it comes to us. So if we are made to pay a price for living as righteously as we can, we can also look for an opportunity to squeeze a blessing out of this suffering. This is why Peter says, "Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you..." (3:15b). Christians should not seek to suffer or go looking for it but, when it comes, we can make something worthwhile of it by making it an occasion for witness.

### THE GENTLE WITNESS

Peter puts a very important limitation on our witness: "do it with gentleness and reverence..." (3:15c). When people are persecuted, maligned, abused, and treated unfairly, they often respond to the evil that is done to them with evil that is equal to the occasion. The Christian, however, is called to respond with "gentleness and reverence." We may be able to understand an innocent victim's outrage, but we are not likely to be positively influenced by it. What made the death of Jesus so exemplary was the way in which he died, without bitterness, without rancor.

Like Jesus, we may be treated unfairly because of "the hope that is in us. Like Jesus we can make a "defense" of our faith. But there is a great difference between making a defense and making an attack. Attacking those who hurt us is understandably human. But it is usually also ineffective in persuading others. In fact, it usually makes them defensive and distorts their vision.

## Farm Calendar

### Saturday, May 9

Berks County Dairy Princess Pageant, Ag Center, Leesport, 7 p.m.

Franklin/Cumberland County Dairy Awareness Day, Gro-Larn Farm, Shippensburg, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

### Sunday, May 10

Happy Mother's Day!

### Monday, May 11

Poultry Management and Health Seminar, Days Inn, Shamokin Dam, 6 p.m.

Pa. Association of Dairy Sanitarians and Dairy Laboratory Analysts Conference, J.O. Keller Conference Center, Penn State, thru May 13.

4-H Tractor Safety, Bradford County Extension office, 7-9 p.m.

### Tuesday, May 12

Spring Homemakers' Day, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Center, Flemington, N.J., 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, May 13

Orchard meeting for fruit growers, Adams Co. Extension Office, 6:30 p.m.

4-H Tractor Safety, Bradford County Extension Office, 7-9 p.m.

### Thursday, May 14

Ag Issues Forum, Willow Valley, 7:30 a.m.-9 a.m.

### Friday, May 15

Pesticide test, Schuylkill Co. extension office, 9 a.m.-noon. Estate Planning Workshop, Northampton Community College, Bethlehem, 8:15 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

### Saturday, May 16

### Armed Forces Day

4-H Tractor Safety, Warner Tractor Company, East Troy, 9 a.m.-noon.

Bedford County second annual Sheep and Wool Field Day, Bedford Fairgrounds, Bedford, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Pa. Draft Horse and Mule Association annual spring clinic, Manheim Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.

### Sunday, May 17

Clearfield Co. Horse Show, Clearfield Fairgrounds.

### Monday, May 18

### Tuesday, May 19

### Wednesday, May 20

### Thursday, May 21

Hay Field Day, Joe Ferris Farm, Wilmington Township, Mercer Co., 2 p.m.

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Robert G. Campbell

General Manager

Everett R. Newswanger

Managing Editor

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