



OPINION

Who Knows, Maybe You Will Learn Something

The nation's largest dairy cattle exposition is in Harrisburg this week, as the All-American boasts over 2,300 entries. They will come from 20 states and Canada to participate in six national breed shows and three national breed sales.

As with so many things, the importance of this event may be underestimated because it is close to home. If you need to travel to the mid-West or the West Coast to see a show or attend a sale, the value is somehow inflated.

But you will travel a long way to find anything as exciting as the All-American. The farm show complex will be filled to capacity. This year the Eastern National Brown Swiss Show and Sale has 297 entries, and the Eastern National Milking Shorthorn show has 140 entries. The National Guernsey Show will keep the large arena filled as 203 heifers and cows parade around the ring.

The Eastern National Ayrshire Show will be one of the largest in years with 228 entries and the Mid-Atlantic Jersey Show has drawn over 150 participants. And the Eastern National Holstein Show will have over 400 entries. What more can we say?

If you milk cows for a living, or if you just like to look at fancy cows and talk to your neighbors and friends, you'll want to head for Harrisburg and the All-American Dairy Show this week. Who knows, maybe you will also learn something you didn't know before.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, September 19

New Jersey Organic Country Fair, Pennington, N.J., 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
 Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Pageant, Sheraton Harrisburg East, thru Sept. 24.
 Sheep Field Day, Perry Farm, Whitehouse Station, N.J.
 Livestock Production Tour, RaJa Hill Farm, Ralph Alleman Farm, 3470 Valley Road, Marysville.

Sunday, September 20

Gratz Fair, thru Sept. 26.

Monday, September 21

Pennsylvania Junior Dairy Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.
 Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Sept. 24.
 Reading Fair, Reading Fairgrounds Mall, thru Sept. 26.
 ADC District 13 Warriors Mark Meeting, Warriors Mark Fire Hall, 7:45 p.m.

ADC Mercersburg Meeting, First National Bank, Mercersburg, 7:45 p.m.

ADC District 20 Curryville-Roaring Spring Meeting, REA Building, Martinsburg, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, September 22

Autumn Begins
 Ephrata Fair, thru Sept. 26.
 ADC Holidaysburg-Williamsburg Meeting, Woodbury Township Building, Williamsburg, Pennsylvania.

ADC Woodcock Valley, Shirleysburg Meeting, Lincoln Garage, Marklesburg, 8 p.m.

Lycoming County Corn Field Day, Dick Snyder farm, Montoursville, 10 a.m.

MMI Fall District Meeting, Shadyside Inn, Uniontown, 7:15 p.m.

Interstate Agricultural Technology Exchange to Explore Animal Waste Management, Grantsville, Holiday Inn,

Grantsville, through Sept. 23.

Wednesday, September 23

Estimating and Bidding for Landscape Maintenance Workshop, Penn State Great Valley, Malvern, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Eastern National Holstein Sale, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.
 West Lampeter Community Fair, Lampeter, thru Sept. 25.
 Northeast Lamp Pool, Wyalusing Sale Barn.

ADC Alexandria-Shavers Creek Meeting, Bethel Church, Petersburg, 7:45 p.m.

PCMA Board of Directors' Meeting, South Ridge Motor Inn, State College, 10:15 a.m.

Thursday, September 24

Eastern National Holstein Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 8 a.m.
 ADC District 4 Princess Anne Meeting, English Family Restaurant, Westover, Md., 7 p.m.

Friday, September 25

West Virginia Farm Bureau Young Farmers Conference, Cliffside Inn, Harpers Ferry, W.Va.

Saturday, September 26

Harvest Sheep and Wool Festival of New Jersey, Salem County Fairgrounds, Woodstown, N.J., thru Sept. 27.
 Bloomsburg Fair, Bloomsburg, thru Oct. 3.

Sunday, September 27

Herding Stock Dog Clinic, Gerguson Valley Road, Rodeo Arena, 8 a.m.

Monday, September 28

Livestock Direct Marketing Beef, Sheep, Swine Appraisal, Hackettstown Auction Market Arena, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, September 29

Northeast Poultry Show, Lancaster Host Resort, thru Oct. 1
 Morrison Cove Community Fair, Martinsburg, thru Oct. 2.



NOW IS THE TIME
 By John Schwartz
 Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Attend Poultry Show

The Northeast Poultry Show will again be held at the Lancaster Host Resort, located east of Lancaster on Route 30.

This two-day event, beginning September 30, features outstanding educational programs, a large trade show, and social activities. The trade show will have more than 70 exhibitors highlighting the latest in poultry equipment, housing, and services.

The trade show is free and will be open Wednesday, September 30 from noon to 7 p.m. and Thursday, October 1 from noon to 5 p.m.

The key in keeping this outstanding event in Lancaster is attendance. Plan now to attend and learn the latest about poultry production in the Northeast.

For more information, contact the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation at (717) 652-7530.

To Practice Biosecurity

There have been confirmed outbreaks of Newcastle Disease in turkeys in North and South Dakota. These were range turkeys who received the disease from wild birds.

Even though this outbreak occurred in the central flyway, we know the wild birds in the eastern flyway are carriers of Newcastle and Avian Influenza diseases.

To protect our domestic flocks,

4-H Program Council, Room 317, Willowbank Building, Bellefonte, 7:30 p.m.

Franklin County Beekeepers' annual meeting, Lighthouse Youth Center, Marion, 6:30 p.m.

Eastern Milk Producers Coop Association, Inc., annual meeting and banquet, Goldstein Auditorium, Syracuse University, Schine Student Center, 6:30 p.m.

ADC District 2 Meeting, Hunterdon-Mercer, Ringoes Grange Hall, 7:30 p.m.

ADC Clearfield Meeting, Harbor Inn, Philipsburg, 7 p.m.

ADC District 16 Central York Meeting, St. John Blymire's UC Church, Dallastown, 7 p.m.

61st Anniversary of the Farmers' Fair, New Holland, through Oct. 3.

Agway Annual Meeting, Syracuse, New York, through Oct. 30.

S.E. Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers' Meeting, Kutz Christmas Tree Farm, Weaverstown, Pa., 1 p.m.

Wednesday, September 30

Estimating for Residential landscape Installation Workshop, Penn State Great Valley,

we need to practice excellent biosecurity programs. When water fowl hunting, shower and change clothes after hunting and before entering poultry houses.

Tighten up your security. Keep wild birds and pets out of poultry houses. Control people entering your houses. Stay away from areas where wild birds feed and roost.

Finally, make sure your vaccination programs are current. By taking a few extra precautions, you could prevent a major poultry disease outbreak.

Note: Laryngotracheitis (LT) never went away this summer. We have been experiencing outbreaks all summer — another reason to maintain a strong biosecurity program.

To Be Aware Of Silo Gases

Silo gases may be very hazardous to your health. Nitrogen dioxide and carbon dioxide are two

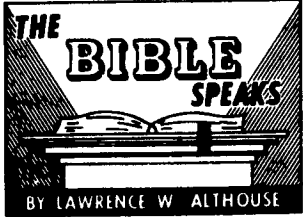
gases formed during the ensiling process that pose the greatest threat.

Silo gases may be a problem every year on some farms, especially those with high soil nitrogen levels. As little as two or three breaths of nitrogen dioxide gas will damage your lungs for life.

Be alert for this gas and respect it. It has a disagreeable, bleachlike odor. The gas is heavier than air, so it accumulates on the surface of the silage, flows down the chute, and accumulates around the base of the silo.

To minimize risks, do not enter recently filled silos unless the blower is running or you are wearing proper breathing apparatus. Keep the feed room well ventilated and prevent the gases from leaking into the stable.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "Even though you are on the right track, if you just sit there, you will get run over." — Will Rogers



WHO'S BACKING YOU?
 September 20, 1992

Background Scripture:

Joshua 1.

Devotional Reading:

Joshua 3:1-7.

When I was a teenager, the pastor of our church, Mark J. Stierwald, was a person who made the Christian faith come alive for me. Like everyone else in the church, I idolized him. So, when he suddenly died of a heart attack, I was sure—along with the rest of the church—that his replacement, Paul Price, could not really take his place.

But, by the time Paul Price was moved to another church, under his guidance and inspiration I had decided to enter the ministry myself. As we prepared for his successor, Lester Updegrove, I was certain once again that our church would flounder for lack of leadership. But, in a way that was different from either of his predecessors, Lester Updegrove both capably led the church and was very helpful to me as I prepared to go off to seminary.

Looking back on this experience, I realize that in the church, as in all spheres of life, we may too often place all our faith in the messenger, rather than the one who sends the message. In my own experience, it was God who sent these pastors who was the source of the inspiration and guidance I received.

MOSES' SHOES

Perhaps that's the way that many of the people of Israel feel when Moses died. Although they had initially been suspicious of his leadership, in time they had come to idolize this man of God. When he died, many must have wondered whether the dream of entering the promised land had died with him. Moses and the promise seemed inseparable. Yes, of course, he had an assistant, a man named Joshua, but there was no way he could fill the shoes of Moses.

We can imagine that Joshua might have had some doubts, too. God was saying to him, "Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I promised to Moses" (1:3). But that's just it: Moses was faithful to God and look what it got him—

not the promised land, but death in the wilderness of Sinai. Was it not humiliating for Moses to have to die outside the promised land?

Understandable as that argument may be, it misses the point God had not promised the land of Canaan to the Israelites for the sake of honoring or vindicating Moses, but of fulfilling his gracious purpose. God chose Moses, not to give this man personal success, but so that his will could be done through him. And so God chose Joshua for the same reason—not to make him a great man, but to accomplish his purpose. I point this out because sometimes in the church we forget the purpose of the leadership God supplies. It is not to advance the careers of the clergy and make some of them bishops. It is not to build the churches on their personalities. It is advance the purposes of God.

WITH YOU

So, God gives Joshua this assurance: "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and of good courage" (1:5b,6). And again: "Be strong and of good courage; be not frightened, neither be dismayed; for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (1:9). It was the presence of God with Moses that made him a great leader and it will be that same presence that works through Joshua. Important as Moses was and Joshua will be, it is God who provides the power that is needed.

Back in the 1960's, I was part of a small group of Christians who wanted to start a coffee house ministry to reach some of the street people of Reading PA. The obstacles were formidable. I remember going to one business leader to solicit his help. After I outlined the project, he asked: "Who's backing you?" Without stopping to weigh my answer, I replied: "The Lord." "Hmm," he mused, "that's pretty good backing—I guess I'll join you".

When God calls you to take up a task for him. The key is not how capable you are, but who's backing you.

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