



OPINION

Poultry & Livestock Farmers: Next Week Is For You

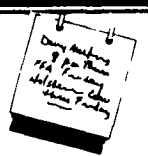
Next week the Keystone International Livestock Exposition is in its 36th year at Harrisburg, and the second Northeast Poultry Show is in Lancaster. KILE runs October 1-5 and NPS is scheduled for September 29-October 1.

The Exposition is recognized nationally as a showcase for the nation's top beef cattle, swine, sheep and horses. Besides a huge array of livestock, you will find a large group of commercial and educational exhibits, as well as top quality entertainment and an assortment of foods prepared by various Pennsylvania commodity groups.

At the Poultry Show, the combined efforts of the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation and the Northeast United Egg Producers promises to bring an outstanding array of exhibits and educational programs to the show. Before last year, the two organizations held separate conventions. Then last year, they combined efforts and found that 750 people went through the exhibit hall. And this year promises to be even better.

So if your interest is livestock or poultry, next week's activities are for you.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, September 26

Harvest Sheep and Wool Festival of New Jersey, Salem County Fairgrounds, Woodstown, N.J., thru September 27.

Bloomsburg Fair, Bloomsburg, thru October 3.

Sunday, September 27

Herding Stock Dog Clinic, Ferguson Valley Road, Burnham Exit, Rt. 322, Lewistown, 8 a.m., (717) 899-6481.

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 October 1
Morrison Cove Community Fair, Martinsburg, thru October 2.
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 Cooperative 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, thru October 3.

Agway Annual Meeting, Syracuse, New York, thru October 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, Malvern, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

World Dairy Exposition, Dane

County Exposition Center, Madison, Wis., thru October 4.

Northeastern Poultry Show, Lancaster Host Resort, thru October 1.

New Holland Fair, thru October 1.
Grange Fair Livestock and Dairy Exhibitors, Willowbank Building, Bellefonte, 8 p.m.

Sheep Show and Market Lamb Sale, New Holland Fairgrounds. Show 3 p.m., sale Friday, October 2, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 1

KILE, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru October 5.

Livestock Direct Marketing Beef, Sheep, Swine Appraisal, Hackettstown Auction Market Arena, lambs 7 p.m., swine 8 p.m.

Pennsylvania Council of Cooperatives, Nittany Lion Inn, State College, thru October 2.

Beef Meeting, Country Table, Mt. Joy, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, October 2

Saturday, October 3
Sixth Annual Elk County Tour and Country Day.

Sunday, October 4

National 4-H Week

Monday, October 5

National 4-H Week, thru October 10.

Manheim Farm Show, thru October 9.

Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program, Clarion Clipper, Clarion, October 5, 6, 7, 8, 13.

Tuesday, October 6

National 4-H Week

Biobased Products Expo, Hyatt Regency, Union Station, St. Louis, Mo., thru October 9.

Lancaster County Farmers' Association annual meeting, Hershey Farm Restaurant, Strasburg, 6:45 p.m.

Columbia County On-Farm Composting Field Day, Bob Beishline Farm, Bloomsburg, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Farm/Municipal Composting Field Days, Columbia County, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., repeats October 23.



NOW IS THE TIME

By John Schwartz
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Visit

Children's Teachers

Many schools are now having their open houses or parent-teacher conferences. These are very important and every effort should be made to participate.

Here are a few suggestions offered by teachers and parents to make parent-teacher conferences less defensive and stressful and more constructive:

- Talk to your child about the meeting and ask for his/her suggestions as what needs to be discussed. Reassure your child that conferences are helpful to his/her learning.

- Get acquainted with your child's teacher. Be familiar with the teacher's style and approach.

- Be prepared with information about your child. Be ready to express concerns about school work and your child's progress.

- Ask the teacher about what goes on in your child's school, so together you may set goals and establish checkpoints.

- Follow up on any concerns identified during the conference with frequent, informal contacts with the teacher.

The quality of a child's education begins at home. Interested parents must take an active role in their children's education. Start now by attending your school's open houses and parent-teacher conferences.

To Practice Safety

With the stressful and long hour-filled days of harvest upon us, farmers, their families, and employees need to take extra steps

Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program, Days Inn, New Stanton.

Wednesday, October 7 National 4-H Week

ADC District 17 Washington County Meeting, Fair Play Fire Hall, Hagerstown, 7 p.m.

ADC Endless Mountain Meeting, Union Grange Hall, Lakeside, noon.

Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program, Soney's Restaurant, State College.

Washington County Sheep and Wool Growers' Banquet, Junior Building at Washington County Fairgrounds, 7 p.m.

Thursday, October 8 National 4-H Week

ADC District Snyder County meeting, Pop's West End Restaurant, Middleburg, 8 p.m.

ADC Tri-County Meeting, Belmont Corners Fire Hall, Belmont Corners, noon.

Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program, Sinbad's Restaurant, Towanda.

to avoid accidents around machinery, livestock, manure pits, and forage storage structures.

Last year in Pennsylvania, farm fatalities showed no preference to the day of week, but most occurred between June and October. Most fatalities occurred in the 70-79 age group with the 0-9, 50-59, and 60-69 age groups having the second largest fatality rate.

Tractors accounted for more than 67 percent of the accidents. Thus, we must be extra concerned about children and older farmers.

A safe harvest season depends on safety conscientious people. Make it the rule for your farm.

To Fertilize Alfalfa

According to Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, we are seeing more fields that appear to be defi-

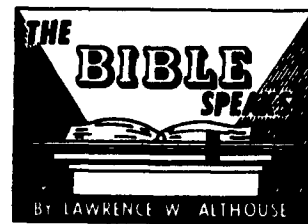
cient in potassium (both corn and alfalfa).

Deficiencies may be caused primarily by two things: 1. potassium deficiency in the soils, which should be verified by soil tests or 2. by something interfering with the roots' ability to take up potassium.

Alfalfa is a heavy feeder of potassium. Potassium is also one of the nutrients alfalfa needs for overwintering. So, to help your stands survive the upcoming winter and be productive next year, be sure they have adequate fertility this fall.

Also, do not forget to check your soil's pH and apply lime as needed.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "Time has a wonderful way of weeding out the trivial." — Richard Ben Sapir



SLOW LEARNERS September 27, 1992

Background Scripture: Judges 4 through 5.

Devotional Reading: Judges 6: 11-16.

In March, my wife and I rented a car and drove through a sizable portion of what had been until recently East Germany, the German Democratic Republic. One of the places we visited was the old city of Weimar, one of Germany's greatest centuries of culture. Among the many notables who lived here at one time or another were Goethe, Schiller, Bach and Liszt.

On the outskirts of this venerable city, however, is a shameful monument that seems utterly incongruous with the city. On a low mountain overlooking Weimar are the remains of the Buchenwald Concentration Camp, where thousands of Jews and others were cruelly imprisoned and many executed during World War II. Some of those who survived these terrible experiences tell us that, during the war, some of the inmates questioned how, if there was a God, a place like Buchenwald could exist. Some people lost their faith as a result of this experience, while others found their faith intensified.

WHY?, GOD, WHY?

Whenever some tragedy or injustice takes place, people want to know how God can let these things happen. If God is in charge of the world and if he loves us all, how can he permit such inhumanity? Part of the answer is, of course, that while God wills justice, righteousness and peace, he gives us the power to either fulfill purposes or thwart them. God wants us to be good, but he does not compel us to be so. So then, if God allows us to make those choices, how can he be in control of the world?

I think the answer is to be found in the timeframe from which we view the world. In the short run, it is definitely homo sapiens who chooses the day-by-day events of history. But in the long run, it is God who shapes all these human patterns into a pattern which will eventually accomplish his will. We can see some of this in the Book of Judges. No matter what God does for the people of Israel, no matter how many times he for-

gives the people for their rebelliousness, still the people stubbornly resist God's will on a daily basis: "And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died" (4:1). So, in the short run, the people of Israel made their rebellious choices that were contrary to God's will.

Although God does not forbid these choices, in the long run he can even weave these bad choices in a mosaic of forces that allows him to accomplish his will. This is what we find in the story of Deborah and Barak. The people have sinned grievously and brought destruction upon themselves: "And the Lord sold them into the hand of Jabin, King of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor" (4:2). Typically, when they begin to suffer for their evil choices, the people of Israel pray for God's deliverance. Disobedient as they have been to him, he is always ready to listen to their prayers.

MOSIAC OF CHOICES

The military preparedness of Israel is probably at one of its lowest ebbs. The Israelites do not seem to have what it takes to fight, against foes like Sisera and Jabin. But God enlists the aid of a gifted woman who wisely governs in the Israelite state. She can't relieve Israel's troubles and neither is Israel's general, Barak, a bold enough man. But God gives Barak a message through the popular woman, judge, Deborah, and through her he is able to muster the courage to field his small army against the foe.

In the end, by the power of God the Israelites forge a smashing victory. In time, the concentration camps of Nazism were torn down. In time, the Communist world threat was eliminated. Dictators come and dictators go. No evil power has ever been able to indefinitely sustain itself in this world. Eventually, God manages to undo our rebellious choices and still accomplish his purpose.

And, instead of learning from these long waits of God's justice and providence, like the people of Israel, we quickly forget and soon do again "what was evil in the sight of the Lord". Like them, we are still slow-learners.

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Lancaster Farming, Inc.

A Steinman Enterprise

Robert C. Campbell General Manager

Everett R. Newswanger Managing Editor