



OPINION

Barking Up The Wrong Tree

A recent nationwide well water study by the Environmental Protection Agency tested thousands of rural and community wells to predict the water quality of wells throughout the country. According to the Alliance For A Clean Rural Environment (ACRE), the results of the study offer good news for farmers.

The EPA "National Survey of Pesticides in Drinking Water Wells" was a five-year-study of more than 1,300 wells, some in every state, including information about each well's condition and characteristics and nearby use of ag chemicals. The tests could detect the presence of pesticides thousands of times lower than their EPA lifetime safe consumption levels.

In these tests pesticides were detected only infrequently even though they checked for 126 pesticides and their breakdown products. Of the tested wells, only 12 showed any trace of pesticides and only in very low levels.

From this study, EPA estimates that about 99% of all wells in the country contain no pesticide traces exceeding the EPA standards for safe drinking water. This doesn't mean farmers can relax. Extra care must be taken whenever storing, handling and using pesticides and disposing of chemical containers.

But we believe this study shows that farmers and the inputs for sound agricultural production are not to blame for much of the non-point water pollution. Environmentalists, municipalities, and industrial giants point the finger at farmers. But on many occasions, when the facts are known, they are "barking up the wrong tree."

Farm Forum

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sponsible Medicine — recently shifted their primary focus from biomedical research to agricultural production. Their tactics include duping the media and then employing calumny as they misinform those who watch television and read newspapers and magazines and listen to the radio.

In this beloved free country of ours, there is the opportunity for behavior of this sort, reprehensible as it may be. But there also is here the opportunity to set the record straight. Setting the record straight is, of course, the obligation of every citizen who knows the truth. It is especially the obligation of media reporters, editors, and producers.

Thank you for setting the record straight in this case. All who are privileged to work in this country's media — holding positions of implicit public trust, it need not be added — should be as careful about checking their information sources as you are. Instead, I am afraid many nowadays have turned into chumps and mythmongers.

Stanley E. Curtis
Head

Department of Dairy and
Animal Science
College of Agricultural
Sciences
Penn State University

Editor,

I read with dismay, but not much surprise, your Oct. 3 article describing the attack against dairy products by Peta (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) and ALF (Animal Liberation Front).

The PETA is well known to be a leftist, extremist group, and the second an actual terrorist organization credited recently destroying much of the animal experimental station at Michigan State

University, and in the process, nullifying years of work.

It is not surprising either to find as their bedfellow Dr. Benjamin Spock, who is often associated with far-out extremist causes, however he may try to recant and deny his affiliations.

These people (Peta, Alf, and their ilk) are also actively engaged in confiscatory gun control efforts, allied with HCI (Handgun Control Inc). HCI seeks to require not only farmers, but all citizens to turn in their weapons, despite the necessity of home protection in a country whose criminal justice system is seriously broken down by unremitting crime and lenient prosecutors, overworked courts, and cynical news media.

You should take the trouble to warn your readers of the efforts of this group, since they are not only anti-milk, but anti-people also, in a most vicious and psychotic manner, not stopping at violence to achieve their ends.

Charles F. Morris
Hanover

Dear Editor:

You are publishing a very newsworthy periodical for our agriculture families.

I was very disappointed with your "feature recipe" for the week in last week's paper. A recipe asking for artificial butter is "biting the hand that feeds you" at Lanc. Farming. Please do consider which side of the bread your butter is on.

I appreciate our agriculture magazine's recipes. They are using products that are of fine quality. Not artificial substitutes.

I hope we "the agriculture folks" of Lancaster and surrounding counties will be able to look to you with respect.

Please promote our products!
Joyce Hostetter
Oxford



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

To Make Farm Show Entries

Just a reminder — the hay, dairy, and livestock entry deadline for the 1993 Pennsylvania Farm Show is November 5. Also, some other divisions have a December entry deadline.

The Farm Show premium list has a listing of classes, rules, and entry deadlines. Farm Show premium lists and entry forms are available from your local cooperative extension office.

Pick up your copy today and make your plans for the 1993 Pennsylvania Farm Show. Dates for the 1993 Farm Show are January 9-14, 1993.

To Provide Good Air Quality

Air quality is typically defined in terms of the air's content of certain gases, particulates, and microbes.

Air quality has an effect on the health and well-being of animals

Farm Calendar

Saturday, October 17

Keystone Autumn Classic Sale, Woodside Farm.

Schuylkill County Cooperative Extension annual banquet, Pine View Acres, Pottsville, 6 p.m.

Second annual Harvest Fest of York County Farmland Trust, Brown's Orchard and Farm Market, Loganville, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

"Pennsylvania's Finest Tailgate" Promotion, Penn State's Beaver Stadium, 9 a.m.

Sunday, October 18

Cambria County Dairy Club Banquet, extension office, 12:30 p.m.

Monday, October 19

Flower Growers' Day, Penn State Keller Conference Center, University Park.

ADA/DC District 1, St. Lawrence Inn, Canton, N.Y., 7:30 p.m.

ADA/DC District 14, Tally Ho Restaurant, Kanona, N.Y., 7 p.m.

Tuesday, October 20

Perennials Conference, Swarthmore College.

Ephrata Area Adult Farmers meeting, Ephrata High School Ag Department, 7:45 p.m.

Lancaster County Honey Producers Meeting, Dutch Gold, Rohrerstown, 7 p.m.

Stream Bank Fencing Workshop, Days Inn, State College.

Educational meeting on drying and storing grain crops, Penn State Schuylkill Campus, Room C114, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

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and humans. Acceptable air quality usually may be achieved with proper ventilation and air distribution, regular cleaning and sanitation, dust control, and manure gas control.

The gases of most concern in animal facilities are ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, carbon monoxide, and methane. Special attention to air quality should be given during periods of weather extremes, rapidly fluctuating temperatures, and manure removal.

The concentration of airborne dust is affected by relative humidity, animal activity, air velocity, type of feed, and method of handling feed. Air quality is becoming a more important management issue.

Start taking steps now to learn how you may improve air quality in your animal housing. People who may help you include your service person, equipment dealer, or county agent. Also, do not forget to wear dust masks or helmets when working in dusty condi-

tions or gas masks when gases are present.

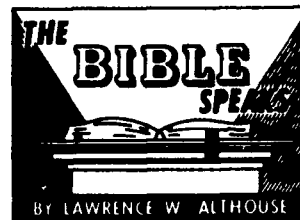
To Keep Your Lender Informed

Alan Strock, extension farm management agent, reminds us it is very important to keep your lender informed. This helps you to build confidence, understanding, and trust between you and your lender.

This year, even with the excellent crops and improved milk price, it is still important to project a monthly or quarterly cash flow statement for your business's coming year.

Maintain a good set of farm financial and production records. Show your lender how you use these records in your decision-making process. And finally, maintain open communications with your lender, especially when your credit needs or payment ability changes.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "Any fool can criticize, condemn and complain—and most do." —Dale Carnegie



**BORN AGAIN AND
AGAIN!**
October 18, 1992

Background Scripture:

1 Kings 1:28-37; 2:1-4; 3:3-14.

Devotional Reading:

1 Kings 1:15-30.

I recently heard someone make a disparaging remark about "those born-againers." I understood the reason for the man's disdain, for he had a very disagreeable experience with some relatives who claimed they were "born again" and that he wasn't!

Unfortunately, some people who identify themselves as having been "born again" have given this experience a bad name. Claiming this experience for themselves in a rather exclusive manner, they have demonstrated a proud and judgmental attitude toward others. So, I can understand why some Christians shrink from the term.

"ONCE" NOT ENOUGH

But the problem is not with being "born again," but in what we make of this rebirth. Being reborn by the Spirit of God in Christ is not a gift for a special few, but for all who would be followers of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. And, while I can appreciate that some people can ascribe their rebirth to a particular time, place and circumstance, I find that I—and many, many others—need to be reborn constantly. Once might be a turning-point in a person's life, but I have never known a Christian for whom once was enough. If fact, those who think that once is enough are often those most in need of being "born again" daily.

This is illustrated in the story of King Solomon. In 1 Kings 3 Solomon has an exceptional spiritual experience and makes an equally exceptional response. In a dream, God says to the young, new King of Israel: "Ask what I shall give you" (3:5). No one would have been surprised if Solomon had seized this opportunity to ask God for political power, for a long reign, for riches and success. After all, isn't that what society tells us life is all about?

But Solomon's response was perfect. He responded with praise for God: "Thou hast shown great and steadfast love to thy servant

David my father..." He responded with humility: "...although I am but a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in." He has a sobering respect for the task that has been placed upon him: "And thy servant is in the midst of thy people whom thou hast chosen, a great people that cannot be numbered or counted for multitude." And when he makes his request that God has granted him, he makes the best of all choices: "Give thy servant therefore an understanding mind to govern thy people, that I may discern between good and evil."

BEGINNINGS & ENDINGS

The writer of 1 Kings says that "It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this," and God says to him: "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches of the life of your enemies..behold, I now do according to your word" (3:10,11).

But that is not all of the story of King Solomon. If we read on to chapter 1, we find that despite his exceptional beginning, Solomon did not maintain that high level of commitment to God and his purposes, so that the writer of 1 Kings tells us: "And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the Lord..." (11:9). He had begun with an exceptional spiritual experience, but he needed to be reborn again and again to maintain that experience in his life.

Solomon's story is unique only in its particulars and many of us have experienced what he did: a magnificent beginning and a disappointing ending. I often look back to those early days of my Christian discipleship. There was a sense of unwavering commitment and high ideals that I have not maintained with consistency. When I realize that I have drifted away from my best intentions and settled for something else, I have the opportunity to seek God's grace and ask that I be reborn again and again and again.

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