



OPINION

4-H Week Is Time To Join

Many 4-H members learn things that help them in later life. In fact, some very famous people were in 4-H clubs as youth. Orville Redenbacher, popcorn magnate; Reba McEntire, singer; Johnny Bench, baseball star; Harold Poling, Ford Motor Company chairman and Vice President Al Gore, Jr., to name a few.

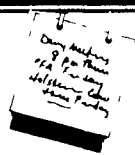
But mostly ordinary people benefit from the variety of 4-H programs and opportunities now available through extension. Dr. Robert Lewis, professor of 4-H and youth development at Penn State, says youth in 4-H learn and grow by completing projects in activities they're interested in.

"Along with practical skills, 4-H'ers acquire good work habits, responsibility, business skills, cooperation and sportsmanship," Lewis said. "By setting goals and making plans to reach them, 4-H'ers learn to make decisions and use time efficiently. In the course of each activity, they gain experience in public speaking by demonstrating their new skills and giving oral reports to their clubs.

"4-H not only helps youth grow personally, but also prepares them to help lead their communities. It's hard for young people to develop leadership skills if they never get to lead. 4-H provides opportunities for them to practice being leaders in a variety of situations," Lewis said.

The week of March 15 to 21 has been designated Pennsylvania 4-H week. Since the late 1970's, this week has marked the start of a new 4-H program year. Local clubs enroll new members and prepare for the year ahead. Since this program, coordinated by Penn State Cooperative Extension through the local county offices, benefits so many people, we suggest that if you have youth between the ages of 8 and 19, encourage them to join 4-H this year. We're sure they will find some program of interest that will help them expand their skills for life.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, March 13

Fourth annual Forest Stewardship Landowners Workshop, Allen Hall, Mansfield U., 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Bradford County Lawn and Garden Workshop, Stall Resource Center, Wysox, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Grapevine Pruning Training and Pest Control, Naylor Wine Cellars, Stewartstown, 10 a.m.-noon, continues March 20. Pro-Ag's annual meeting, Pink Apple, Tunkhannock, 10 a.m.

Sunday, March 14

National Ag Week, thru March 20.

Pa. 4-H Week, thru March 20.

Monday, March 15

Farm Safety Series, Lebanon 4-H Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.-noon and 7 p.m.-10 p.m.

Pa. Landowners meeting, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 16

Green Thumb Gardening Clinic, Wayne Co. Extension, Courthouse, Honesdale, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Ag Information Series, Starting In the Christmas Tree business, Weed Control In Christmas Tree Plantings, UNILEC Building, DuBois, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Delmarva Safety Seminar, Wicomico Youth and Civic Center, Salisbury, Md., thru March 17.

Swine meeting, Line Mountain High School, 7:30 p.m.

York Co. IPM Workshop, extension office, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Lancaster Co. Holstein Tour to Doylestown, Easton, Kempton, and Robeson, leaves Farm and Home Center, 7:45 a.m.

Eastern Milk Producers Meeting, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey.

Westmoreland Co. pesticide update meeting, Greensburg extension office, 7:30 p.m.-9:45 p.m.

Central Md. Beef Management Short Course, Eldersberg Public Library, 7:30 p.m.-9:45 p.m., continues March 23 and 30.

Wednesday, March 17

National Ag Week, St. Patrick's Day

Tri-County Agronomy School, Gratz Fire Co. Hall, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

United Dairy Cooperative Services annual meeting, United's office, Seneca Falls, N.Y., 10:30 a.m.

Cecil Co. Md. Pasture Management Series, extension office, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Thursday, March 18

National Ag Week, Lancaster Conservation District annual banquet, Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland, 7 p.m.

Penn Manor Adult Education Program, pesticide safety, Penn Manor H.S., 6:30 p.m.

Wayne Co. Wool Growers Association annual dinner, Aldenville Baptist Church, 7 p.m.

Chester Co. Holstein Tour to Columbia, Lycoming, and Sullivan counties, from Dick Hostetter's farm, 7:15 a.m.

Montgomery Co. DHIA/Holstein banquet, Towamencin Fire Hall, 6:45 p.m.

Fayette Co. annual meeting, Shady Side Inn, Uniontown, 7 p.m.



NOW IS THE TIME
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Salute Agriculture Week
March 14 through March 20 has been proclaimed Agriculture Week.

This week recognizes Pennsylvania's diverse food and agricultural industry. Its cash income generates \$3.8 billion each year and an additional \$38 billion in related economic activity.

Twenty percent of the commonwealth's work force is engaged in agriculture. Agriculture Week gives us the opportunity to remind people of the extraordinary food system we have. It is a system that is known for variety, abundance, dependability, and quality.

Americans spend ten percent of their disposable income on food compared to 60 and 70 percent in some other countries. However, if we begin to take this system for granted, we are in great danger of losing it.

As Eastern Europe is trying to learn how to build a modern agriculture system like ours, we need

Fayette Co. annual meeting, Shady Side Inn, Uniontown, 7 p.m.
Mercer Co. Sheep and Wool Growers meeting, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Mercer, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, March 19

National Ag Week, Pa. DHIA Convention 5th annual meeting, Radisson Hotel Pittsburgh, Monroeville, thru March 20.

Saturday, March 20

National Ag Week, Spring Begins, National Ag Day

Agricultural Industry Dinner, John M. Clayton Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, 6 p.m.

Women and Horses Inaugural Conference and National Tour, Cook Center, Cook College Campus, New Brunswick, N.J.

Grapevine Pruning Training and Pest Control, Naylor Wine Cellars, Stewartstown, 10 a.m.-noon.

Sunday, March 21

Monday, March 22

Home Horticultural Seminar, Vegetables For All, Farm and Home Center, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Farm Safety Series, North Jackson Grange, Myerstown, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 23

Large Dairy Herd Conference, Embers Inn and Convention Center, Carlisle, thru March 24.

Pesticide Safety, Farm and Home Center, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
Pesticide Label Changes For '93, Farm and Home Center, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Clarion Co. Farm Safety Demonstration, Clarion Co. Park, 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

to understand why they need to rebuild their agriculture system and not repeat their mistakes. The agricultural industry must continue to develop new ideas, concepts, and technological advancements so it may continue to provide quality products in abundant supply.

So, this coming week take time and tell people the importance of agriculture and be proud you are a part of this large industry.

To Check Corn In Storage

Last fall a lot of corn went into storage at high moisture levels after outside temperatures had dropped.

As long as the storage temperature stayed cool, this corn may have been stored successfully. However, as outside and storage temperatures increase this spring, these stored masses of corn may start heating and spoiling.

To minimize the risk of increased spoilage, try to feed out the corn before warm weather sets in. Or, after temperatures rise, dry it down by aeration. The use of drying fans, spreading it out to dry,

or transferring the corn to other storage may help.

Check your stored corn and monitor its temperatures regularly to prevent excessive losses.

To Watch For Children

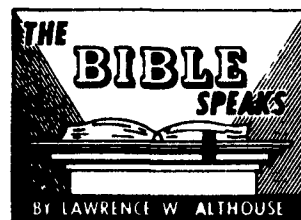
Spring work is rapidly approaching. This also means children will be playing more outside.

To prevent accidents, we must be aware of hazards around the farm.

A few safety rules are:

- No seat = no rider!
- Idle farm equipment are not toys. Keep children from playing on, in, or under machinery and equipment.
- Know where children are when you start farm machinery and vehicles.
- Fence ponds and manure pits.
- Lock up chemicals and electrical power sources.
- Have monthly family safety reviews. Taking a few extra minutes to be safe could prevent a very serious accident or death.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "Today's preparation determines tomorrow's achievement."



BORN AGAIN?
March 14, 1993

Background Scripture:

John 3:1-21.

Devotional Reading:

John 3:22-36.

There is hardly any human experience that cannot be trivialized by human systematization. While rituals are important and valid for human life, there is always the danger of reducing experience to a ritual or formula.

Particularly in the realm of the spirit. While it is understandable that we should want to hold on to and repeat our spiritual highs, it is arrogant and even blasphemous for us to assume that we can write rules and specifications for them. In a sense, it is telling God that he must do it "this way" and no other. God intends for us to experience these things, not to package and merchandise them.

We need to keep that in mind when we approach the matter of being "born again." Few human experiences have ever been so systematized than the encounter between Jesus and Nicodemus. It is ironic that this experience of regeneration should serve to divide so many Christians. Some wear it proudly as a badge of their spiritual superiority. Others shun it because of their discomfort with those who have advertised themselves as "born again." The problem is not with being "born again," but what people try to make of that experience.

THE OLD ORDER

The story of Jesus and Nicodemus in John 3:1-21 is a good example of the kind of attitude that can spoil rather than enhance the experience. Nicodemus, a member of the supreme council of the sanhedrin, comes to Jesus at night. He comes as a Pharisee, a representative of the old order which Jesus seems to want to supersede. According to that old legalistic order, the kingdom of God is entered by moral achieve-

ment based upon faithfully keeping the law.

But Jesus makes it clear that the new order is dependent, not upon moral achievement, but God's grace: "...unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (3:3). A variant reading of the Jerusalem Bible and a footnote of the RSV, says "born from above," while the King James version say "born again." It really doesn't matter, for the intent is to say that one must be transformed, not our own efforts, but by God. What Jesus is lifting up for Nicodemus here is not a formula but a spiritual reality.

So, how does Nicodemus respond? Immediately he looks for a formula, a system, a ritual: "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" (3:4). If Jesus will just tell him the right way to do this, he can package it, make it a rule or ironclad procedure for all Israel.

WHERE IT WILL

Jesus responds by explaining that spiritual rebirth is not something to systematize or ritualize. "The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or wither it goes: so it is with everyone born of the Spirit" (3:8). We cannot capture or detain the Spirit. Nor can we regulate it.

Note what Jesus does NOT say about a spiritual rebirth. He does not put a stopwatch or calendar on it. He does not say that it carries a lifetime guarantee. He does not suggest that rebirth is so much an event as it is a continuing condition and reality.

Spiritual rebirth is not just for some people, some time, but for all of us, all the time. It will take place whenever we open ourselves to God's renewing grace. And when it does, we will be humble, not proud.

Lancaster Farming

Established 1955
Published Every Saturday
Ephrata Review Building
1 E. Main St.
Ephrata, PA 17522
— by —
Lancaster Farming, Inc.
A Steinman Enterprise
Robert C. Campbell General Manager
Everett R. Newswanger Managing Editor

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