

Six Reasons To Feel Positive

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4. Farmers don't like pesticide misuse any more than consumers do. Most people who sell and use pesticides do so carefully and according to the law. But, as the saying goes, "it only takes a few rotten apples to spoil the barrel." According to the poll, less than half of all U.S. farmers believe that any pesticides are knowingly misapplied. Even so, two-thirds favor stronger enforcement of penalties for misapplication. And two out of five farmers favor mandatory education and certification for anyone who applies pesticides as the best solution for preventing misapplication.

Farmers are not saying they want more laws, but they do support getting tougher on that small percentage of people who don't respect existing laws ... and consequently put the reputation and credibility of agriculture at risk.

5. Farmers have confidence in the regulatory system. At least 80% of all farmers believe current safeguards are sufficient to protect consumers, farm workers and the environment. But even more (85%) are convinced that the general public doesn't understand these safeguards.

6. Farmers are pitching in to help educate the non-farm public. According to the poll, 80% of the farmers believe that consumers are more concerned about farm environmental issues today than five years ago, and that food safety is their greatest concern. They also believe that consumers are not very well informed about environmental issues associated with agriculture, including regulatory safeguards.

At the same time, 68% of farmers believe that education can reduce public concerns; and they believe farmers themselves should play an important role in that education, as should government. Most importantly, 36% of farmers say they have personally participated in efforts to educate their non-farm neighbors, usually as part of an effort by an organized farm group.

It's clear from the poll that farmers share the public's concern for the environment and are making positive changes on their farms. But it's also clear — and we don't need a poll to tell us this — that the job of balancing agricultural productivity with environmental sensitivity is never really finished. There's always more work to be done.

Environmental issues are not likely to go away. Some experts predicted that environmental issues would decrease in importance as our nation's economic issues became more serious. But issues like water quality have proven to have incredible staying power, and it's now clear that environmentalism will simply be a part of doing business in the years ahead.

Fortunately, we have a solid foundation on which to build. If we, as an industry, keep sharpening our understanding of these complex issues, keep embracing positive changes, and keep talking with our non-farm neighbors, we'll have even more good news to talk about in the future.

Farm Calendar

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1993 Orchid Show, Ag Arena, Penn State, thru April 4.

Forest Stewardship Landowners Workshop, rescheduled from March 13, Grant Science Center, Mansfield U., 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

York County Livestock Day, 4-H Center, Bair, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sunday, April 4
Palm Sunday
Daylight Saving
Time Begins

Gloucester Co. N.J. 4-H Tack Sale, 4-H Fairgrounds, Mullica Hill, N.J., 8:30 a.m.

Monday, April 5

Mercer Co. Sheep Shearing School, Carl Gadsby Farm, Grove City, thru April 6.

Farm Rescue and Safety, Lebanon Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.-noon and 7 p.m.-10 p.m. (rescheduled).

Tuesday, April 6

Berks Co. 4-H Supper Series, 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Pa. Poultry Sales and Service Conference, Nittany Lion Inn, Penn State, thru April 7.

Keystone Farm Credit meeting, Days Inn and Conference Center, Allentown, 7 p.m.

Pa. Dairy Princess promotion meeting, southeast, Holiday Inn, Denver, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 7

Mercer Co. Sheep Shearing School, Whiting Farm, Pulaski, thru April 8.

Keystone Farm Credit meeting, Willow Valley Conference Center, Willow Street, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 8

Ag Issues Forum, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, 7:30

a.m.-9 a.m.

Delaware-Chester Farmers Association annual spring banquet, West Fallowfield School, Oxford, 6:45 p.m.

Dairy tour to Carroll Co. from Adams Co.

Keystone Farm Credit meeting, The Inn at Reading, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 9
Good Friday

Mercer Co. Sheep Shearing School, McMullen Farm, Sugar Grove, thru April 10.

Saturday, April 10

Pa. Holstein Showcase Sale, Ag Arena, State College, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, April 11
Easter

Monday, April 12

Tuesday, April 13

5-week daytime course on home landscape design, Carroll County Extension Office, 9:30 a.m.-noon, consecutive Tuesdays, concluding May 11.

Wednesday, April 14

Thursday, April 15

Pa. Poultry Federation Fund Rais-

ing Banquet, Hershey Convention Center, Hershey, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, April 16

Mid-Atlantic Highland Cattle Association annual meeting, Who's Hill Farm, Sunbury, Pa., thru April 17.

Mastitis Control and Quality Milk Course, Penn State, University Park, thru April 17.

Saturday, April 17

Sunday, April 18

Monday, April 19

Tuesday, April 20

Ephrata Area Young Farmers Association monthly meeting, "Food Watch and Better Living Program," Ephrata H.S. Audion Room, 7:45 p.m.

Wednesday, April 21

Ephrata H.S. Ag In the Classroom program, thru April 22.

Thursday, April 22

Friday, April 23

3rd Animal Poultry Science Club dinner and awards banquet, Days Inn, Penn State, 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 24

Home Horticulture Seminar, Pansy Trial Day/Idea Garden Tour, Farm and Home Center, 9 a.m.-noon.

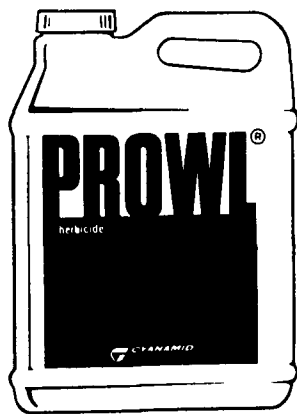
Windmill's Trade Fair, Trinity Acres, Federalsburg, Md.

Mifflinburg Young Farmers Toy Show and Winross Truck Sale.

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