



OPINION

Fun For Farm Families

We're in the middle of the fair season again with all the excitement for rural people these local, county and state fair's bring. The official Pennsylvania Fairs booklet list 133 fair events. And neighboring states have their share of fairs too.

Some fairs aren't very agricultural any more. The midway has eaten up the agricultural exhibits. But other fairs have some ag displays and some have only agricultural exhibits and no midway.

At the fairs where agriculture plays a part, the opportunity to showcase the farmer's way of life to urban neighbors is great. Not only is it a place for farm families to win prizes with livestock, produce and crafts, it is a place to show the public where the food comes from in the grocery store. With all the public ignorance about farming, more should be done at the agricultural exhibits at every fair to educate consumers about food production and food safety. Ag fairs are not just fun for farm families. Ag fairs can help spread the message that consumers are blessed with abundant food supplies because farm families farm.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, July 31

S.W. Pa. Holstein Championship Show, Fairgrounds, Uniontown, 10 a.m.

Jersey District III picnic, Long Meadows Farm, noon.

Lancaster Co. Goat Field Day, Windy Hill Goat Dairy (Jacob Fisher's), Manheim, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Sunday, August 1

Mercer Co. Grange Fair, thru Aug. 7.

Union Co. West End Fair, Laurelton, thru Aug. 7.

Adams Co. Farmers' Association summer picnic, South Mountain Fairgrounds, 1 p.m.-6 p.m.

Monday, August 2

Morrison Cove Dairy Show, Martinsburg, thru Aug. 6.

Schuylkill Co. Fair, Schuylkill Haven, thru Aug. 7.

Goshen Country Fair, West Chester, thru Aug. 7.

Clearfield Co. Fair, Clearfield, thru Aug. 7.

Carroll Co. Md. 4-H, FFA Fair, thru Aug. 7.

Tuesday, August 3

Fayette Co. Holstein Show, Uniontown Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.

Cambria Co. Dairy Club calf/heifer contest, 9 a.m.

Basic Viticulture for Commercial Grape Producers, Lehigh Co. Ag Center, Allentown, thru Aug. 6.

Ephrata annual bus tour, Chester County, departing from Elite Coach, 12:30 p.m.

Southwest FFA Dairy Show, Morrison Cove Memorial Park, Martinsburg.

New Stanton Farm and Home Show, New Stanton, thru Aug. 7.

Twilight Vegetable Growers meeting, Kutztown Produce Auction, 5 p.m.-8 p.m.

Juniata Co. Sustainable Ag Field Day, Rits Farm, Honey Grove, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Wednesday, August 4

Composting Conference, Montgomery Co. 4-H Center, Creamery, 9 a.m., thru Aug. 5.

Berks Co. FFA Market Hog Show and Sale, Leesport Auction, 9 a.m. (show) and 7 p.m. (sale).

Twilight Pasture Walk, Tyson Farm, Kempton, 7 p.m.

Johnsongrass Control Test Plot, Jim Martin Farm, Spring Grove, 7 p.m.

Thursday, August 5

Annual PCTGA summer meeting, Danville, thru Aug. 7.

South Central FFA Dairy Show, Shippensburg Fairgrounds.

Berks Co. Holstein Club picnic, Bitler Farm, Fleetwood, 7 p.m.

Cover Crop/Livestock Management Systems workshops, Union Bridge Community Center, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Friday, August 6

N.W. Pa. Holstein Championship Show, Fairgrounds, Franklin, 10 a.m.

Lancaster Co. Poultry Queen Scholarship Pageant, Farm and Home Center, 6:15 p.m.

Historical Construction Equipment Association annual convention and outdoor show, Brownsville Fairgrounds, thru Aug. 8.

Juniata Co. Sustainable Ag Field Day, Ed Rits Farm, Honey Grove, 9 a.m.

Morrison Cove Dairy Show, Memorial Park, Martinsburg, 9 a.m.

Eastern Arabian Horse Show and East Coast championships, (Turn to Page A27)

Farm Forum

Dear Editor,

Contrary to what some dairy leaders are saying, the majority of dairy farmers do know the type of dairy plan they support.

And while a co-op spokesman may severely question the ability and intelligence of the majority of dairy farmers to make sound and unified decisions on dairy policies; one only has to travel out onto several dairy farms and you soon get the picture where dairy farmers are coming from.

Continually, I visit with dairy farmers in Pennsylvania and New York. It doesn't matter if the producers ship milk to a dairy co-op or to a private handler; nearly 90%

of them want a pricing change based on the average cost of production, tempered with a supply management program, preferably a two tier program.

National milk producers spokespeople, and some of their member cooperatives continually submit articles to the news media indicating the dairy farmers that support two tier pricing are crying out for more and more government help, plus they say the two tier programs run up additional costs to the total dairy programs.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Let's get it straight. The supporters of a true two tier prog-

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NOW IS THE TIME

By John Schwartz
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Manage Calf Scours

Calf scours are a result of a combination of noninfectious factors and infectious microorganisms.

Controlling the problem takes more than giving shots and pills. Proper management and medical treatment are necessary to prevent and treat the disease.

Calf scour prevention has to be a year-round effort. Some management ideas include:

- Before the calf hits the ground, you may help prevent problems by making sure the herd receives adequate nutrition.

- Replacement heifers must receive sufficient feed energy for maintenance as well as growth. Failure to meet energy needs will result in a weak calf at birth and delayed return to estrus.

- The newborn calf should have a dry and clean place.

- Be concerned with sanitation. Confined areas may become wet from accumulated manure and urine.

- Perhaps the most important requirement for newborn calves is they receive adequate colostrum early in life. A calf should receive one to two quarts of colostrum during the first two to four hours after birth to provide disease protection.

To Move Farm Equipment Safely

If you drive farm equipment on public roads, make sure it is properly lighted and marked so other road users may see and identify it as a slow-moving in time to avoid collision.

Make sure your farm equipment has the lighting, reflectors, and slow-moving vehicle identification. Keep lights and reflectors clean. Replace burned out bulbs and lamps promptly.

Use your flashing lights when you travel on a public road. If possible, avoid travel during bad weather and at night. Also, avoid

busy highways during peak travel or rush hours.

If possible, move wide equipment during the day and when traffic volume is relatively low. Use an escort car or a lookout to help you on blind curves or bridges.

Obey all traffic laws. Also, be courteous to other drivers.

To Fill Silos Safely

Few farm operations are as dangerous as filling a silo. Knowing how to handle these hazards will let you fill your silo safely.

Preparation for silo filling includes raising the unloader to the top of the structure. Do this on a calm, dry day to reduce the risk of slips and falls. Make sure all cables, wires, pulleys, and connections are anchored and working properly before you start.

Never enter the silo while the unloader is being raised. Moving machine parts pose the greatest risk during silo filling.

Never step over PTO shafts. Instead, walk around tractors and wagons. To prevent getting

snagged, keep all protective machinery shields in place, wear comfortable but close-fitting clothing, and keep long hair tied up or under a hat.

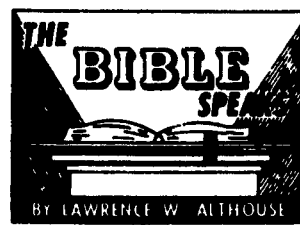
If a self-unloading wagon becomes clogged, disengage the PTO and stop the tractor. PTOs can accidentally slip into gear, so always stop the engine.

Blower accidents are most likely when the machine plugs up. If this happens, turn off the blower, cut the power, and make sure the fan blades have stopped turning before you try to clear the machine.

Silo blowers, unloading wagons, and the tractors that power them are loud enough to cause noise induced hearing loss. Workers should wear hearing protection.

Keep children and other bystanders out of the silo filling area. They not only but themselves at risk but also may distract the machine operator, who needs to pay strict attention to the task at hand.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "The only limits are those of vision."



WHEN YOU WERE DEAD!
August 1, 1993

Background Scripture:

Ephesians 1:15-2:10, 3:14-19.

Devotional Reading:

Ephesians 1:3-14.

A millennial branch of Christianity used to proclaim: "millions now living will never see death!" I recall someone commenting: "The real tragedy is that millions are 'dead' who have never really been alive!"

A friend of ours is a patient in a nursing home. The news media calls her a "vegetable," suggesting that although her physical body is alive, her mind and psyche are not. We live in a day when it is increasingly difficult to determine when biological life is over. Resuscitation brings back to life many who have been pronounced clinically "dead." We used to think that when the heart stopped beating and/or all respiration ended, that was the end of life. Not any longer.

Quite apart from these medical concerns is the question of the life of the spirit. Paul indicates that it is quite possible to be "spiritually dead" while the body is still alive: "And you he made alive, when you were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once walked..." (2:1). It is quite possible to have all the vital signs of physical life and still be dead in the midst of life.

VITAL SIGNS

To be sure, this is a figure of speech, but it is also more. There is a sense in which we can be quite spiritually "dead" despite a healthy physical body. Our bodies may be animated with the life force, but our spirits can be so deadened that there is really no life in us. Moving a finger, a hand, or a foot doesn't prove that you are alive! It is said that when Mrs. Dorothy Parker was told that President Calvin Coolidge passed away, she responded with: "How can they tell?" With some people it is very difficult.

Researchers estimate that as many as one out of every twenty persons has a near-death experi-

ence — when the physical body ceases to function, but is resuscitated. But I wonder how many people have near-life experiences, getting close to being really alive, but never making it? Important as life after death is, so is life before death.

For some people it is a matter of dying so slowly that they are scarcely aware of it. Poet Stephen Vincent Benet wrote: "Life is not lost by dying! Life is lost minute by minute, day by dragging day, in all the thousand, small uncarving ways." And Robert D. Abraham, writing in *The Saturday Evening Post*, said much the same thing:

For some men die by shrapnel
And some go down in flames,
But most men perish inch by inch

In play at little games.

INCH BY INCH

Paul says that it is sin that has the power to kill the spirit while the body is still alive. Worst of all, this sin attracts us because it seems to promise the very fullness of life it takes away from us. "Among these we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of body and mind..." (2:3).

But the good news is that, "...God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ... and raised us up with him..." (2:4-6a). In other words, once we recognize that we are "dead," we can turn from our trespasses, accept the grace of God, and experience the resurrecting new life offered us in Christ. From that new relationship comes the life for which we were born: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (2:10).

That old farmers' saying puts it plainly: "Live as though you would die tonight. Farm as though you would live forever."

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