



OPINION

Safer Pesticides Needed Now

Farmers have aggressively adopted newer, safer pesticides as they have become available. But they are frustrated by what some industry sources say has been a slow-down in the registration process.

By some estimates, it now takes the EPA two and one-half years or more to decide whether to register a new pesticide once manufacturers have submitted all needed documents and data. That's a year or more longer than in the past. To farmers, the slowdown is critical. Officials at the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) say farmers are under pressure to improve environmental stewardship, but at the same time, the products that can help them do this are taking longer to get through to them.

The high level of frustration was highlighted in a special Gallup survey commissioned by NCGA last winter. It showed that nearly 80 percent of surveyed farmers think that the public sees them as poor environmental stewards. Yet, safer products aren't available to them.

Part of the frustration is that EPA officials say they are committed to speed up getting safer pesticides on the market. But the evidence shows that so far this has just been talk.

The burden is on EPA to follow through on the speed-up process so that safer pesticides are available for agricultural uses.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, August 7

Virginia Summer Holstein Show, Harrisonburg, Va.

Old Time Plow Boys Club plowing demonstration, Macungie, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., thru Aug. 8.

Cumberland County 4-H Dairy Round-up, Shippensburg Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.

Lehigh County 4-H Horse Round-up, 2850 Fish Hatchery Road, Allentown, 10 a.m.

Sunday, August 8

Bedford Co. Fair, Bedford, thru Aug. 14.

Montour-Delong Community Fair, Washingtonville, thru Aug. 14.

Monday, August 9

Clinton Co. Fair, Mackeyville, thru Aug. 14.

Cochranon Community Fair, Cochranon, thru Aug. 14.

Greene Co. Fair, Waynesburg, thru Aug. 14.

Butler Farm Show, Butler, thru Aug. 14.

Kutztown Fair, Kutztown, thru Aug. 14.

Warren Co. Fair, Pittsfield, thru Aug. 14.

Dawson Grange Fair, Dawson, thru Aug. 14.

Rural Environmental Field Days, Spring Woods Farm, Gap, thru Aug. 11.

Cumberland County 4-H Livestock Sale, Shippensburg Fairgrounds, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, August 10

Tioga Co. Fair, Fairgrounds, Whitneyville, thru Aug. 15.

Elk County Fair, Kersey, thru Aug. 14.

Harrod Fair, Greensburg, thru Aug. 14.

Empire Days, Fairgrounds, Seneca Falls, N.Y., thru Aug. 12.

Wednesday, August 11

Lancaster Co. 4-H Swine Round-up, Manheim Fairgrounds, show 11 a.m., sale 7 p.m.

York Co. Holstein picnic, Leonard and Bonnie Greek's Farm.

College of Ag Sciences (U. of

Del.) Farm and Home Field Day, Research and Education Center, Georgetown, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 12

Ag Issues Forum, Leola Family Restaurant, 7:30 a.m.-9 a.m.

Butler Co. Holstein Show, Farm Show Grounds, 10 a.m.

Chester Co. Holstein Field Day, Richard Hostetter Farm, Parkesburg, 10 a.m.

Lancaster Co. 4-H Market Lamb Show, West Lampeter Fairgrounds, show 10 a.m., sale 7 p.m.

Capitol Region Summer Turf and Ornamental School, Millersville University.

Wheat and Barley Grower's annual planning meeting, York 4-H Center, Bair Station, 7:30 p.m.

Vegetable Variety Plot, Leinbach Farm Supply, Shippensburg, 6 p.m.

Twilight Meeting Northumberland County Conservation District, Himmel's Church, 6-9 p.m.

Friday, August 13

Timber '93, Hardwood Lumber

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Farm Forum

Editor:

Effective advertising is the bridge between the producer and the consumer. Some products are sold in large amounts whether they are good for us or not because of the promotions. I do not see any advertisements in any newspapers promoting agricultural products such as milk, fruit or vegetables by the Dairy Producers Assoc. or the Apple Growers Assoc. etc. Fresh untainted products free of additives would be better than snack foods or soft drinks which are sold by the millions of cans.

Why not place advertisements for milk, fresh fruits and vegetables in the sports sections of



NOW IS THE TIME

By John Schwartz
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Celebrate Poultry Month

August is "Poultry Month" in Lancaster County. The Lancaster County Commissioners made this declaration in recognition of the many contributions poultry makes to the county.

In 1992, the county was the largest egg producing county in the nation. The county's chickens produce 71 eggs every second. The \$187 million farm receipts generated from poultry represents 42 percent of the total poultry products sold in Pennsylvania.

In addition to producing enough eggs to feed more than 8 million people, the county's farms produced 47 million broilers.

Some economic impact figures of the poultry industry are: every \$1 of poultry wages generates an additional personal income of \$6.81, and \$602 million of economic activity is generated from the production of poultry and wages paid by Lancaster County poultry farmers.

Poultry is a very important segment of Lancaster County agriculture.

Join the poultry industry in celebrating August as "Poultry Month."

To Attend Ag Progress Days

Penn State's Ag Progress Days will be held August 17 to 19 at the Rockspring research farm. The farm is located on Route 45 about 9 miles southwest of State College.

At Ag Progress Days you will see how research and education help to improve our food supply, protect the environment and support Pennsylvania's number one industry, the \$38 billion agricultural sector.

The event will include educational presentations, exhibits, workshops, guided tours of research facilities and test plots, commercial and non-commercial

newspapers as an alternative to soft drinks and these pseudo-fruit drink concoctions.

On the way home from work, I often stop and get a bag of snack food. No more. There is too much salt and grease. I will get a bag of apples instead. I picked up about twenty empty soda cans and bottles and thought: is it good for us what is in these cans? Also consider the hassle of recycling them.

Fresh agricultural products would be better for all. They should be advertised in the newspapers where the consumers see them.

Victoria Lingg Narvon

exhibits, machinery and equipment demonstrations.

Also, the latest on crops, dairy and livestock production, advice on lawns and gardens, soil and water conservation, antique farm and home implements, horse exhibits and clinics, youth displays and careers in agriculture is scheduled every day.

This year's show will also feature water quality, nutrient management and composting demonstrations. There is something for the entire family.

Admission and parking is free. So, plan now to attend Ag Progress Days. For more information contact your Penn State Cooperative Extension office or read related articles in this paper.

To Determine When To Rotate Alfalfa

It is always difficult to decide just when to rotate an established alfalfa field into another crop.

To help in making this decision, alfalfa growers may assess the health of a field between the last

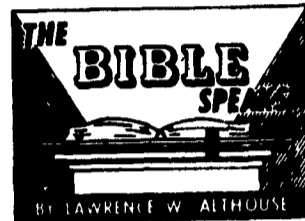
two harvests for the season by counting the number of stems per square foot.

Counting the number of stems rather than the number of plants gives a good indication of the relative health of the plant — healthy plants produce more stems than weaker plants.

Alfalfa fields with 55 or more stems per square foot produce maximum yields. When the number of stems per square foot declines to 40, the yield potential is reduced by 25 percent.

Economic data suggest when yields drop by more than 25 percent, it is time to rotate the alfalfa field to another crop. If fields are checked between the last two harvests of the year, marginal fields may be identified for rotation and appropriate plans may be made.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave." — Calvin Coolidge



RAZING THE WALLS
August 8, 1993

Background Scripture:
Ephesians 2:11 - 3:6

Devotional Reading:
Hebrews 13:1-7

It was just a year ago that I saw something that I was quite sure would never be possible in my lifetime. I stood at the broad Potsdammer Platz in what used to be West Berlin and then walked across the ground that I remembered as being barred by the infamous Berlin Wall. I went to the Brandenburg Gate and, where once the way was barred by barbed wire and malevolent sentries, I joined the happy throngs that traipsed back and forth through its portals. It was an immensely pleasing experience.

But as I strolled freely through the former West and East Belins and later motored through the East Germany that once had lain behind the Iron Curtain, I realized that although the physical walls that divided Germany had been razed, there were still barriers between these two peoples. One woman said that, whereas in recent years the peoples of East and West Germany had maintained that "Wir sind ein Volk!" — "We are one people!" — "...we are now realizing that in 50 years of separation and hostility, we had actually become two different peoples." The real barriers were not of concrete and barbed wire, but of ideas and emotions. Today, now that the physical walls have been pulled down, all Germany is working at pulling down those barriers which are even more insidious and pervasive — the barriers in peoples' hearts and minds.

WHO LOVES WALLS?
Actually, that's something we all should have known. I have sometimes observed that, although you can make the people of church sit together in the same pews, there may be barriers within that are not so easily breached. Robert Frost, observing nature's ceaseless attempts to destroy human walls, said that "There's something that doesn't love a wall." The forces of nature keep

eating away at our walls, but human hostility keep repairing and maintaining those barriers. Something in human nature does "love a wall." Something in us keeps pulling apart that which God created to be together.

Why is it that so often in human history the end result of religion has been to build walls between people? The other day Valere and I were discussing the differences between various Christian denominations and she asked me, "Has there ever been a denomination that hasn't had a split in it? "I thought long and hard and, although I'm willing to concede that I may have overlooked one, I couldn't recall any group that had been spared that experiences.

HOSTILITY'S SOURCE

But, if that is so, it is not because God intends for us to be divided. That dividedness and divisiveness is something we human beings accomplish completely upon our own. If Muslims, Orthodox and Roman Catholics are fighting a "holy war" in Yugoslavia, it is a war that is neither intended nor sanctioned by the God they profess. When Protestants and Roman Catholics kill each other in Northern Ireland, it is not on spiritual grounds. Nor is it their God, who incites Hindus and Muslims to hate and attack each other in India. For the writer of Ephesians assures us that God's purpose is to reconcile both us to each other and to him.

A gospel that divides people and sets up impassable barriers cannot be the Good News of Jesus Christ. As Ephesians puts it, "For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and had broken down the dividing wall of hostility... that He might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, he might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end" (2:14-16).

If your religion raises walls instead razing them, it is not the Christianity Christ died to give us.

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