



## OPINION

### Recognize 4-H

Volunteers are the backbone of Extension and the 4-H Program. They helped create Cooperative Extension in the early 1900's and continue to guide its growth and development as well as multiply Extension's budget many times. Across the nation, volunteers play an active part in program direction, implementation and evaluation. Some of the more specific titles which identify their roles are: 4-H leader, Extension homemaker, and master volunteer. Others work on committees or projects without titles. Some are from community organizations which seek Extension assistance.

4-H leaders teach youth life skills so necessary for a young person's growth and development. Using "hands-on" techniques, over half a million well-trained volunteers in the U.S. help make 4-H one of the most cost-effective publicly supported programs of the 1990's. Master volunteers help to organize 4-H clubs, train 4-H leaders and homemakers. Extension Homemakers groups support 4-H and Extension in fundraising and creating awareness of the programs that Extension has to offer. Volunteer committees such as the 4-H Cabinet, 4-H Leadership Development, 4-H Foundation and Extension Executive Board help to guide and plan as well as raise funds for Extension programs for youth members and teen and adult volunteers.

In one year, Cooperative Extension agents work with about 2.9 million volunteers nationwide who, in turn, work with about 48 million other adults and youth, resulting in multiple benefits to clientele, volunteers and communities. Did you know that 50% of 4-H leaders were former 4-H members?

But why do volunteers volunteer? Most recognize a number of ways in which their work is of benefit to others in the community, such as improvements in the well being, knowledge, skills, and health and safety of others. Some also realize many personal benefits from their work, such as improved knowledge, skills, feelings of satisfaction in helping others, watching young people grow into mature adults, and improved family relationships.

The human touch remains essential in helping people continue their educations and putting university-based information to work in their own lives. This week, October 3-9, is National 4-H Week. We celebrate the week by applauding the 4-H volunteers everywhere who make 4-H happen. It would be a good time for you to volunteer to help your local 4-H program. A call to your county extension office will get you started.

## Farm Calendar



Saturday, October 9  
National 4-H Week

Pa. Junior Holstein Executive Committee meeting, State Office, State College, 10:30 a.m.

Schuylkill Co. Fall Festival and Crafts Show, Schuylkill Co. Fairgrounds, thru Oct. 10.  
Sunday, October 10

Monday, October 11  
Columbus Day

Poultry Management and Health Seminar, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, noon.

Tuesday, October 12

Delmarva Poultry Industry annual meeting, Delmarva Convention Center, Delmar, Md.

Dillsburg Community Fair, Dillsburg, thru Oct. 16.

Successful Retirement Seminar, Walgreen's Lehigh Valley Distribution Center, Bethlehem, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 13

Pa./Va. Turkey Day, Mechanicsburg Holiday Inn, Mechanicsburg.

Flower Growers Day at Penn State, Keller Conference Center, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Berks Co. 4-H Market Steer Show and Sale, Leesport Farmer's

Market, show 9 a.m., sale 4 p.m.

Thursday, October 14

Carbon Co. 4-H Leaders Banquet, cooperative extension office, Jim Thorpe, 6:30 p.m.

PSU Professional Landscape Management Program, Focus On Diseases of Ornamentals, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., continues Oct. 21 and 28.

A Stream Evening at the Stroud Center, Stroud Water Research Center, Avondale, 4:30 p.m.

ADADC District 12 meeting, Sennett Federated Church, Sennett, N.Y., 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 15

National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, Louisville, Ky., thru Oct. 18.

Eastern Pa. 4-H Beef and Lamb Show and Sale, Allentown Fairgrounds, show Friday 2:30 p.m., sale Saturday 10 a.m.

Saturday, October 16

Lancaster County Country Auction to benefit Lancaster Farmland Trust, Paradise Sales Barn, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Forest Stewardship Landowner Workshop, Best Western Centre Court Restaurant and Conference Center, Mont-



## NOW IS THE TIME

By John Schwartz  
Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent

### To Control Multiflora Rose

Multiflora Rose was introduced in the 1930s and 1940s by federal and state agricultural officials as a living fence, wildlife habitat, food source for wildlife, and an erosion control agent. While it does perform those functions, it has become a serious weed problem all across the Northeast.

Farmers have been attempting to control this weed by cutting, burning, pulling out with equipment, and applying pesticides. Leon Ressler, extension environmental agent, reports biological control is a possibility. Researchers at West Virginia University have identified a mite and a virus that have proven effective in controlling multiflora rose.

The virus causes the rose rosette disease and is spread by the eriophyid mite. A five-year research project was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the disease in controlling multiflora rose. At the beginning of the research, 30 percent of the plants showed symptoms of the disease and one percent of the plants had died. At the end of five years, 94 percent of the plants had been infected and 88 percent of the weeds had died. For farmers and others who have land infested with multiflora rose, biological control now offers hope for clearing the land of this problem weed.

While biological control is not fast, it does allow the landowner to clean up the land without the use of herbicides or costly mechanical clearing operations.

### To Construct Mud-Free Cow Lanes

Cow lanes are the paths used by

gomerville, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Sunday, October 17

Monday, October 18

Tulpehocken Young Farmers Dried Flowers Christmas Tree Demonstration, High School ag classroom, 7:15 p.m.-9 p.m.

ADADC District 14 meeting, Tally-Ho Restaurant, Kanona, N.Y., 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 19

Grassland FFA Greenhouse Open House and Decorating, Garden Spot High School, 1 p.m.

Solanco Young Farmers meeting, Silage Corn Management. Westmoreland Co. Tested Hay Sale, Westmoreland Fairgrounds, 11 a.m.

ADADC District 4 meeting, Saratoga Co. Extension, Ballston Spa, N.Y., 7:30 p.m.

ADADC District 9 meeting, Tally-Ho Restaurant, Richfield Springs, N.Y., 7:45 p.m.

ADADC District 11 meeting,

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farmers to control the movement of cows to and from the barn to the pastures or between pastures. These paths often cross low lying wet areas or drainways that carry water runoff during heaving rains.

As cows cross these areas, the ground turns to mud. Recent concerns for herd health and environmental concerns about the impact of muddy lanes, barnyards, and exercise areas have on water quality have caused farmers and environmentalists to look at new management practices to manage barnyard runoff, fence streambanks, and maintain grass sod in exercise lots.

Jerry Martin, extension associate for the Pequea-Mill Creek project, reports there are several different approaches farmers have taken to remedy the problems of muddy cow lanes. The first type is modeled after the construction of access roads. In this process, a heavy duty woven geotextile fabric is covered with crushed stone. The fabric allows water to filter through while preventing soil from mixing with the stone.

The second type utilizes cattle and hog slat seconds to lay on sections of cow lanes that are suscep-

tible to mud or to line waterways that cross cow lanes. The third approach is the construction of a soil cement pad using soil, stone and cement. Each of these procedures has been successful.

The muddy conditions often found in these cow lanes have been eliminated and the cows have been given a firm, dry surface to go to and from the pasture.

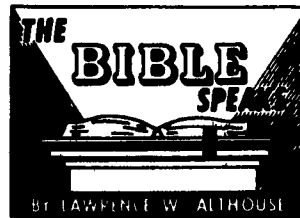
### To Install SMV Sign

Accidents involving machinery and vehicles continue to injure and kill people, especially on rural highways.

Farmers should make sure that warning lights are installed and functioning on all farm equipment and horse drawn buggies. Also, place a clearly visible slow-moving vehicle (SMV) emblem on all farm tractors and implements.

When driving, always drive defensively and anticipate slow-moving machinery over the next hill or around the next curve. By properly lighting your slow-moving vehicles, you are taking a big step in protecting your life!

*Feather Prof's Footnote: "If you want the present to be different from the past, study the past."*



THIS OFFER EXPIRES...  
October 10, 1993

Background Scripture:  
Genesis 17

Devotional Reading:  
Genesis 17:1-15

Put yourself in Abram's place. He was 99 years old. His life was virtually over. Despite God's promise which he had trusted, he still had no son and heir. Then God comes to him and says again, "Behold my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations" (17:4).

What would your reaction be? Some people would be angry. Not only had God not kept his promise, but now he was heaping further insult by reiterating it at a time when it was obviously impossible to keep. Not allowing themselves the reaction of anger, others would hear the promise and conclude that all their faith had been for nothing.

### HE LAUGHS

So what did Abram do? He "fell on his face and laughed" (17:17). Actually, in dealing with God one needs a sense of humor, as God must need one in dealing with us. The sheer absurdity of God's promise caused Abram to break up. It is with amusement that he asks, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" Come on, God, you're pulling my leg!

Actually, God's promises to us often seem equally absurd. When we have lost the job in which we've spent 30 years, the assurance that he will see us through this experience begins to seem empty if one after another prospective employer tells they have no place for us. When it's obvious that nothing or no one is going to be able to save our marriage, what's the good of trusting in God? When our doctor tells us our cancer is inoperable, and we've got only a few weeks to live, what

good is our trust in God?

The answer to Abram's faith was not the birth of his son Isaac, but that God had a purpose for Abram and nothing could keep that purpose from being fulfilled. God promised to make Abram the father of many nations, not for Abram's sake, but for his own. His promise of inheriting Canaan was not to make Abram to feel like a winner in the cosmic lottery, but because it served God's plan. Abram and Sarah would have a child, not so that they could boast of God's favor, but so that Isaac could serve God's purpose too.

### WHAT GOD PROMISES

I'm sure there are couples every bit as faithful, or more, who remain childless. That does not mean they are loved any less by God. Nor does it mean that he is any less faithful in keeping his promises. The specifics of our lives — whether we marry, whether we keep this job or that, whether we have children, whether we live to a ripe old age — are generally not part of God's promise to us. What God does promise each of us is that he has a purpose for our lives, and he will be with us no matter what happens along the way to the fulfillment of that purpose.

God established an everlasting covenant with Abraham and his descendants. "I shall establish my covenant with him (Isaac) as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him" (17:19). A covenant is an agreement between a superior and an inferior. It is offered by the superior. The inferior can either accept it or reject, but this is not a quid pro quo transaction. God always offers so much more than he requires of us. And that is why, even when we break the covenant, God does not call it null and void. It is an offer that has no expiration on it.

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