



# OPINION

## Have A Nice Thanksgiving Day

In a book by Loy Cuyler Awkerman, V.M.D., titled *The History of Veterinary Medicine in Lancaster County*, and published in 1978, we found an interesting commentary on the early days of our country's agriculture.

Along with the first settlers came horses and oxen; horses were preferred. The first animals brought in for food were pigs. The land was ideal for pigs to scrounge and to root through the areas not yet cleared. Chickens came next, followed by sheep and cows. There was just not enough grazing land available for these two ruminants in the very early years. The first English settlers in Virginia, however, did have cows.

The favored breed of those pioneer years was a large brindle and white cow with long smooth horns. By today's standards it would probably resemble an Ayrshire. The type was considered a good milker and a good forager. By the mid-seventeenth century, a farmer in Massachusetts observed that cows fed hay and grain during the winter months would continue to milk. It became increasingly evident that manure on the soil produced better crops.

There were no trained veterinarians, only the neighbor who was "handy" with animals. Sometimes the physician in the village was compassionate enough to lend his knowledge and give aid to an animal in distress. It is certain that the dog and the cat had to make it on their own in those days because they were held in little regard. It is interesting that rural people even today are often not willing to seek veterinary care for their pets. The livestock of two centuries ago was worth saving if there was a way to save it.

The "Horse Doctor" was the first to gain some reknown as he would usually locate in the cities and cater to the riding and carriage horse. This person was of little value to the farmer living in the outreaches. In Lancaster County, Dr. John Breneman (1813-1877) of Mount Joy rode horse back to surrounding farms to administer to the needs of horses and cows. Dr. Henry Freed Breneman, his son, (1843-1912), learned under the tutelage of his father and wrote in his notes about a disease called "Locked-Joy." The young doctor wrote: "Locked joy—...Lock Joy-bleed largely then apply chloroform until he opens his mouth and give him 2 drahms of acifidity every 6 hours and a dose of physic. This will relief if there is any cure for him."

We laugh at the ignorance of our ancestors. But maybe we should laugh with reserve. Revolutionary knowledge of how to cure disease will soon make obsolete what we know now. The ability to raise the limits of good health will be the major reason why the bio-genetic plant and animal marvels now in the laboratory will become practical. Our descendants may soon be laughing at our limited pre-biogenetic knowledge.

In this Thanksgiving season we are grateful for what modern agricultural science has done for us and for the blessings that have come to everyone who eats because of this knowledge. Have a nice Thanksgiving day.

## Farm Calendar



**Saturday, November 20**  
 Grain Management Clinic, Mahantongo Fire Company, Pitman, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.  
 Mercer County Holstein Association annual meeting, Mercer Extension Office, 7:30 p.m.  
 Huntingdon County DHIA annual meeting, Shaver's Creek Community Building, 7:30 p.m.  
 Lancaster County farm tours, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.  
 Carroll County, Md. Extension Open House, Ag Center, Westminster, Md.

**Sunday, November 21**

**Monday, November 22**

**Tuesday, November 23**  
 PFGC/Penn State Forage Conference, Ramada Inn, West Middlesex.  
 Lancaster County 17th annual Agriculture Industry Banquet,

Lancaster Host Resort, 7 p.m.  
 Swine Health, Profitability, and Pseudorabies, Bergstrasse School, Ephrata, 7:30 p.m.  
 Susquehanna River Basin Commission meeting, Woodlands Inn and Resort, Wilkes-Barre, 9 a.m.

**Wednesday, November 24**

**Thursday, November 25**  
 Thanksgiving Day

**Friday, November 26**

**Saturday, November 27**

**Sunday, November 28**

**Monday, November 29**

**Tuesday, November 30**  
 USDA's 70th Ag Outlook Conference, USDA Headquarters,

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**NOW IS THE TIME**  
 By John Schwartz  
 Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

### To Practice Biosecurity

Last week's article on biosecurity reminds us there is still a need for farmers to implement and improve their biosecurity programs.

Biosecurity is a defensive health plan to keep disease organisms away from our animals. Every farmer needs to develop and implement a biosecurity plan for his farm. Otherwise, he is playing Russian roulette.

As in Russian roulette, you eventually lose and pay a big price. This price may be in the form of economic losses, high mortality, and quarantines.

Biosecurity plans are easy to design but require a commitment to implement. Once implemented, they become habit and people learn real quickly you mean business.

Your biosecurity plan should include testing of animals before they come on your farm, clean clothes and boots before entering buildings, locked buildings to keep unauthorized people from entering, footbaths, and vaccination program.

I am amazed the survey reports only 28 percent of the swine producers required everyone to change footwear, 19 percent required coveralls, and 14 percent used footbaths. When you look at the investment you have in buildings and animals, farmers should be willing to spend a few extra dollars to buy boots, coveralls, and footbaths to protect their animals' health.

Biosecurity is insurance that pays dividends. Consult your veterinarian or extension agent to help

## Farm Forum

For 16 years we have been back on the dairy farm that has been in the family for over 100 years. When we started we thought 24 cows would provide a living for our family, but as time went on it's now even tough to make it on a fifty-sixty cow dairy. Same old story... You've heard it times before.

Nationally, there has been dairy over production throughout this period of time... funny I never seem to produce enough. Same old story... price of milk has never been enough! Add a cow or two to increase cash always made sense to me. We dairy farmers have always complained about pay price we have received for our milk... Never thought a few more cows on our farms would hurt overall surplus. After all, there has always been a neighbor down the road going out of business!

Cut the budget! Wow, what (Turn to Page A34)

you design your biosecurity program.

### To Buckle Up

Just a reminder, on June 22, 1993, acting Governor Mark Singel signed the Child Passenger Protection Act.

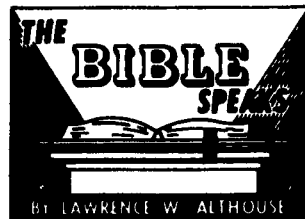
This enhanced legislation requires all children under age four to ride in an approved child safety seat. The new law supersedes the old law which allowed children over the age of one to ride in a vehicle wearing a safety belt only.

The new car seat law has made riding without a safety seat a primary violation. Now police may stop a vehicle for that reason only. Also, the new law applies to all motorists, whereas the old law applied only to Pennsylvania residents.

This law took effect August 21, 1993. Now is the time to make sure all children under the age of four ride in a safety seat and all other people wear their seat belt. This practice could save your child's life or even yours!

### To Salute

Everett Newswanger  
 This week the Pennsylvania



YOUR BROTHER'S FACE  
 November 21, 1993

### Background Scripture:

Genesis 33

Devotional Reading:

Matthew 5:23-25

Two of the most exciting verses in the Old Testament are in the final episode of the story of Jacob and Esau in the 33rd chapter of Genesis.

The first of these is: "But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him and they wept" (33:4). And the key word in this verse is the word "But," for everything in this verse stand in contrast to what went before it: the enmity between Jacob and Esau, Jacob's exile, his decision to return, and his apprehension as he anticipates his meeting with Esau.

We can understand what he must have been feeling: "And Jacob lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, Esau was coming...and four hundred men with him"! Was this to be the day of reckoning for what he had done so many years ago? We've got to give him credit: he possibly could have turned around and escaped. But, instead, as he had with Laban, he decided to make the best of the situation, dividing his large retinue in half for their security, and bowing seven times, he approached his brother. As "he came near to his brother," his heart must have been in his throat!

### BUT ESAU RAN

"But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him..!" If Jacob had changed, so had Esau. He was still impulsive, still emotional, but obviously he had long ago forgiven his brother. Jacob still isn't sure whether to trust Esau; perhaps he's simply awaiting his chance for revenge. So, he offers his people and possessions to Esau to assuage any remaining hostility. And even when Esau protests that he has enough for himself, that he doesn't need any gifts, Jacob persists: "No, if I have

Association of County Agricultural Agents honored Everett Newswanger, managing editor of *Lancaster Farming*, with its Honorary County Agent Award.

This award is only presented to a very few people who assist in promoting the efforts of county cooperative extension programs.

Everett was cited for the space he makes available every week in *Lancaster Farming* for county, regional, and state cooperative extension news and promoting extension meetings. In addition, he publishes many, many articles and columns written by Penn State extension agents.

The *Lancaster Farming* newspaper is a very important vehicle that cooperative extension uses to communicate the latest educational information to farmers and agribusiness. Based on this support, the Pennsylvania county agents say "thank you" for making our programs more successful.

Welcome aboard, Everett, as our newest county agent.

*Feather Prof's Footnote: "If you do not keep doing it better... your competition will."*

found favor in your sight, then accept my present from my hand."

And then follows the second great verse of this chapter: "for truly to see your face is like seeing the face of God, with such favor you have received me" (33:10).

I have read this passage many times, but on this reading for the first time I saw the interesting link between "the face of God" which he now saw in his brother's face, and the face of God which he experienced at the River Jabbok the night before: "...I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved" (32:30). That was a great mystical experience, but in Genesis 33 Jacob is indicating that the God he saw in his brother's face is no less inspiring.

### ACCEPT MY GIFT

In the past we've regarded Esau as a rough-and-tumble man, insensitive to the nuances of other people's thoughts and feelings. But in this incident we can see that Esau has become more perceptive too. Jacob is intent on giving Esau something as a gift. "Accept, I pray you, my gift that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough."

The old Esau would have continued to refuse Jacob's gift. Just as many of us find it more comfortable to be the giver rather than the receiver, so Esau might have continued to refuse. But Esau must have realized that sometimes, when someone has done wrong and knows it, that person may need to do something or give something as partial atonement. Esau did not need any gift from Jacob, but he realized that it was Jacob's need to give. So, for his sake, he took it.

It is wonderful to have an experience like Jacob's by the River Jabbok. But it is even more wonderful to be able to see God in the face of our brother — all of our brothers and all of our sisters.

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