



OPINION

Plan To Come To The Farm Show Too

Pennsylvania farmers are to be congratulated. Their numbers are small when you make comparison to the total population. But like a mighty economic army, they influence the life of every person in the Keystone State — good food on the family dinner table, for example.

But just as important is the impact on society when 20 percent of the jobs in Pennsylvania have some foundation in agriculture's production, transportation, processing, marketing and the suppliers of products and services for these direct farm businesses.

According to the latest figures (1992) from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the cash receipts from marketing farm products reached \$3.64 billion. That's a three percent increase over the previous year. Ag exports totaled \$348.7 million. Pennsylvania is fifth in the nation for dairy products exported; eighth for poultry products and ninth for prepared fruits.

No wonder farming continues to be the number one industry in Pennsylvania.

And now it's time again to honor these farmers and agribusinesses who keep Pennsylvania strong. The Pennsylvania Farm Show opens this weekend in Harrisburg. As a showcase for our industry, this yearly New Years' event can't be beat. And as an educational tool for both farmers and consumers, the Farm Show has been instrumental in keeping everyone abreast of the advances made in agriculture.

For suppliers of equipment and services, the Farm Show gives agribusinesses the opportunity to develop markets. And farmers can find a variety of products in one building and see what's new and make comparisons of equipment that may need to be purchased in the coming year.

State Secretary of Agriculture Boyd Wolff says the Farm Show has helped our farm community to develop new markets and boost sales of livestock, crops and related products. In addition, the Farm Show helps establish new standards of quality for Pennsylvania agriculture that are the foundations of its international reputation.

"We are proud of the efficiency and productivity of Pennsylvania farmers and agribusinesses who keep agriculture the number one industry of Pennsylvania," Wolff said.

Everyone in Pennsylvania can find something of interest at the Farm Show. We hope you plan to come to the Farm Show too.

Farm Calendar

- Saturday, January 8**
Pa. State Farm Show, thru Jan. 13.
Pa. Rabbit Breeders Association annual meeting, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.
- Sunday, January 9**
- Monday, January 10**
Eastern Pa. Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show, Valley Forge Convention Center, thru Jan. 13.
Mercer County income tax meeting, extension office, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Pa. Charolais Association annual meeting, Econo Lodge, Harrisburg.
- Tuesday, January 11**
Dairy-MAP, Neshaminy Manor Center, Doylestown, also Jan. 18.
Butler County income tax meeting, Days Inn Motel, Butler, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Master Farmers Association annual meeting, Camp Hill.
Improving Swine Efficiency Satellite Conference, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 8 p.m.-10 p.m., also Jan. 18 and Jan. 25.
Non-Mechanical Barn Ventilation meeting, Dan Stoltzfus Farm,

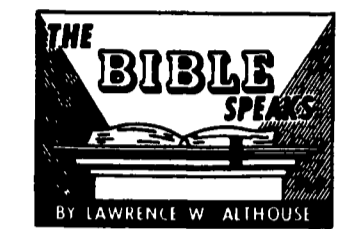
- Millheim, 10 a.m., and Joe King Farm, Madisonburg, 1 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 12**
Wayne County pesticide certification exam, Courthouse, Honesdale, 8:30 a.m.-noon.
PAA Convention, Harrisburg Marriott, Harrisburg, thru Jan. 15.
DuBois income tax meeting, DuBois Holiday Inn, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Pa. Beef Council annual meeting, Harrisburg Hilton and Towers, 6:30 p.m.
Pa. Nut Growers Association annual meeting, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.
Pa. Veterinary Nutrition Forum, Days Inn, Lancaster.
Intensive Wheat Management, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 8:30 a.m.-noon.
- Thursday, January 13**
Pa. Christmas Tree Growers Association (PCTGA) Winter Meeting, Embers Inn and Convention Center, Carlisle, thru Jan. 15.
Income tax meeting, Mansfield Comfort Inn, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Northeast Farm Credit's 4th annual Ag Outlook Conference, two

NOW IS THE TIME
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Attend Farm Show
January 8 marks the opening of the 78th Pennsylvania State Farm Show.
The show is open every day from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. except Sunday, when the hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Thursday when the hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The show closes on Thursday, January 13.
Be sure to stop by the Penn State booth in the main exhibit building. This year's theme is water quality and nutrient management. The booth will feature information on underground water, water testing, and the new nutrient management law. Other attractions include the butter sculpture, animal shows, sheep to shawl contest, commercial exhibits, educational demonstrations and exhibits, baby animal learning center, folk dance festival, and the famous food court.
Read this issue of *Lancaster Farming* for more details on these and other events at the Farm Show.

To Form Agricultural Security Districts
More than 10 years ago, the Pennsylvania legislature passed the Agricultural Security Act. This allowed farmers in a township to form agricultural security districts. These districts entitle the participating landowners to special consideration from the local governing body and state government agencies.
The local government unit may not impose ordinances that unreasonably restrict farm structures or practices within the ag security area, nor may normal farming operations and practices be deemed nuisances in a nuisance ordinance.
State government agencies must modify their administrative regulations and procedures to encourage viable farming in agricultural security areas. To form an agricultural security area, the farmers must petition their local government unit and must have at least 500 acres of land.
For more details on the Agricultural Security Area Program, contact your local Penn State Cooperative Extension office.

To Realize The Value Of 1 Cent
Today I was reading an article on how custom feed formulation by laying hen strain reduced the cost of producing eggs by one half cent a dozen.
My initial reaction was a half a cent is not very much money until I did some simple math. Based on 22 dozen of eggs produced per hen housed, a half a cent equals 11 cents per bird. That figures to \$11,000 for every 100,000 layers



THE QUESTION OF GOD'S WILL
January 9, 1994

Background Scripture:
Luke 4:31-43
Devotional Reading:
Mark 6:1-6a; 9:1-8

You don't hear this so much any more, but when I was younger, whenever affliction or tragedy struck someone, there were always those who would be quick to proclaim: "it is God's will." Many Christians still seem to equate human suffering with the will of God.
It is interesting to note that, according to the gospels, this is quite contrary to the view which Jesus held. Nowhere in the four gospels is there even any suggestion that He shared this idea. In fact, if you note His response to people who came to Him for healing, you'll find that He operates under the assumption that illness and possession are quite contrary to the will of God.
In Luke 4:33-37, when Jesus encounters in the synagogue "the man who had the spirit of an unclean demon," He does not question whether it is God's will for the man to be possessed; He commands the demon to come out of the man and he does. Note, too, that Jesus does not greet the demon as one who is doing the will of God, but as one who is thwarting that will. "Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him.'" (4:35). That is not a greeting to a colleague, but an enemy.
REBUKING THE FEVER
Note also that when Jesus went to Capernaum and the house of Simon Peter and found that the disciple's mother was ill with a high fever. He did not stop to discern whether perhaps God wanted her to be ill. Nor did He assume that God sent her this illness so that she might grow spiritually. Neither did He for one minute seek to discern if she was worthy of being healed. He does not greet this fever as a friend or ally with God, but Luke says: "And He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her;" (4:30). He rebuked the fever — is that any way to treat a friend?
In all other healing incidents in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, Jesus assumes that it is God's will for these people to be whole. He

you have.
Based on information from several egg marketing companies, the difference farmers receive for egg prices may be as high as 5 cents a dozen or \$110,000 on a 100,000-bird flock.
The same is true for dairy, swine, fruit farms, etc. Pennies do add up to big dollars on our farms.
Now is the time to look for ways to reduce costs by a few pennies or increase the price you receive by producing high quality products. This means fewer dirty and cracked eggs, lower somatic cell counts, reduced feed waste, or better feed conversions.
Work with your service people and spend the time to chase pennies and turn them into big dollars.
Feather Prof's Footnote: "A penny saved is a penny earned."

never prays, asking God to heal someone if it is your will." (He actually only prayed that prayer once and it was in the Garden of Gethsemane and had nothing to do with healing, but with his own crucifixion.)

GOD'S WILL
So, I have never hesitated to pray for God to heal someone, for I believe with all my heart and mind that God's will for us is wholeness. When I pray thus I do not pray so that He will do my will, but that I may join myself with His — to make us whole. Neither, do I believe that God sends us disease to punish us or to make us grow spiritually. True, when we are ill, there is often an opportunity for spiritual growth, but that doesn't mean that God afflicts us so that we may grow.
If God wills wholeness, why are so many of us ill? Let's look at it from another angle. I also believe it is God's will for me to be a righteous person. But I am not telling you any secret when I admit that I am something less than that. Why? Is it not God's will for me to be kind, loving and compassionate? Yes, it is. God wills me to be this way, but He does not compel me to comply. In the same way, I believe He wills me to be whole, but doesn't compel me to be whole. I have free will, the power to make many choices that impinge upon my health. Others, by their own free will, may affect my health. Germs, viruses, carcinogens, exercising a kind of natural freedom, can significantly affect my health. God wills for us a healthy, wholesome environment, but He does not compel us to have one. So, our illness, our lack of wholeness, is part of the price we pay for our freedom.
Jesus knew that illness was against God's will and He spent much of His time ministering to people's physical and mental well-being. Furthermore, He knew that He had the authority to rebuke these illnesses and heal them. Even the demons knew that!
Do we?
NOTE: For more on the subject of healing and wholeness, see *Rediscovering The Gift Of Healing* by Lawrence W. Althouse, Samuel Wesier, Inc., 1983.)

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