



Lancaster Farming

OPINION

Important To Succeed, But Not Always

The February issue of the Dauphin County 4-H Hotline has some remarks by Frederick Rudy, extension agent, 4-H youth/development to the "Dear 4-H Family" that we think should get a little broader exposure. In this letter, Rudy expressed some opinions that others had asked him to share.

"I think it is important for our youth to succeed," Rudy wrote. "But not always. If youth, or any people, succeed at everything they do, when failure does come, it is often devastating. Individuals who always attain their personal goals for the first time are likely not setting their goals high enough.

"As adults working with youth, we must allow room for failure in a supporting way. We must let youth make the attempt and if it fails, help them to understand why. We must not jump in and bail them out all the time. We must learn not to be embarrassed by the shortfalls of youth. Is it really so bad if the hem isn't quite straight or the clipping isn't perfect?

"I ask those of you that are parents to think back to when your child was beginning to walk. Did the child just suddenly stand up and run? Or did your child toddle and fall, slowly improving at walking and then eventually run? How many knees did you bandage?

"Leadership is like walking. It must be learned over time. Mistakes will be made. Our job is to encourage them to get up and brush themselves off. We may have to bandage some egos and hurt pride. But the end result will be a young person who is confident, capable, responsible, and mature, in short the kind of individual we hoped they would become when they were born.

"Success should be planned. So should failure. We must continually reward the effort, not just the result. Regardless of the situation, young people who achieve their goal, feeling that it was their own efforts that created the success, will feel better about it. Do we sometimes cheat our youth out of that feeling of self accomplishment by being too quick to do it for them?"

This sounds like good philosophy to us. Let's be part of the company that encourages others around us, youth and adults alike, to make the effort to succeed. And then let's applaud those who reach the top and also applaud those who didn't make the top but certainly made an honest effort to reach it. We believe this is the ultimate win/win situation.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, January 29

Mercer County Dairy Day.
Equine Nutrition Program, Hilltop Farm, Calora, Md.

NOFA-NJ Winter Conference,
New Horizons For New Jersey Organic Ag, Rutgers University, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Huntingdon Co. Holstein Assoc. annual meeting, Warriors Mark Fire Hall, 7 p.m.

Beaver/Lawrence Holstein Assoc. annual meeting, Liberty Grange, Harlansburg, 11:30 a.m.

Columbia/Luzerne Holstein Assoc. annual meeting, The Lookout House, Berwick, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 30

Monday, January 31

National Mastitis Council annual meeting, Hyatt Orlando, Orlando, Fla., thru Feb. 2.

Jefferson/Clearfield Dairy/Crops Day, Ramada Inn, DuBois, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Beef Education meeting, Trainer's Midway Diner, 5:30 p.m.-9:45 p.m.

Kent County, Md. DHIA Records Update, extension office, Chestertown, Md., 12:30 p.m.

Apple Pruning and Training Session, Lerew Brother's Orchards, York Springs, 10 a.m.-noon.

Octorara Young Farmers Association pesticide meeting, Octorara Ag Education Room, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 1

Pennsylvania Vegetable Conference and Trade Show, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, thru Feb. 3.

Cumberland County Extension annual meeting, Penn Township Fire Hall, Huntsdale, 6:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting of the State Horticultural Association of Pa., Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, thru Feb. 3.

Solanco Young Farmers meeting, 'Farming Out Heifers,' Solanco High School, 7:30 p.m.

Juniata County Dairy-MAP, Family House Restaurant, Mifflintown, also Feb. 8.

Lancaster County Cattle Feeder's Day, Farm and Home Center, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Winter Turf and Ornamental School, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.

Income tax meeting, Montoursville Presbyterian Church, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Holstein Winter Forum, Holiday Inn Frederick, Frederick, Md., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Dairy-MAP, Lehigh County Ag Center, Allentown, also Feb. 8.

Berks County Estate Planning



NOW IS THE TIME

By John Schwartz
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

Not To Plant Feed Oats

It seems like every year some growers consider using feed oats for planting.

According to Robert Anderson, extension agronomy agent, this is usually not a very good idea if seed oats are available and even cost more.

Feed oats often contain seeds such as quackgrass, bindweed, and other hard-to-control weeds. Yields from feed oats are usually lower than yields from seed oats.

Keep in mind that the cost of the seed is usually the smallest variable cost involved in planting oats. If you must use home grown seed because seed oats are not available, make sure it is cleaned, treated with a fungicide seed treatment, and has good germination.

To test germination, wet a few paper towels, spread some seeds on the paper towels, then role the towels around the seeds and place in a plastic bag in a warm location. In about a week, count the number of seeds which germinated compared to the total seeds.

To Evaluate Spring Wheat

Some farmers are considering growing spring hard red wheat varieties because of their price advantage over the winter wheat varieties traditionally grown here.

Traditionally, these spring hard red wheat varieties have been grown in the northern plains of the United States.

Penn State has done some test-

Workshop, Ag Center, Leesport, 7:30 p.m.-10 p.m., also Feb. 8, 15, and 22.

Wednesday, February 2

Herd Health Management Workshop, Rostraver Grange, Belle Vernon, 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

Northumberland County Winter Conference, Otterbein United Methodist Church, Sunbury, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Thursday, February 3

Franklin County Dairy Nutrition Service annual meeting, Gible's Restaurant, 7 p.m.

Lancaster County Cooperative Extension annual meeting, Farm and Home Center.

Holstein Winter Forum, Guilford County Ag Extension, Greensboro, N.C., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Crop Management Association meeting, First Citizens Bank, Ulysses, 10 a.m., and at Seneca Highlands Vo-Tech, Port Allegany, 1:30 p.m.

Friday, February 4

Pa. Corn Conference, Lancaster Host Resort.

PASA Farming For The Future Conference, Nittany Lion Inn, University Park, thru Feb. 5.

Holstein Winter Forum, Atlanta (Turn to Page A27)

ing of spring hard red wheat, and Dr. Elwood Hatley makes the following comments.

Hard red wheat is not very resistant to the complex of diseases found in Pennsylvania. As a result, low yields of 30 to 35 bushels per acre have been observed.

To achieve optimum yield, he suggests seeding as early as possible at 100 pounds of seed per acre. Use fertilizer recommendations similar to those for spring oats. Be prepared to spray for mildew, septoria, and leaf rust.

In Dr. Hatley's tests, mildew has been the major factor in lowering yields.

To Set Up Farm Test Plots Correctly

Many farmers like to test new varieties or new management ideas on their farms to see how they work.

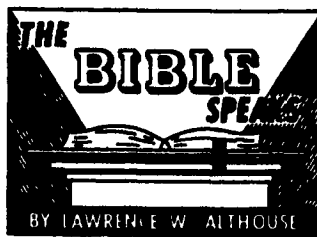
Making comparisons may be a difficult procedure, and if not done properly, may lead to the wrong decision.

Dr. Greg Roth, Penn State Agro-

nomy Department, makes the following suggestions for farm test plots.

First, select a uniform portion of a field which represents the type of land found on the farm. Second, keep the number of varieties or other variables to be tested to a minimum. Do not mix corn varieties with nitrogen rates with herbicides, for example. Third, whenever possible, replicate what is being tested several times in the plot. Fourth, consider repeating the same test in another field if possible. Fifth, monitor the test throughout the entire growing season and discard the results of those plots which have been effected by outside factors such as animal damage, poor stands, misapplication of fertilizer or pesticides, etc. Sixth, do the test several years before making a final decision to change the entire farming practices to those being tested. Seventh, look for university research that will support the findings on your farm.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "Expect the best. Prepare for the worst. Capitalize on what comes."



GETTING WHAT'S
COMING TO YOU
January 30, 1994

Background Scripture:

Luke 15

Devotional Reading:

Isaiah 40:9-11; Ezekiel 34:1-6, 11, 12, 15, 16

If you want to know what makes the Christian concept of God so unique, look at the 15th chapter of Luke.

God's love for us is like the shepherd who is not content to have with him 99 of his 100 sheep, but searches diligently until he finds that one lost sheep. He is like the woman who has lost one of her ten silver coins and with great determination searches until she finds the lost coin. He is also like the father who joyfully and magnanimously welcomes back his prodigal son from whom he has been estranged. And, like all three of these characters, he is so glad to have back those who have been separated from him that he calls all creation to celebrate with him.

The first two parables tell us about the persistent love of God, but the parable of the Prodigal Son tells us also a lot about ourselves. To begin with, "There was a man who had two sons." We might expect that for the purpose of illustration, one of them would be "good" and the other "bad". But, instead of being the epitome of good and evil, they are like us: a bit of both. Most of us can identify somewhat with either or both of them.

The younger son came to his father, saying: "Father, give me the share of property that falls to me." Like so many of us, the basis of the rift between father and son was something material. "Give me what I have coming to me!" How many relationships flounder because of selfishness and greed. Yet, in today's society, some people would hail the young man's determination to get what he had coming to him. "He'll go far!" some probably said. And he did: "...into a far country where he squandered his property in loose

living."

Next, Luke tells us, "And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want." In the margin of my Bible is a comment I wrote some years ago: "Great timing!" Have you ever noticed that same sense of timing in your life. After you spend what's coming to you, that's when the famine comes! Disasters can come to anyone, but they hurt most those who have dissipated all their resources. One moment we may be carousing with the wild bunch or the jet set and the next we're sharing a muddy barnyard with the pigs. That's what happens when he got so far from the father's house.

The younger son was no dummy. For the sake of staying alive, he at least had the sense to take a job no respectable Jew would touch. And, after a while, he very reasonably concludes that he would be better off as one of his father's servants. Some people don't even have the good sense to realize that. Stubbornly they continue a barnyard existence rather than admit they made a mistake.

But the younger son says, "How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and say to him, Father, I have sinned...I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants." I confess that I'm not sure whether this son is penitent at this point or, just hungry and clever. At any rate, he has the sense to go home and the father makes it clear that he returns, not as servant — what he has coming to him — but as a beloved son — what the father gives him out of his gracious, forgiving love.

I am reminded of the woman who told the portrait artist, "Mind you, I want you to do me justice." "Madam," replied the artist, "what you need is mercy, not justice." And so do we all.

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