



# OPINION

## FFA Builds Individuality

Change in every aspect of life today is vast and overwhelming. And today, change seems to be happening at a breakneck pace.

Just since the 1960s, so much unexpected change: urban sprawl, a surge in the human population, no more national "enemy" to hold us all together, new medicine, new disease, new norms of acceptable social behavior, new forms of entertainment, new farming practices, the economy, international relations, neighborly relations, new dinner foods, new ways to shop, etc.

We have people with portable computers in dairy barns entering data and sending it by telephone to a processing company in another state.

We no longer need decades of selective breeding to manipulate the genetics in plants and animals. Now it can be done in the laboratory in one generation or so.

People talk on telephones while driving in their cars. People are serious when they talk about supporting a world effort to go to Mars and send people to live out in space. Some days it gets dizzying, disorienting and disgusting. Doesn't anything stay the same?

There are many of us who have chosen to pick a moment that we enjoyed during all of this change and just stay there.

There are others of us who have specialized into a particular field and no longer care to try to take the rest in and make sense of it.

Others revel in the financial opportunities created in a world of confusion.

But there are some among us who have come to the conclusion that the greatest power we have as individuals in a world of continual change and challenge is to be an individual.

It means opinions and knowledge are worked for and earned. It means education is constantly sought out. It means caution is taken, out of respect for others, that personally held views and opinions are not thrust dogmatically upon others.

Being an individual means thinking for ourselves, solving our own problems, and creating our own solutions.

Being an individual means that, to an extent, we can choose which changes we will accept and which ones we will discard.

It means judging ourselves, our abilities and our actions honestly, not through the eyes of others.

It means that we try to use the gift of being made in the image of God to the best of our ability.

This week has been declared by our state and federal governments to be periods of recognition for FFA and agriculture.

It seems especially poignant that it is also the week of the vernal equinox — the coming of spring, a time for hope, for growth, for birth.

Agriculture is the nurturing of life. FFA is the nurturing of individuals.

This organization deserves to be recognized and supported because it is good. It helps give young people a chance at being individuals — a chance at being strong and independent and successful, and it gives them an opportunity to bloom to potential.

That's what we want for ourselves. That's what we want for our children.

Some things do not change.



**Now Is  
The Time**  
By John Schwartz  
Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent

### To Be Patient

The record snowfall has caused spring work to be delayed.

We are now seeing nice spring weather with very wet fields. This is very frustrating for farmers itching to start field work.

It is very important for farmers to be patient during the next several weeks and wait until soil conditions are ready for planting. We still have plenty of time to get things done if we plan ahead.

Make sure all equipment is serviced and ready to go. Have a good inventory of parts that you will need for repairs and replacement. Check fields for winter damage. However, allow a little time for sunshine and warm weather to promote plant growth before mak-

### Community Fire Hall.

Small-Scale and Alternative Farming Series, York Extension, 7 p.m.-9 p.m., continues April 5 and April 12.

Pa. Dairy Princess Promotion meeting, Days Inn, New Stanton, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, March 30

Intensive Wheat Management, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

Pesticide applicator training exam, Delaware Fire School, Dover, Del., 1 p.m.

Pa. Dairy Princess Promotion meeting, Best Western Inn, Carlisle, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

### Thursday, March 31

Urban Forestry Workshop, Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center, Exton.

Poultry Progress Days, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., rescheduled from March 3.

ADC Dist. 5 dinner meeting, Bird In Hand Restaurant, Bird In Hand, 7 p.m.

Pa. Dairy Princess Promotion meeting, Holiday Inn, Denver, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Harvesting Quality Forage program, Wayne Co. extension, Honesdale, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

### Friday, April 1 Good Friday

Pa. Holstein Spring Show, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg, 9:30 a.m.

### Saturday, April 2

Chester County 4-H Center Sale, Solanco Fairgrounds, Quarryville, 11 a.m.

Dauphin County Conservation District Annual Consignment Auction, Gratz Fairgrounds, Gratz, 9 a.m.

Southern West Virginia Performance-Tested Bull Sale, Lewisburg, W. Va.

Annual Wye Angus Beef Cattle (Turn to Page A32)

ing decisions on need to replant.

By being patient, you will prevent problems associated with soil compaction, rutting up fields, and getting stuck. We still have plenty of time to do spring chores if we plan ahead and be ready when soil conditions and weather allow us to plant.

### To Rotate Crops

Growing several different crops on a farm and rotating the fields which are used to grow each crop has many advantages for the farmer.

Rotation of crops has been shown to increase yields by 10 to 15 percent. Rotation of crops helps to break insect and disease cycles. Rotation helps to improve soil tilth and soil structure, which makes soil management easier.

Improved till will improve water infiltration into the soil. Rotations which have a legume in them could reduce the need for nitrogen fertilizers or help to mine phosphorus and potassium from soils.

Rotation also helps break weed

problems by using different herbicides and management techniques for the various crops.

### To Increase Milk Protein

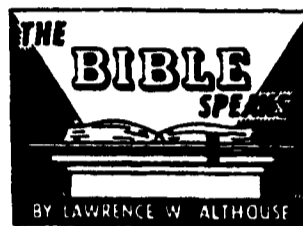
Milk of higher protein is more nutritious, yields more cheese, and is worth more at the farm.

The easiest and surest way to increase the protein content of milk is through genetic selection. Breeders have been selecting for higher milk protein when the market started paying more for this trait.

The protein content of milk may be influenced slightly by feeding practices. Cows that are in good energy balanced and well-fleshed usually have a slightly higher milk protein tests.

Rations that are properly balanced for undegradable protein and amino acids will generally increase milk protein tests. Excess fat or cottonseed in the ration may depress milk protein tests.

*Feather Prof's Footnote: "You can work miracles by having faith in others."*



ARE YOU  
SELF-EMPLOYED?  
March 27, 1994

### Background Scripture:

Romans 6

Devotional Reading:

Colossians 3:1-4, 5-11, 12-15b

A few days ago I sent to the IRS my fourth quarter estimated income tax payment for 1993. Like many of you out there, my wife and I are both "self-employed," so we are responsible for seeing that our income and self-employment tax are both estimated and paid. For some reason that partly escapes me, clergy who elect Social Security are legally regarded by IRS as self-employed, even though they are actually employed by a church or denomination.

So, my vocational self-employment over the years has been more a legal fiction than a practical reality. In reading Romans 6, it occurred to me that we are often similarly deluded when we assume that we are in sole control of our own lives. I like to think of myself as being rather independent and self-sufficient, but that picture is no more accurate than my legal designation by the U.S. government as "self-employed."

As children and youth, many of us can hardly wait until there is no one who is able to tell us what to do and we can make our own decisions. We yearn for the freedom of adult life. While there is no doubt that there is a lot of freedom that we enjoy as adults, it is not so complete and unlimited as we might have once assumed.

### FREE AT LAST?

One of the friends of my youth was a young man who especially looked forward to the day when his parents could no longer forbid him to drink. Actually, he didn't exactly wait for adulthood to exercise that freedom and by the time he was 21 he was already on his way to a life of an alcoholic. So, is he free? No, not really. He is now free to drink, but he is not free not to drink. He has exchanged obedience to his parents for obedience

to a habit that has made a slave of him. He is even less in control of his own life than he was as a teenager.

Thus, Paul writes: "Do you not know that if you yield yourself to any one as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?" (6:16). If we permit ourselves to be governed by anything or anyone, we are likely to let ourselves be enslaved — even while believing that we are quite free. Absolute freedom is an absolute delusion.

### TWO OPTIONS

So, when we think about being in control of our lives, to which self do we give the control? Will we turn it over to our worst self, the self that lives only for indulgence, that asks and expects the very least of us, or to our highest self, the self that God created us to be? Will we be governed by the power of our own reason or by our basic appetites and drives? Will Christian love motivate and guide us, or will we allow ourselves to be dominated by our fears and prejudices?

Actually, there are only two choices open to us: to be employed by God or to be employed against God. The so-called neutral ground between these two choices is another of our delusions. If we give ourselves over to something or someone other than God, what are the wages of that employment? Paul asks, "But then what return did you get from the things of which you are now ashamed?... For the wages of sin is death..." (5:21,23a). That "death" is not just the death that is pronounced by the medical examiner, but a condition of the soul which is much more tragic than biological death.

Paul concludes: "...but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

So, who is your employer and what are the wages you are earning?

## Farm Calendar

### Saturday, March 26

York Livestock Day, 4-H Center, Bair, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Del. Ag Days In the Mall, Del. Dept. of Ag, Dover Mall, Dover, Del., thru March 27.

Bucks County Farmers Association banquet, Plumsteadville Fire House, 7 p.m.

### Sunday, March 27 Palm Sunday

### Monday, March 28

Farm Selling Conference, Montoursville Presbyterian Church, 7:30 p.m.

Berks County Conservation District banquet, Fleetwood Grange Hall, 7 p.m.

Lebanon County pesticide update training, Ag Center, 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Pa. Dairy Princess Promotion meeting, Days Inn, Clarion, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, March 29

Solanco Young Farmers Spring Tour to Delaware, departs high school, 8:30 a.m., returns 3:30 p.m.

Expansion Strategies For Dairy Farms: Facilities and Financial Planning, Sayre, thru March 30. EAYFA meeting: Romania trip, home of Vernon Leininger, 7:30 p.m.

Sweet Corn IPM Workshop, Leinbach Farm Supply, Shippensburg, 1 p.m.

Pesticide applicator training review, Delaware Fire School, Dover, Del., thru March 30.

Adams County Farmers Association spring meeting, Irishtown

## Lancaster Farming

Established 1955

Published Every Saturday

Ephrata Review Building

1 E. Main St.

Ephrata, PA 17522

— by —

Lancaster Farming, Inc.

A Steinman Enterprise

Robert G. Campbell General Manager

Everett R. Newswanger Managing Editor

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