



OPINION

Invest In Ag Research

While the amount of food produced worldwide increased in recent decades due to scientific advances in farming, a record explosion in the world's population will outstrip food production in coming years if research on new farming technologies and food policies is neglected, warns a Washington-based institute that monitors trends affecting the world's food supply. The international community, made complacent by current food surpluses in Europe and North America and low world food prices, is failing to invest in the agricultural research necessary to produce enough food for the burgeoning population in many developing countries, said a report released today by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

"Over the next 20-30 years, farmers and policymakers in developing countries will be challenged to provide food at affordable prices for almost 100 million more people every year — the largest annual population increase in history," said IFPRI Director General Per Pinstrup-Andersen, author of the report entitled *World Food Trends and Future Food Security*. "Moreover, they will have to increase food production from more productive use of the land and without further degradation of natural resources — (farm) area expansion is no longer a feasible option in most of the world."

Agricultural research has produced new varieties of important food crops that yield more food per acre and are more resistant to pests and diseases that destroy crops. These scientific advances literally saved millions of people from starvation in the 1960s and 1970s. IFPRI warns that these advances may be lost in the future if governments do not actively pursue research for sustainable agricultural development.

"Given the long lag time between investment in agricultural research and the resulting production increases, failure to invest today will show up in production shortfalls 10 to 20 years from now," Pinstrup-Andersen said. "The problems associated with environmental degradation will present themselves sooner. We must not wait until a global food crisis is upon us or until the last tree has fallen to make these investments."

Farm Calendar

Saturday, April 9

International Spring Red and White Sale, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, Md., 6 p.m.

Maryland State Holstein Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, 9 a.m.

Pond Management Meeting, Raymond Goeringer Farm, Tunkhannock, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Fruit pruning demo, Bertram's Orchard, Honesdale, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Guernsey Breeders Association Kentucky National Show and Sale, Louisville, Ky.

Wayne County Holstein Club tour, leaves county courthouse 9 a.m., returns 4:30 p.m.

Tioga County Dairy Day, Tioga County Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.

Sunday, April 10

Farm Credit Banks of Springfield Northeast Dairy Conference, Sheraton, Springfield, Mass., thru April 12.

National 4-H Conference, National 4-H Center, Chevy Chase, Md., thru April 16.

Monday, April 11

4-H Capitol Days, thru April 12. Green Valley Lamb Marketing Cooperative meeting, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 7 p.m.

Octorara Young Farmers Awards dinner, West Fallowfield Christian School, 6:45 p.m.

Rutgers N.J. and Northampton Pa. Holstein Tour to Lebanon, leaves Wayne Dumont Jr. Administration Building, Bel-

videre, N.J., 7:15 a.m.

Tuesday, April 12

EAYFA sprayer and corn planter calibration meeting, Earl G. Martin Farm, 7:30 p.m.

Adams County Dairy Tour to Frederick County, Md., departs North Gettysburg Shopping Center, 8 a.m., departs back to Gettysburg, 4 p.m.

Fayette County 4-H Dairy meeting, County Fairgrounds, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 13

37th Annual Eastern Member Relations Conference, Holiday Inn, Baltimore Inner Harbor, Baltimore, Md., thru April 15.

Pa. Veterinary Nutrition Forum meeting, Days Inn Airport Hotel, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.

Nutrient Management Advisory Board meeting, 2301 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 14

Del. Urban and Community Forestry Banquet, Blue Coat Inn, Dover, Del., 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Friday, April 15

Mercer County Holstein Association Spring Spectacular Sale, 4-H Park, Mercer, 7 p.m.

Mercer County Sheep Shearing Schools, Gadsby Farm, Grove City, also April 16.

Mid-Atlantic Alternative Animal Conference, Days Inn Conference Center, Allentown, thru April 16.

Franklin County 4-H Dairy Calf Sale, Martion Auction Service, Marion, 7 p.m.



Now Is The Time
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Evaluate Planting Alfalfa

This year, spring weather has been anything but helpful in getting into fields. It is April and very little of anything has been done in fields, including getting ready to plant alfalfa.

Robert Anderson, extension agronomy agent, makes the following observations.

Normally by the end of April, nearly all the alfalfa seedlings are done. As we move later into what we would normally consider the growing season, the question is, "What is the optimum planting time for a particular crop?"

Research has shown that alfalfa may be planted through the month of May in south central Pennsylvania with fairly good results. However, plantings which have been delayed that long are normally under a lot more pressure from weeds if a herbicide is not used.

Many things should be considered when deciding whether to plant alfalfa late or to plant corn or another crop. It may be worth saving an old alfalfa field until next year and planting another crop this year if getting alfalfa planted is delayed past the end of April.

If a short season corn is grown for silage this year, it may be possible to achieve better results planting a fall seeding of alfalfa in that field. Careful selection of corn herbicides is necessary with this plan.

To Evaluate Alfalfa Fields

A good time to evaluate the potential of a alfalfa field for the year and to re-evaluate winter damage is after the alfalfa starts growing this spring or after the first cutting.

To evaluate your field, use a piece of wire to make a one foot by one foot square. Drop this square at several locations in the field and count the number of stems found.

If the field has an average of 55 or more stems per square foot, maximum yields should be obtained. If there are between 40 and 55 stems per square foot, the yield should be economically worth keeping for the season. If

Franklin County pesticide exam, cooperative extension office, 9 a.m.

Saturday, April 16

Income Opportunities For Rural Areas Workshop, Center for Career and Technical Education, Cresaptown, Md.

McKean-Potter Blueberry Production Workshop, Smethport Extension Office, 10 a.m.

Sunday, April 17

Monday, April 18

Penn State Garden Recycling

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there are less than 40 stems per square foot, consider rotating the field to corn.

To Properly Care For Fleeces

Chester Hughes, extension livestock agent, said that wool is one of the most poorly handled farm products marketed.

Some sheep producers only receive half of their wool value because they market fleeces that are full of hay, straw, burrs, mud, or other foreign materials.

Fleeces are often tied with everything from baling wire to binder twine.

Paper twine is the only acceptable product for tying fleeces. Hughes offers the following tips when shearing and handling fleeces:

- Shear only when the wool is dry.

- Clean the straw off the belly and legs before starting to shear.

- Shear on a clean, dry surface.

- Avoid second cuts; remove the fleece in one piece.

- Remove all tags, dunning

locks, and stained wool from the fleece and bag them separately.

- If there is a lot of hay, chaff or other material in the neck area, remove this section from the fleece and bag separately.

- Bag separately black fleeces or fleeces with a large amount of black in them. Remove black leg and face wool from the fleece and bag with the black wool.

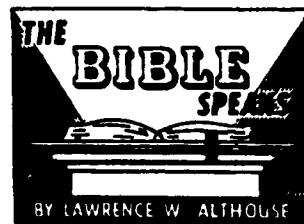
- Roll fleece with the flesh side out and tie securely, but not too tightly, into a neat package.

- Tie fleeces with paper twine only. Never use plastic baler twine or allow the fleeces to become contaminated with plastic twine.

- Tie fleeces separately. Do not tie several together.

- Store the tied fleeces in a wool bag in a clean, dry area that is protected from dust, dirt, and rodents. Do not store in plastic bags or paper bags.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor." — Vincent Lombardi



ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALIVE?
April 10, 1994

Background Scripture:

Romans 8:1-11

Devotional Reading:

Romans 8:26-28, 35-39

I'm sure you've heard the story about the rich Texas widow whose last request was that she be buried in her Mercedes. As she and her luxury car were being lowered into the huge grave, one of the gravediggers was heard to exclaim: "Man, that's living!"

Actually, we have a hard time in determining what is living and what is not. Very often that which we identify with living is in reality a kind of death. Just because the body goes through the motions of living doesn't guarantee that the person is alive. Living, in its deepest sense, involves a lot more than breathing and animation.

On two different occasions I've had the opportunity to go to the famous marionette theater in Saizbur, Austria. As the show began, I found, I was aware that the figures on the stage were marionettes and not human actors. But soon I found myself thinking of them as human. The skill of the marionette masters had made them come alive. On one occasion, I had the chance to go back stage after the presentation and I was struck by how lifeless the marionettes were. Hung on a hook or lying on the floor, it was obvious there was no life in them.

SPIRITUALLY DEAD

I've noticed that with some people, too. They go through the motions of living, but they do not live. They are not alive. Paul says, "To set the mind on the flesh is death..." (Romans 8:6). Paul is not speaking of mere physical flesh itself, but of the lower nature of humanity that drags us down instead of lifting us up. Paul is not putting down the human body, but the baseness of a life that is lived just on a material or physical level. It is a life that rises no higher than physical appetites. A person so focused on his or her life is spiritually dead. Things have separated that person from God.

"For the mind that is set on the flesh," says Paul, "is hostile to God" (8:7). So, it is possible to be clinically alive and yet spiritually dead.

Wonderful as the physical material world may be, it dies not, cannot satisfy our deepest longings. But that is so hard for us to understand, for these material things are so attractive. For example, have you ever looked forward to a special lunch or dinner — perhaps a birthday or anniversary celebration — that promises to be something spectacular. No matter how wonderful the meal and the occasion are, the satisfaction is fleeting. We may be quite hungry the very next morning and bored by late afternoon.

ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT

In John 6 Jesus reminds his listeners that "Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died." No material things can keep us alive forever. Only the spiritual can do that: "I am the bread of life," said Jesus, "he who comes to me shall not hunger" (6:35). When we walk "not according to the flesh but according to the spirit," Paul says, we are set free of the corruption of all materiality. "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death" (8:2).

The key is that upon which we set our minds and hearts. "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh," Paul tells the Romans, "but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit" (8:5). A mind set upon skim milk doesn't produce whipped cream. A heart that is given to prejudice, jealous, envy and material things cannot have room for the life-giving Spirit.

If you want to check to see if you're alive, don't feel your pulse; check your mind and see whether it is focused on "things of the flesh" or "things of the Spirit."

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Lancaster Farming, Inc.

A Stehman Enterprise

Robert G. Campbell General Manager

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