



## OPINION

### America Diverts To Underdeveloped Nation

In an effort that threatens the health and safety of every American, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced a plan that calls for the eventual banning of chlorine. According to the *Putting People First* March newsletter, EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner recently unveiled key elements of the Clinton Administration recommendations to reform the Clean Water Act.

The stated intention of the new rule is to reduce water pollution and one of the targeted "contaminants" is chlorine and chlorinated compounds. In the recommendations for reauthorization of the Clean Water Act, the EPA is advised to develop a national strategy for substituting, reducing or prohibiting the use of chlorine and chlorinated compounds. The objective of those "environmentalists" behind this move is to ban all uses of chlorine, including chlorination of water and the use of chlorine to disinfect treated sewage.

A report this week in the *Wall Street Journal* said that EPA has acted to speed treatment of sewage that overflows in rains. Its new procedure is aimed at expediting treatment of sewage that flows into rivers, lakes and streams during heavy rains. The plan addresses "combined sewer overflow," a problem that often occurs during rainstorms when sewer systems connected to stormwater drains overflow and empty into waterways. Although such overflow is illegal under the 1972 Clean Water Act, EPA has been vague about how cities should deal with the problem.

According to the report, combined sewers are found in 1,100 communities around the nation. Under the new procedures, EPA will not require "secondary" biological treatment of sewage overflow in treatment plants, provided such overflows occur no more than four times a year and provided cities perform "primary" treatment, such as disinfecting the water and removing solids on 85 percent of the overflow before it empties into waterways.

Two revealing points should be noted from this report. First, with all those towns and cities pouring untreated sewage into the streams and lakes, agriculture is obviously not the only non-point source of contamination in the water environment of our nation. And two, the best way and maybe the only know way to "disinfect" the water from sewage overflow is with chlorine.

Countless studies have shown the chlorination of water is one of the major factors in the increase in life expectancy of the US population since the turn of the century. Without chlorination, many diseases, such as cholera, would quickly develop. For those who hold animals sacred, it can be noted that a healthy water supply benefits animals too.

To us, the attempted ban on chlorine looks like a move to undermine the major health advantages we have had as Americans because of our advanced knowledge and technology. In addition, to ban chlorine would likely cause the loss of the environment we so much want to save. Hopefully, clear thinking will prevail before America diverts back to the status of an underdeveloped nation.



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

#### To Deworm Pasture Heifers

According to Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, heifers that are plagued with parasites are unthrifty and less profitable.

When young heifers are pastured, the risk of them acquiring internal parasites is great, especially if the pastures were grazed by heifers the previous year.

To protect these heifers from internal parasites, they should be dewormed about three weeks after the initial grazing. Equally important is a second deworming about three to five weeks after the first deworming.

This time interval depends on label instructions of the deworming material you are using. Select a product that is effective against adult worms.

Consult your veterinarian for additional advice.

#### To Make Safety A Priority

In a recent issue of *Agricultural Safety and Health News*, Dennis Murphy, Penn State agricultural engineer, reminds us of the importance of making safety a priority in our farming operations.

He encourages us to take time to

land Farm, Rising Sun, Md., 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Virginia Beef Expo, Rockingham County Fairground, Harrisonburg, Va., thru April 24.

Guernsey Breeders Association Ohio Spring Spectacular, Columbus, Ohio.

Penn State Poultry Science Club dinner and awards banquet, Days Inn, State College, 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, April 23**

Clever Clovers 4-H Central N.J. Sheep Demonstration, Concorde Stud Farm, 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Guernsey Breeders Association Pennsylvania Blue Halter Sale, Bedford.

Old Time Plow Boys Club Annual Spring Plowing Show, Pa. German Heritage Center, Kutztown University, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., thru April 24.

Llama and Aplaca Festival, Tolland Agricultural Center, Vernon, Conn., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Penn State Dairy Expo, Ag Arena, University Park.

Northwest All-Breed Calf Sale, Crawford County Fairgrounds, Meadville, 11:30 a.m.

Tractor and Truck Pull, Carroll County Ag Center, Westminster, Md.

**Sunday, April 24**

**Monday, April 25**

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determine what hazards exists on your farm and then correct them.

Discuss safety with family members and anyone else who works on your farm. If you have children or grandchildren, establish rules about where they may and may not play. Also, keep dangerous chemicals and machines beyond their reach.

Consider the health and safety aspects of your work habits. Do you use appropriate personal protective equipment for dangerous jobs? Do you treat farm machinery with the respect it deserves, or do you place yourself at risk by cutting corners?

Farming remains the nation's riskiest job. To change this, every farmer needs to place a priority on safety.

Never assume that an accident cannot happen to you. Resolve to be aware of farm safety throughout the year and take appropriate actions to protect yourself and your loved ones.

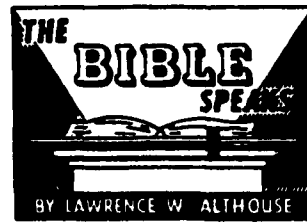
#### To Keep Cows Eating Properly

When cows go off feed and suddenly lose a lot of flesh, they may develop fatty livers. This may further depress appetites, causing drops in milk production and placing cows at risk for ketosis.

Thus, it is very important to keep cows eating well before and after calving. Be sure their rations are properly balanced for both the dry period and early lactation. Feed high quality feeds that are fresh and palatable. Also, provide easy access to good quality water.

Giving cows propylene glycol may also help prevent fatty livers and ketosis. Just as important is minimizing stress on cows by making the transition from dry period to early lactation as smooth as possible.

*Feather Prof's Footnote:* "Quality is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, and skillful execution."



IS "SACRIFICE" A DIRTY WORD?  
April 17, 1994

#### Background Scripture

Romans 12

Devotional Reading

Philippians 2:1-4, 14-16, 4:8,9

There was a time when "sacrifice" was a perfectly good word that was used in polite conversation. I can even remember even hearing it in church from time to time.

But not any more. Something has happened to the word in the last several decades. It is not only unfashionable to speak in our society of making sacrifices, but there is something positively obscene associated with it. We live in an age when people are primarily interested in asserting, affirming and fulfilling themselves. The thought of sacrificing one's self for the sake of someone else seems to have gone out with the double standard in sexual morality.

When I was a youth, Romans 12:1-3 was one of the most popular and frequently used texts at the church camp I used to attend: "I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." What being a disciple of Jesus Christ was all about, we told each other, was nothing less than offering ourselves as living sacrifices to the Lord. I don't know how well we lived that ideal, but we believed it and thought that that was what our lives should be.

#### SELF REALIZATION

I realize that what has happened in the intervening years is not necessarily bad or wrong. Some people carried the concept of self-sacrifice into a morbid preoccupation with martyrdom in an age that rarely asked for it or even provided an opportunity for it. Self-acceptance and self-realization were concepts that needed to become part of our personal and public consciousness. But, as so often happens, we threw the baby out with the bathwater, as the old saying goes. We have emphasized the self to the exclusion of others — and that is not spiritually healthy either.

As in so many areas of life, the key is balance: self and others, not self vs. others. In fact, we can never truly fulfill our own selves without learning to give ourselves for the sake of others. When we live only for self, we find we can never fulfill our own potential. In George Bernard Shaw's play, *Androcles and the Lion*, Lavinia, a young Christian who is slated to die a martyr, says to the Roman captain: ". . . I have no doubt at all that I must die for something greater than dreams or stories." "But for what?" asks the Captain. "I don't know," Lavinia replies, "If it were for anything small enough to know, it would be too small to die for. I think I am going to die for God. Nothing else is real enough to die for."

#### SELF-SACRIFICE

Just as anything other than God is too little to die for, so anything other than God is too little to live for.

As Ellen Glasgow says, "Life will yield up its hidden sweetness . . . only when it is being sacrificed to something more precious than life." One cannot taste the "hidden sweetness" of life until or unless we are willing to offer our lives for "something more precious than life."

Most of us hold back from sacrificing ourselves because we are certain self-sacrifice will diminish us, will take something away from our own fulfillment. But in presenting yourself "as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God," you do not lose, not ultimately at least. You actually gain in the long run, because, like Jesus Christ, we reach our highest potential only when we are willing to give ourselves for "something more precious than life."

Yes, I know the world doesn't see it that way. But the world is wrong. "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind . . ." (12:2).

Self-sacrifice is not a dirty word, but the way to the fulfillment that society promises, but cannot deliver.

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## Farm Calendar

**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.

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

**Sunday, April 17**

**Monday, April 18**

Penn State Garden Recycling Week, Springettsbury Township Park, York, thru April 24. Pa. State Grange Banquet, Sheraton Inn-East, Harrisburg.

**Tuesday, April 19**

Lancaster County Bee Producers meeting, Lancaster Friends Meetinghouse, 7 p.m.

McKean-Potter pesticide application exam, Potter Extension

Office, Coudersport, 10 a.m. Carroll County, Md. Extension Workshop On Small-Scale Fruit Production, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., concludes April 26.

EAYFA Ladies Night, Cloister Restaurant, Ephrata, 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 20**

DER public meeting on draft nutrient management strategy, Quality Inn, South Williamsport, 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, April 21**

Mid East UDIA meeting, Ohio State Fairgrounds, Columbus, Ohio.

Ohio Spring Dairy Spectacular, Ohio Fairgrounds, Columbus, Ohio, thru April 23.

**Friday, April 22**

NAAB Technical Conference On Artificial Insemination and Reproduction, Grand Hotel, Milwaukee, Wis., thru April 23. Wool Handling School, Cliff Eng-