



OPINION

Don't Be Fooled: Worker Protection Standards Apply To Your Farm

You should have heard by now that the new federal worker protection laws for handling agricultural pesticides will change the way you farm. You may not think so, but the laws will in some way apply to your operation. And the penalties and potential liability if you are in violation when an inspector walks in or an accident occurs on your farm should make you sit up and take notice.

It doesn't matter if you don't like them. You still must comply with the laws if you want to continue to farm.

Yes, recently, some of the requirements have been delayed until January 1 of next year. But don't let this fool you. Not all the provisions of the law have been postponed. If the requirement is on the label now, you must act now. In addition, you need to become knowledgeable about what you must eventually do so you are ready before you need to ask an uncertified worker or family member to help load the corn planter, drive the spray rig, or work in a treated field or orchard in the rush time of seeding or harvest. Fathers-in-law and others, usually considered part of the family, may not be according to some of the regulations.

Among the provisions not delayed and therefore need to be followed now include: protective clothing requirements; restricted-entry intervals for certain pesticides, and "double notification" requirements for the most toxic pesticide products. The delayed entry requirements alone could force you to idle planting equipment at the critical time when you must get the seed in the ground to beat the weather and the clock. The laws apply to pesticide products used on farms forests, nurseries, and greenhouses.

Eventually, agricultural employers will need to provide pesticide safety training, decontamination sites, and pesticide application notification in areas where work is performed. In addition, information about pesticide applications, emergency assistance, and safety posters will need to be displayed around the farm.

You need to prepare for the pesticide education and safety of the workers on your farm. When information meetings are scheduled by your farm organizations, government agencies or extension services make it a point to attend. And don't say we didn't warn you.



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

To Clean Forage Equipment

Since we cannot use fungicide sprays to control diseases of forages as we do in other crops, we must do everything we can to reduce disease losses.

One way is to start the harvesting season with clean equipment. Clean merely means not littered with plant debris from the last harvest.

Ideally, all equipment should be cleaned before it is stored for winter. This is necessary because many of the pathogens that attack forage crops have a hard time surviving our Pennsylvania winters, but will survive very nicely in plant debris on equipment under shelter.

When debris-laden equipment goes out for harvest, it carries disease inoculum into your fields. Ideally, plant debris should be removed from equipment after each field but at least after each harvest. It is worth the trouble.

To Mow Forages Properly

A little "common sense mowing" will help to defray the introduction of pathogens into young stands and minimize the spread of pathogens within stands.

Dr. Ken Leath, USDA Pasture Research Center at Penn State, makes the following suggestions.

Mow your young stands first. Disease-causing organisms are carried on cutter bars and flails. Generally, younger stands are more disease-free than older stands. Thus, keep the direction of disease spread going from younger to older stands. Do not mow when forages are wet.

Pathogens are spread easily in water films. If at all possible, wait until the dew is off. This will keep pathogen spread to a minimum.

Make sure cutters are sharp. Dull cutting edges tear and fray ends provide more opportunities for pathogens to infect the plants.

When leaf spots are becoming severe, consider moving your harvest up a few days. By doing this, you will retain more leaves and have higher quality forage, which will usually offset the small reduction in yield.

By increasing leaf retention, early harvest will remove diseased leaves from the field. This will reduce the disease inoculum in the following regrowth.

Even though chemical sprays to control forage diseases are not

Lancaster.
Catawissa Valley Fair, Catawissa, thru June 11.
Pesticide container recycling program, Spring McGee and Smith Enterprises, Spring Run, repeats July 13, Aug. 11., and Sept. 8.

available, the use of disease-resistant varieties, coupled with common sense harvesting practices, can slow down the spread of diseases within forage stands and reduce the losses caused by disease.

To Check For Ticks

We are now in tick season and ticks seem to be very plentiful this year.

Ticks may cause several different diseases. The best way to avoid infection is to check your body very carefully for ticks and remove them as soon as possible.

Especially check small children after they have been playing in tall grass or wooded areas. A tick will wonder about for as much as 1 to 2 hours before settling down to the business of feeding.

If you find a tick feeding, you will want to remove it carefully. A

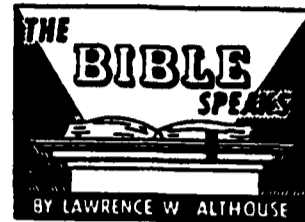
drop of alcohol may cause the tick to withdraw. The object is to irritate but not to kill the tick. You must cause it to back out.

Often the best method is to grasp the tick firmly with a tweezers and with a steady pressure pull it out. You must be careful, however, not to crush the tick or pull too quickly to cause the tick's mouth parts to become detached.

Apply antiseptic to the wound. If mouthparts are left in the skin, they should be removed and an antiseptic applied. Be sure to wash your hands after handling ticks since there may be germs in their body secretions.

Destroy all ticks removed by placing them in alcohol or by piercing them with a sharp instrument.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "The mind is not a storehouse to be filled but an instrument to be used." — John Gardner



THE MARKS OF JESUS
May 29, 1994

THE MARKS OF JESUS

Background Scripture:
Galatians 6
Devotional Reading:
I Corinthians 13:1-7

It is difficult for us today to understand and appreciate the Galatian dispute over circumcision. Apparently after Paul left the Galatian church, someone arrived on the scene and pressured the Christians there to accept circumcision as mandatory. We may assume that this person or persons vocally attacked those who either refused to be circumcised or questioned it.

Circumcision was a historic means of identifying one's self as a Jew. Like the dietary laws which we discussed some weeks ago, circumcision was intended to be a sign of Israel's special separateness in the eyes of God. It distinguished the Jew from the pagan. Since many Jewish Christians considered their discipleship as a movement within Judaism, they believed it was essential for Christians to continue to be good Jews. When Gentiles became followers of Christ, many Jewish Christians expected them to live the Jewish way.

Once again, this is an example of a good thing carried too far. Circumcision as an outward sign of a person's inner commitment is a fine thing. But the problem was that circumcision became a thing in itself. It was the circumcision, not what circumcision represented, that had become all important. Jewish Christians were teaching the Galatians that there could be no salvation without circumcision. It began as a way of identifying the person committed to God and became the only way.

A NEW CREATION

Paul attacked this so vigorously because it was obvious that circumcision now stood where Jesus himself should stand. "For neither circumcision counts for anything," he told the Galatians, "nor uncircumcision, but a new creation" (6:15). Christ is essential; circumcision is not. In circumcision, because of the emphasis that had been placed upon it, had become also a divisive issue in the

Galatian church. It threatened to spoil all the hard work Paul had put into that Christian community.

The problem was not just that the Judaizers had persuaded some of the Galatians of the necessity of circumcision, but that others were wavering in that direction because they were afraid not to have it. They might not have bought the arguments of the Judaizers, but they were fearful not to get on the bandwagon.

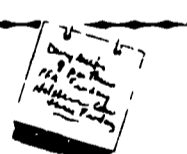
Some of us may ask, well, what's the harm of adding circumcision to the essentials of Christian discipleship? It can't do any harm, can it? Why is Paul making such a big deal over it? Paul's answer is that you cannot commit yourself to Jesus Christ as your Saviour if you also cling to circumcision or anything else. If you say that you trust in Jesus Christ and him alone, then there is no room for trusting "a little bit" in something else. Either Christ's grace is sufficient for us or it is not.

A LITTLE CIRCUMCISION?

Today circumcision is not a point of controversy in Christianity. But although circumcision is no longer a problem, there are things that have taken its place. There are other things, other practices, other beliefs, that some people claim are essential to salvation — doctrines, creeds, rituals, and so forth. And whatever these things are, they are as much a threat to Christian commitment as circumcision once was.

If we are dependent upon Christ alone, then our lives will abound, not with controversies and recriminations of others, but acts of love. As Paul says, "let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart. So, then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all men . . ." (6:9,10). Not: let us make sure they believe or worship or read the Bible as we do. If there are to be any physical signs of our relationship to God, let them be the marks of the service we have rendered others. "Henceforth," says Paul, "let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus" (6:17). So should we all.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, May 28

Sunday, May 29

Monday, May 30
Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 31

Wednesday, June 1

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

Pa. Dairy Industry Futures Forum, Penn State Scanticon Conference Center Hotel, University Park.

Cream Ridge Twilight Fruit meeting and Strawberry Breeding Showcase, Rutgers Fruit Research and Development Center, Cream Ridge, N.J., 4 p.m.

Susquehanna Conference Workshop, Hotel Gettysburg, Gettysburg, 1 p.m.

Thursday, June 2

Dairy On-Farm Problem-Solving Satellite Conference, down-linked to Lancaster Farm and Home Center and other sites, call local extension office for details.

Friday, June 3

Philadelphia County Fair, Fairmount Park, thru June 12.

Bradford County Dairy Princess Pageant, East Smithfield, 7 p.m.

Saturday, June 4

Md. State 4-H Horse Judging Contest, Howard County Fairground.

Md. 4-H Dairy Youth Fun, Frederick County 4-H Camp and Activities Center, thru June 5.

Lycoming County Dairy Princess Pageant, 7:30 p.m.

Landis Valley Fair, Landis Valley Museum, noon-5 p.m.

Sunday, June 5

Monday, June 6

Tuesday, June 7

Ag Technology Day, Early Summer Crop Management Field Session, Westmoreland Fairgrounds, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. and 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Southeast Pennsylvania Regional Fruit Growers Twilight meeting, Wolf's Orchard, New Smithville, 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

Wednesday, June 8

Pa. Veterinary Nutrition Forum monthly meeting, Days Inn,

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