



OPINION

Responsibility For Actions

Some time ago, a man from New Jersey was arrested for killing a rat in his garden. He faced up to one year in jail, along with a heavy fine.

For farmers who face the destructiveness of rats and mice in feed supplies and corn cribs, and for health officials who face the diseases spread by these animals, the situation in New Jersey is absurd. To arrest someone for killing vermin is beyond comprehension. To add fines and jail time places these animals on a level with humans, a development that has not been historically acceptable.

But in these situations, anger must be controlled. Some people responded by placing dead animals and animal parts on the lawn of the person who issued the two complaints of animal cruelty. This reaction did nothing to bring a sensible conclusion. When the people who claim the higher moral ground lower themselves to breaking the law, they lose the right to make their higher claim.

Certainly we need to use all our mental and spiritual powers to correct injustice. But we have a responsibility to control our actions. Otherwise we become living proof that those who want to make animals our superiors are correct in their thinking.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, September 3

Juniata County Fair, Port Royal, thru Sept. 10.

Cambria County Fair, Ebensburg, thru Sept. 10.

Mon Valley 4-H Dairy Show, Westmoreland County Fairgrounds.

Northwest 4-H Dairy Day, Crawford County Fairgrounds.

Southwest 4-H Dairy Show, Huntingdon County Fairgrounds.

Sunday, September 4

Maryland Holstein Association Futurity, Maryland State Fair.

Spartansburg Community Fair, Spartansburg, thru Sept. 10.

Monday, September 5

Labor Day
Maryland State Fair Holstein Show, picnic.

Ox Hill Community Fair, Home, thru Sept. 10.

West Alexander Fair, West Alexander, thru Sept. 10.

Waterford Community Fair, Waterford, thru Sept. 10.

Tuesday, September 6

Claysburg Farm Show, Claysburg, thru Sept. 10.

Jamestown Community Fair, Jamestown, thru Sept. 10.

Wednesday, September 7

Bellwood-Antis Farm Show, Bellwood, thru Sept. 10.

Luzerne County Fair, Dallas, thru Sept. 11.

Nutrient Management Advisory Board meeting, Dept. of Ag Building, Harrisburg, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Outstanding Farm Family Awards Banquet, Fleetwood Grange Hall, 7 p.m.

Emergency Potter County Potato Producers' Meeting, Potter County Extension Office, Coudersport, 10 a.m.

Thursday, September 8

Western Maryland Field Day, Western Maryland REC, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Lancaster County Pasture Walk, Stephen Stoltzfus Farm, Christiana, 10:30 a.m.

On-Farm Composting, Forrest Stricker Farm, Robesonia, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

N.Y.-Pa. Pasture Tour, Rudo Farm, Greene, N.Y., 10:30

a.m.-noon and Rambling M.

Farm, W. Bainbridge, N.Y., 1:15 p.m.-2:45 p.m.

Friday, September 9

Pike County Fair, Matamoras, thru Sept. 11.

York Inter-State Fair, York, thru Sept. 17.

Steam and Gas Roundup, Steam Show Days, Carroll County Farm Museum, sponsored by Mason-Dixon Historical Society, Inc., thru Sept. 11.

Combine Field Day, Steenken Farm, Harmony, Md., 10 a.m.

Saturday, September 10

Historic Schaefferstown Harvest Fair, Schaefferstown, thru Sept. 11.

Sunday, September 11

Monday, September 12

Green Township Community Fair, Commodore, thru Sept. 17.

Poultry Management and Health Seminar, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, noon.

Tuesday, September 13

Mid-Atlantic Layer Management Workshop, Iredell County Ag Center, Statesville, N.C., thru Sept. 14.

Albion Area Fair, Albion, thru Sept. 17.

Denver Community Fair, Denver, thru Sept. 17.

Sinking Valley Fair, Altoona, thru Sept. 17.

N.Y.-Pa. Pasture Tours, Steve and Susan Saxton Farm, Troy, Pa., 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and Dean and Joy Madigan Farm, Burlington, Pa., 1 p.m., and Leslie and Ruth Bresee, Ulster, Pa., 2:30 p.m.

Carroll County Md. "Save the Bay" Series, Extension Office, Westminster, Md., 7 p.m.-9 p.m., also Sept. 20, 27 and Oct. 4, 11, and 18.

Wednesday, September 14

York Fair Youth Dairy Show, Berlin Brothersvalley Fair, Berlin, thru Sept. 17.

Williamsburg Community Farm Show, Williamsburg, thru Sept. 19.

PASA Nutrient Management Field Day, Fulton County Grazing Field Day, Mosemann Dairy,

Warfordsburg, and Malot Feeder Cattle, Harrisonville, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Solanco Fair, Quarryville, thru Sept. 16.

Thursday, September 15

Ag Technology Day, Foragement Management Field to Feed Bunk, Westmoreland Fair-

Now Is The Time
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Remember Arnold Lueck

This week Lancaster County lost a very valuable friend. Arnold Lueck, retired Lancaster County agricultural extension agent, passed away after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Arnie was a one of a kind person. He loved people and his work. His knowledge of plants, bees, and horticulture was only surpassed by very few. No question was too small or silly and he went to great lengths to help people understand how to deal with their problems.

There are many Arnie stories from trying to pass a rock off for a potato in judging contests to writing his various newspaper columns in his car at the Farm and Home Center parking lot. His desk and office contained volumes of paper that set new standards for filing.

Arnie made a difference in Lancaster County agriculture. He was instrumental in establishing the county's wine industry, eradicating blue mold in tobacco, and helping many farmers improve their agronomic practices. This unselfish, very friendly and sincere individual will long be remembered in pleasant memories and husbandry practices.

To Prepare For Corn Silage Harvesting

To ensure high quality corn silage is harvested this fall, do not wait until the last minute to get harvest equipment ready. Be prepared to fill the silo fast once harvest begins.

The old saying, "fill 'em fast and seal 'em tight" makes the best silage and minimizes losses due to spoilage.

Now is the time to get harvesting machinery ready. Test choppers and blowers and be sure all wagons are in good repair. Looking now for possible items which are worn and might break under stress and replacing them before harvest will save time and reduce your stress during harvest.

Remember, this year's corn crop will add stress to your equipment. Corn silage harvesting equipment works best when it is sharp and adjusted according to the manufacturing specifications.

Dull knives shred rather than cut forage. This requires more power, increases stress on equipment, and produces a silage which does not

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pack as well in the silo.

During harvest, think safety first. Keep guards in place at all times. Turn tractor and machine off before making any adjustments or attempting to unplug a clogged harvester.

To Keep Heifers From First Calf Heifers

Beef herds on heifer AI programs are finding that the replacement heifers retained from first calf heifers provide the best genetics, combined with low birth weight EPDs and high maternal value, according to Chester Hughes, extension livestock agent.

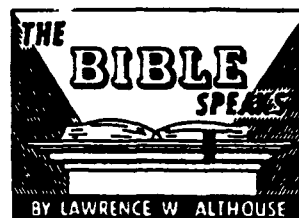
Since these heifers are sired by calving ease sires, a majority of them will reduce frame size and be earlier maturing than heifers from mature cows. If your management

is on target, these heifers will often be the older ones, ready to bred before the main cowherd.

In fact, one common mistake producers may make is selecting heifers on adjusted weaning weights. This could lead to having many younger heifers in your replacement group. These heifers could be 45 days younger than the majority of your calf crop and may not reach puberty in time to breed them ahead of the cow herd.

By choosing older heifers, you may avoid these problems. Good replacement heifers are certainly worth the expense of raising them. Knowing the genetic potential of the heifers and cows in your herd can help you make important selection and culling decisions.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "Nothing happens unless you first have a dream."



THE SCARLET CORD
September 4, 1994

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Background Scripture:

Joshua 1 through 2

Devotional Reading:

Joshua 1:1-9

When I was in junior high, I idolized my pastor, Mark J. Steirwald. If it had not been for him — and a pretty brunette named "Jackie" — I wouldn't have even been part of that church. At first, I went there because Jackie was there; I stayed there because Pastor Steirwald showed me that one can be a Christian and still have fun. Up to that time it was my perception that churches were grim places where people looked unhappy and acted negatively.

When, a few years later, Mark Steirwald died suddenly of a heart attack, I was devastated. When it was announced that he would be succeeded by the Rev. Paul Price, I was certain that he could not possibly fill Pastor Steirwald's shoes. And he didn't; in fact, he never tried to. He went on, rather, to perform his ministry differently than his predecessor, but no less successfully. So, both of these men, each in his own way, had a tremendous effect upon my life and ultimately my own ministry.

I can appreciate then, what may have loomed large in the minds of the people of Israel when, upon the death of Moses, it was announced that Joshua would be his successor. Certainly there must have been those who said, "He can never be the leader Moses was!", who thought that with Moses gone they would never see the promised land.

"WITH YOU"

But, whatever doubts and fears there might have been, Israel followed Joshua's leadership. God's special servant, Moses, was gone, but God was still with them. The promise God had made to Moses was renewed with Joshua: "Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised Moses" (1:3). Best of all although Moses was gone, God was not: "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail or forsake you" (1:5).

So, because the Israelites recognized God behind Joshua's leader-

ship, they committed themselves to their new leader. Joshua busily set about to prepare the great campaign in the promised land and, as a prudent military strategy, sent out two spies to Jericho.

Why did these two spies pick the home of a prostitute? One reason was probably that in the atmosphere of her house they would overhear information and secrets that would be hard to come by elsewhere. Actually, it was a perfect place to hide and spy. At any rate, Rahab did conspire with Joshua's spies in exchange for their promise that no harm would come to her.

A SHADY CHARACTER?

So, Rahab was a prostitute, consorted with the enemy and committed treason against her own city. Why would the Old Testament commemorate such a shady character? Because, despite her lowly character, she recognized the God who stood behind these two spies and the twelve tribes of Israel. "I know that the Lord has given you the land. . ." (2:9). "For the Lord your God is he who is God in heaven above and on earth beneath (2:12). Strong as were the ties of citizenship, her relationship with God was even more important to her.

Even this prostitute was wise enough to recognize that the claims of God on one's life are of the highest priority. Lots of respectable, intelligent people in this world have never figured that out. Their politics or ideology precedes their theology — or distorts it.

For her protection, the spies tell Rahab to hang a scarlet cord in her window so that the destruction that is to fall upon Jericho will not come upon her or her house. This is reminiscent of what Israel had experienced in Egypt: Moses told the Israelites to put some blood of the Passover lambs on the doorposts and lintels of their houses so that God's destruction would pass over them. (Exodus 12:7,13)

The scarlet cord hung in the window of a lowly prostitute was the medium of her salvation. She recognized the God who stood behind Israel; the Lord recognized the woman worth saving behind the visage of the prostitute.

Lancaster Farming

Established 1955

Published Every Saturday

Ephrata Review Building

1 E. Main St.

Ephrata, PA 17522

— by —

Lancaster Farming, Inc.

A Stehman Enterprise

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Everett R. Newwenger Managing Editor

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