



# OPINION

## Big-Time Events

Along with many local and county fairs this week, farmers have two other major events to attend: the All-American Dairy Show in Harrisburg and the Northeast Poultry Show in Lancaster.

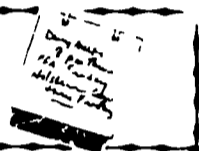
The invitational youth dairy cattle judging contest brings 4-H, FFA, and Collegiate teams to the small arena at the Farm Show complex on Monday. The All-American starts with the new Pennsylvania dairy princess to be crowned tonight. And throughout the week every major dairy breed will have national, state, and regional shows and sales. And on Thursday, the supreme champion is selected at the climax of the show.

At the Northeast Poultry Show in the Host Resort, the program consists of exceptionally appropriate subjects of interest to all producers. Subjects include talks on commodity price outlook, biosecurity, and effective rodent control on Wednesday. And special conferences for broilers and turkeys; eggs are scheduled for Thursday. Schedules for both these shows are found in this issue.

Often the work at home makes farmers think they don't have time to attend these educational events. But the conversation with other farmers and producers is often quite valuable. And this conversation is in addition to the programs and shows that are scheduled.

If you have an interest in dairy or poultry, this is your week for some big-time events.

## Farm Calendar



### Saturday, September 24

The Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Pageant, Sheraton Inn East, Harrisburg.

Harvest Sheep and Wool Festival of N.J., Salem County Fairgrounds, Woodstown, N.J., thru Sept. 25.

### Sunday, September 25

### Monday, September 26

State Junior Dairy Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg. Pa. All American Dairy Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Sept. 29.

Lehigh Valley Horse Council meeting, Boots and Saddle Riding Club, Allentown, 7:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, September 27

Pa. Fall Championship Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 9 a.m.

Morrison Cove Community Fair, Martinsburg, thru Sept. 30. Northeast Poultry Show, Host Resort, Lancaster, thru Sept. 29.

Pa.-N.Y. Pasture Tour, Daryl and Carol Button, Nicholson, Pa., 10:30 a.m. and Daniel and Linda Bonham Farm, Kingsley, Pa., 1:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, September 28

Northeast Poultry Show, Lancaster Host Resort, Lancaster, thru Sept. 29.

West Lampeter Community Fair, Lampeter, thru Sept. 30. New Holland Farmers Fair, New Holland, thru Oct. 1.

Eastern National Holstein Sale, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.

Corn Production Field Day, Using Spent Mushroom Compost, Ken Schlegel Farm, Fleetwood, 9:30 a.m.

Adams County Farm Bureau meeting, Harny Fire Hall, 6:30 p.m. Preserving Family Lane, Sheraton Berkshire, Wyomissing, 12:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Pasture Grazing Management and Cross Fencing meeting, GJL

Farm, Vanderbilt, 6:30 p.m.

### Thursday, September 29

Tri-Valley Community Fair, Hegins, thru Oct. 2.

Eastern National Holstein Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 8 a.m.

N.Y. Farm Bureau's Fall Conference, Holiday Inn Arena, Binghamton, N.Y., thru Sept. 30.

Pumpkin Variety Demonstration, Trauger Farm, Kintnersville, 6 p.m.

### Friday, September 30

### Saturday, October 1

Heritage Festival, Berks County Heritage Center, near Reading Airport, thru Oct. 2.

Blacksmith Days, Carroll County Md. Farm Museum, thru Oct. 2.

### Sunday, October 2

National 4-H Week, thru Oct. 8.

47th Joint Annual Conference of the State Conservation Commission and the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Westmoreland County, thru Oct. 5.

### Monday, October 3

National 4-H Week, Hollidaysburg Community Fair, Hollidaysburg, thru Oct. 6.

Manheim Community Farm Show, Manheim, thru Oct. 7.

### Tuesday, October 4

National 4-H Week, Pa.-N.Y. Pasture Tour, Ellis Dix Farm, Pleasant Mount, 10:30 a.m.

## Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

### To Pick Up

#### Farm Show Entries

The 1995 Pennsylvania State Farm Show Premium Lists have arrived in the county cooperative extension offices.

The premium lists contains details on all the classes at the Farm Show, rules and regulations, entry deadlines, and entry forms.

The 1995 Farm Show will be held in Harrisburg from January 7 to the 12. Remember, many classes have a November 3 entry deadline.

Pick up your free copy of the premium list and make plans to attend and participate in the 1995 Pennsylvania State Farm Show.

### To Be Safe

Over the past three years I have written many articles on farm safety. Last week this newspaper printed an editorial on farm safety. However, we continue to see far too many farm accidents and deaths.

Worker safety is becoming a bigger issue. As farms increase in size and require hired employees, farmers need to become more concerned about safety.

Farmers need to take time and review safety rules and operating

### Wednesday, October 5

#### National 4-H Week

World Dairy Expo, Dane County Expo Center, Madison, Wis., thru Oct. 9.

38th Annual Keystone Livestock Expo, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Oct. 10.

### Thursday, October 6

#### National 4-H Week

Unionville Community Fair, Unionville, thru Oct. 8.

### Friday, October 7

#### National 4-H Week

### Saturday, October 8

#### National 4-H Week

Forest Stewardship Video Conference, Bradford County extension office, 10 a.m.-noon.

### Monday, October 10

#### Columbus Day

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

procedures for all farm tasks before having an employee perform them. There needs to be a period of direct supervision before the employee is permitted to work unsupervised.

Checks need to be performed to insure all safety rules are being followed. Special care needs to be followed with children. Make sure they are old enough to do the job.

Agriculture needs to do a better job of policing ourselves in the area of farm safety. If we do not start implementing safety programs for our farms voluntarily, government rules and regulations will be extended to all farms.

Now is the time to take control of safety on your farm and make it a safe place to work. Your goal should be no accidents every year!

### To Control Rodents

With fall coming, many mice will be migrating from fields into barns.

Now is the time to beef up your

rodent control program. Check your barn for openings mice may enter. Patch holes along the foundation and around fan housings. Seal around doors.

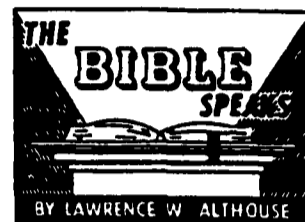
Remove old rodent droppings and watch weekly for fresh droppings. Place baiting stations around the barn where you see rodent activity.

One and one half inch PVC pipe cut in one foot sections makes excellent bait stations. In confinement housing, these stations should be placed every 8 to 12 feet.

Bait stations should be checked weekly and serviced with new bait.

Rodents are carriers of many diseases, including Salmonella enteritidis. Rodents eat and destroy a lot of feed and even kill young animals while doing structural damage to buildings and electrical wiring.

*Feather Prof's Footnote:* "Team work: The fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."



### THE CHOICE IS OURS

September 25, 1994

### Background Scripture:

Joshua 24

### Devotional Reading:

Psalms 116:12-19

The great assemblage of the tribes of Israel at Shechem under Joshua probably took place more than 3,000 years ago. That's a long time no matter how you tally the years. Without a doubt, anything that happened that long ago is ancient history.

Yet, ancient history though it may be, what happened that day in Shechem is as contemporary in its importance as your daily newspaper and the six o'clock news on television. The historical and situational circumstances have changed radically, but human nature has not. And I am confident that 3,000 years from today this story will still be relevant.

Joshua assembles the people of Israel and reminds them of what God has done with and for them. From the beginning of their history up to the present moment, Joshua is able to trace the presence of God working in their lives. Instead of asking them to subscribe to a carefully phrased creed or set of theological propositions, Joshua directs their attention to what God has done. When they look at what he has done, it is more than enough to inspire them to covenant with God.

### IN MY LIFE

Too often in our church life we speak generally of what God does without specifying what it is that we ourselves have experienced, either individually or corporately. Some Sunday morning during worship I'd like to hear, instead of a recitation of the Apostles Creed, one or more testimonials of what someone has experienced of God in his other life. For we cannot actually covenant with God solely on the basis of a set of intellectual propositions. If you cannot find any point in your life when you have experienced God or his providence, then you have no basis for a personal relationship. The problem, I'm convinced, is not that we haven't all encountered God, but that we are

not all aware that we have. As Joshua was saying to the Israelites, remember when we captured Jericho, that was the Lord that enabled us to do that, so we need to remember things in our own experience which are attributable to God—from daily bread to windfalls, from deliverance to transcendence.

How contemporaneous these words are: "I gave you a land on which you had not labored, and cities which you had not built, and you dwell therein; you eat the fruit of vineyards and olive yards which you did not plant" (24:13). Is there anyone who could answer, "Not me, Lord!?" All of us, no matter how well or poorly off we may think ourselves, have received grace upon grace. No matter what our circumstances may be, there are more blessings to count than any of us can manage. It is on that basis, and that basis alone, that we are challenged to "choose this day whom you will serve" (24:15).

### FAR BE IT

The reply of the people of Israel is a bit amusing to me because it is so like our own self-delusions: "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods" (244:16) and even after Joshua explained how hard it was to follow the Lord, they replied with enthusiasm: "Nay; but we will serve the Lord" (24:21). Is that not us as well? We take our vows of membership and we are confident that we will keep them. But how easy it is to say them and how difficult to keep them. That hasn't changed either.

Joshua makes a very strong case of the people of Israel to vow to serve the Lord, reminding them of what God has done for them in the past and of his promises for the future. He tells them of the choice that he and his own house have made. But there is no compulsion at Shechem; Joshua does not force the people to make their covenant. When all is said and done, it is their choice as it is ours every day of our lives: "Choose this day whom you will serve."

## Farm Forum

### Editor,

I want to remind people of the danger of farm machinery and especially of farm disks. My small son was standing near one, and forgetting it was there, he turned and walked against it. Since he was wearing shorts he got several substantial scratches and a cut that required four stitches. I am thank-

ful he did not fall against it with his hands or face.

I want to know if other people have had similar experiences. Andrew's accident happened at a busy county fair. Is that a wise place to display a farm disk?

Mrs. Verna Everett, Kingsley

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