



OPINION

Food-Related Scare Story

Many news stories you read deal with what Sharon Begley, a Newsweek senior writer who specializes in science and the environment, calls "the cancer-of-the-week syndrome." What Ms. Begley means is that on a regular basis, scare stories are published that blame chemicals, mostly pesticides, for causing cancer.

These man-made chemicals are only a small part of the chemicals we eat each day. Natural chemicals found in vegetables, for example, have many more carcinogens than any small amount of artificial chemical residue that may still remain on the plant when we eat it. A cup of coffee has more natural pesticides than any kind of tossed salad you can imagine.

We live longer, on the average, than people of past generations, largely because science has conquered many of the fatal diseases. People enjoy being scared. That's why they go to the movies. But at home, when they pick up the daily newspaper, we think they should be comforted to know that our farmers produce the safest food supply in the world at a cost that is incredibly low, often below the cost of production.

And if they really want to be scared, they should think about what it would be like if the grocery store shelves were suddenly bare. Now that's what we would call a food-related scare story.



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Enter Grain Bins Safely

Grain farmers who store their own grain are at risk of suffocation in grain bins.

Moving grain is especially dangerous. Flowing grain works in the same way as quicksand, pulling anyone in the bin down and under in less than one minute with very little ability to free themselves.

Following a few safety rules while working around a grain bin may help protect your life. If you must enter a grain bin, always stay above the stored material on a cat walk. Never enter a bin to break a bridge or to dislodge caked material from the side of a bin. Use a wooden or plastic pole to break material free.

Do not use a metal pole, which might come in contact with electric lines. Never enter a bin while it is being unloaded. Have controls which run loading and unloading equipment locked off anytime someone is in the bin to avoid someone from starting the equipment.

Run ventilating equipment before entering and while in the bin. Wear a safety belt or harness that is equipped with a lifeline that will keep you above the stored grain if you fall. Always have someone standing by outside the bin anytime you enter the storage.

To Precondition Beef Calves

Chester Hughes, extension livestock agent, reminds us the purpose of preconditioning or pre-vaccinating beef calves is to help alleviate the stress at weaning, shipment, and adjustment to a feedlot environment. This also helps build resistance against

some of the causes of disease that result from stress, especially respiratory diseases.

Preconditioning also implies the calves are castrated, implanted, dehorned, weaned and started on feed at least three weeks prior to sale or shipment. All weaned beef calves should be dehorned and bull calves castrated well before weaning.

Also, two rounds of vaccinations should be administered, including IBR, BVD, PI3, BRSV, H, Somnus, Pasturella, and a seven-way clostridal.

Depending on your program, you may include implants and wormers. If you have any questions, consult your veterinarian.

To Plant

Winter Cover Crops

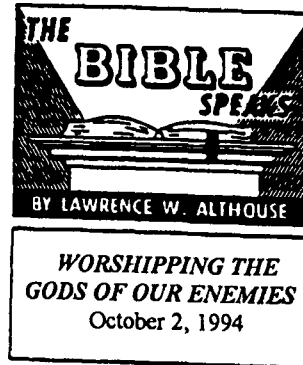
Winter cover crops play a very important role in nutrient management. Many farmers need to empty their manure storage units during the fall season. This means these crop nutrients are applied to cropland at a time of year when they are

not needed by a growing crop. Therefore these nutrients are vulnerable to being lost to the environment because of soil erosion and leaching.

Winter cover crops are a valuable tool farmers may use to prevent economic loss of valuable nutrients and prevent environmental damage. By planting a small grain crop such as rye, it will take up the available nitrogen and hold it in the plant preventing loss to the water supply. If the rye is harvested, the nutrients will be utilized as high quality feed. If the rye is killed or plowed under next spring, the nutrients will become available to the following crop.

The rye will also prevent nutrient loss by slowing soil erosion. Rye may be planted as late as November, but the earlier it is planted the more nutrients it will take up and the more it will yield next spring.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "The loftier your goals, the higher your risk, the greater your accomplishments."



Background Scripture:

Judges 2:6 through 3:6

Devotional Reading:

Psalms 81:6-16

The late Harry Emerson Fosdick of the Riverside Church in New York City was one of my preaching idols as a young minister. I was privileged to hear him on one or two occasions and read most or all of his books.

One of his sermons that intrigued me was entitled, if I remember correctly, "Worshipping The gods of Our Enemies."

I don't recall the text upon which the sermon was based, but I rather imagine it was from the book of Judges—most likely the second chapter of Judges, which is a kind of summary of the whole book: the people of Israel forsake God and worship the gods of their neighbors: calamity comes upon them and they cry to God for help; he sends someone to extricate them, and then, freed of their disaster, they return to following other gods. Chapter after chapter, this is the story of the Book of Judges.

Although we may have difficulty in understanding how the Israelites could have been so stupid and fickle, very often the story of the Israelites is our story, too, and the message of this ancient book is a message to us as well as to them. Have we not from time to time fallen down to worship the gods of our enemies, too?

For approximately 80 percent of my life the world has been the stage for a gigantic struggle between democracy and communism. Within the last few years it has appeared that the battle is over—although I'm not entirely certain about that. During that long struggle the enemy was usually characterized as "materialistic communism," a legitimate appellation, I think, because, as an ideology, communism was based upon that idea that well-being is dependent upon our access to material goods, requiring essentially a redistribution of

wealth. The collapse of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union would seem to indicate that communistic materialism has failed miserably on an international scale. So, is that the end of materialism? No, hardly, for it seems to be the one factor that permeates the lives of people around the globe, including, and probably especially, our own society here in the USA. According to our current culture, the answer to our deepest needs and problems is to be found in the material things we are able to acquire. Materialism tells us who is successful and what is important in the home, the school, the marketplace, and, yes, even in the churches. The values that propel our society today are largely economic, not spiritual or even moral.

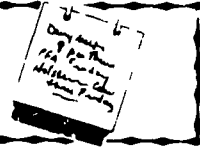
GODLESS COMMUNISM

Our old enemy was also labeled as "Godless communism," another tag that was, for the most part, accurate. Religion was permitted behind the Iron Curtain, so long as it was kept private and did not attempt to affect that communist society. But, if communist society was "godless"—and it was—is ours by contrast necessarily "Godful"? I think not. Prophetic voices in our society are told to keep their religious views private. National issues are decided, not on the basis of what we may think God wills, but on the basis of political ideology.

The two labels which transcend all other considerations today are "liberal" and "conservative." If people think something is "liberal" in its inception, they rarely ask what God thinks of it. If something bears the label "conservative," it may be rejected, not because of its worth, but because of that label. Political ideology plays a much more important role in our society than spirituality.

These may be just two of the ways in which our society worships at the altars of our old enemies. Can you think of any more?

Farm Calendar



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

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

Holidaysburg Community Fair, Holidaysburg, 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.

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.

Sunday, October 9

Monday, October 10

Columbus Day

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

Penn/Jersey Estate Planning Workshop, Holiday Inn, Bethlehem, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Tuesday, October 11

Delmarva Poultry Industry annual meeting, Delmarva Convention Center, Delmar, Md.

Dairylea Cooperative Inc. annual meeting, Sheraton Inn, Liverpool, N.Y., thru Oct. 12.

Juniata County Conservation Field Day, Art Zug Farm, Thompsonstown, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Wednesday, October 12

Pa. Council of Cooperatives annual meeting, Penn State Scanticon Conference Center Hotel, State College, thru Oct. 13.

Virginia/Pennsylvania Turkey Days, Sheraton Inn, Harrisonburg, Va.

Veterinary Nutrition Forum, Days Inn, Lancaster, 7 p.m.

Expanding Pa. Products Seminar, Wildwood Conference Center, Harrisburg Area Community College, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Thursday, October 13

4-H N.E. Regional Leaders Forum, Durham, N.H., thru Oct. 16.

Adams County Holstein Association annual meeting, 7 p.m.

Lancaster County Pasture Walk, Roman Stoltzfoos Farm, Kinzers, 10:30 a.m.

Bedford County Farm Field Day, Gatesway Farms, New Enterprise, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Friday, October 14

Saturday, October 15

Sunday, October 16

Monday, October 17

Columbus Day

New Farming Traditions Workshop, WMREC, Keedysville, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 18

Dillsburg Community Fair, Dillsburg, thru Oct. 22.

Lancaster County Bee Association Fall Honey Beeswax and Cooking Roundup, Dutch Gold Honey, Rohrerstown, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 19

PASA Nutrient Management Field