



# OPINION

## Congratulations To Fair Exhibitors

Congratulations to all who have shown cattle and livestock during the 1994 county fair season. And thank you.

Especially to those who showed cattle. It wasn't the easiest year to decide to take out time to select, train, wash and trim animals with the threat of bovine virus diarrhea and vaccination records necessary.

We hope those who opted out this year will be back next, and those who did show didn't take anything contagious home with them.

It's always pleasant to watch good, groomed animals shown well, as it is to have judges who explain their placings, even if not all are in agreement.

Local county shows are the premier place for the nonfarming community to see how well farm animals are really cared for.

While the big competitive shows are the highlight of the breeders' year, the county or regional show ring is where the public relations really count.

Dirty, undercared for animals should never be entered in local fair shows, no matter that in some instances, where insufficient animals have been entered for competition, the premium money is just waiting to be awarded to whomever shows up with an animal of the breed.

There are plenty of misconceptions about animal care being perpetuated by people who know little or nothing of caring for an animal.

And there are many more people who go to county fairs who fit this category than go to see the high-stakes shows.

The impression made on the agriculturally unenlightened at the local level may be the only real experience they have to form a perception of the entire community of people who keep, breed and raise domestic animals.

For all of our sakes, don't make us out to be liars. Please don't show unkempt or unthrifty livestock.

## Farm Calendar

### Saturday, October 22

Farm and Natural Lands Trust Harvest Fest, Brown's Orchard, Loganville, thru Oct. 23.  
Sire Power Sale '94, Bloomsburg Fairgrounds, 11 a.m.  
Lancaster County Rabbit and Cavy Breeders Association Rabbit Show, West Lampeter Fairgrounds, Lampeter, 9 a.m.  
Penn State Career Open House, University Park, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

### Sunday, October 23

Managing Cover Crops For Increased Productivity, Days Inn, State College, thru Oct. 25.  
Franklin County Conservation District Field Day, Edwin Shank Farm, Chambersburg, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

### Tuesday, October 25

Chester County Holstein Association annual meeting, West Fallowfield Christian School, Atglen, 7 p.m.  
Lancaster County Poultry Association annual banquet, Willow Valley Convention Center, 6:30 p.m.  
Lebanon County Holstein Association annual meeting, Schaefferstown Fire Hall, Schaefferstown, 7 p.m.  
State Grange Annual Banquet, Embers, Carlisle, 7 p.m.

### Wednesday, October 26

Lancaster County 4-H Swine Banquet, Country Table Restaurant, Mount Joy, 6:30 p.m.  
New Holland Sales Stables Dairy Show, New Holland, show 9 a.m., sale 11 a.m.  
Pesticide Update Training, Bureau of Forestry Conference Room, North Warren, 8 p.m.-10 p.m.

### Thursday, October 27

Workshop Series on Computerized Farm Record Keeping, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 p.m.-3 p.m.  
Franklin County Conservation District meeting, Kauffman Community Center, Kauffman Station, 6:45 p.m.  
Schuylkill County Cooperative Extension meeting, First United Church of Christ, Schuylkill Haven.

Columbia County Conservation Field Day, Craig Richards Farm, Numidia, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

### Friday, October 28

State 4-H Horse Show, thru Oct. 30.

### Saturday, October 29

Md. Shorthorn Association Fall Calf Sale, Frederick Fairgrounds, Frederick, Md., 7 p.m.  
Backyard Composting Workshop Series, Springettsbury Township Municipal Building/Compost Park, York, continues Nov. 5, Nov. 6, and Nov. 14.

### Sunday, October 30

Eastern Standard Time Begins

National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Conference, Niagara Falls, N.Y., thru Nov. 4.

### Monday, October 31

Halloween

### Tuesday, November 1

Estate Planning Seminars, Glatfelter Insurance, York, also Nov. 2.  
Ephrata Area Young Farmers monthly meeting, Ephrata High School, 7:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, November 2

Ag Advisory Council (Penn State)



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

### To Drive To Save Gas

By driving smartly and properly maintaining your vehicle, you should be able to save money by reducing gasoline usage.

The American Petroleum Institute makes the following suggestions to help you increase fuel mileage.

Reduce your speed. At 55 miles per hour (mph) most cars obtain about 20 percent more miles to the gallon than at 70 mph. Maintain a constant speed. Variations of more than 5 mph could raise fuel consumption by 7 to 9 percent.

Avoid jackrabbit starts. They require twice as much gasoline as smooth, gradual starts.

Reduce braking by anticipating the need to slow down or stop. If you do not have to come to a full stop by slowing down early, you may reduce gasoline use by 20 percent.

Plan your trips wisely. A malfunctioning carburetor may waste 3 miles per gallon (mpg); a misfiring spark plug, 2 mpg; and a dirty air filter, 1 mpg.

Regular tuneups may save 5 to 20 percent on gasoline costs. Be sure the car has correct tire pressure. Gas mileage improves 1 percent for every 2 pounds of pressure needed to bring tires up to the recommended pressure.

Finally, do not carry extra weight. Gas consumption increases by 1 percent for every 50 pounds of extra weight.

### To Check For White Mold On Soybeans

Dr. Elwood Hatley, Penn State agronomy department, reports that many areas have experienced white mold on soybeans.

The disease develops after flowering and during periods of cool, damp weather. It is most prevalent in years of adequate to excessive

membership meeting, Penn State Scanticon Hotel, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Thursday, November 3  
Bradford County Cooperative Extension annual meeting, Wysox Presbyterian Church Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 4  
Wayne County Holstein annual meeting, Belmont Corners Fire Hall, Pleasant Mount, 7:45 p.m.

### Saturday, November 5

Nittany Lion Fall Classic Sale, Ag Arena, State College, 11 a.m.  
North American International Livestock Exposition, Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center, Louisville, Ky., thru Nov. 18.

Quarryville Antique and Craft Show, Quarryville Elementary School, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

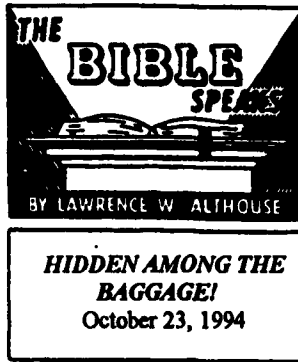
moisture and in fields with a lot of vegetative growth. In most cases the effect is minimal (2 to 3 percent). However, losses may be as high as 50 percent.

Infected plants have lesions with white cottony growth near the base of the stem. Large, irregular black bodies form in the cottony growth and inside the stem. This leads to wilting and death of the upper leaves and finally premature death of the infected plant.

There is no truly effective way to control the disease. Manipulating cultural practices, such as rotation, planting in 30-inch rows, and reducing plant populations are the only way to reduce the effects of the disease. There is no information available on variety tolerance to the disease.

### To Evaluate Fall Tillage

Lynn Hoffman, Penn State Agronomy Department, reminds us fall tillage should only be done when needed to fit longer term agronomic program needs.



### Background Scripture:

1 Samuel 9:15 through 10:1A, 20-24

### Devotional Reading:

Psalms 106:40-48

The story of Samuel and his anointing of Saul as King over Israel is one of the most fascinating in the Bible. Here is a man, unknown to the public, who one day goes forth with his servant to look for some asses that had strayed from his father's farm. Failing to find them, his servant suggests they consult Samuel the seer of Ramah to see if he can help them find the asses. Can you imagine then how surprised Saul was when Samuel invited him to dine with him on the sacred hilltop, gave him choice cuts of food, and then announced that God had chosen Saul to be king over Israel!

And that was just the beginning of these unsettling events. Samuel also told Saul to go on to Rachel's tomb where he would meet two men with a message for him, then on to the oak at Tabor to receive two symbolic loaves of bread from the hands of three men, and finally on to Gibeath-elohim to meet a band of prophets. Strangest of all, Samuel assured him that at Gibeath-elohim the Spirit of God would "come mightily upon you and you shall prophesy with them and be turned into a new man" (10:6).

All this because he had gone to a seer looking for help in finding some lost livestock! Sometimes when we go seeking the Lord, we find a lot more than that for which we were looking.

### WHO ME?

Saul reacted to all this as we might expect. His first reaction to Saul's amazing news is a huge sense of inadequacy. "Am I not a Benjamite, from the least of the tribes of Israel? And is not my family the humblest of the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then have you spoken to me in this way?" Actually, Saul exaggerated: in 1 Samuel 9:1 we

are told that Saul's father is "a man of wealth" and Saul is the tallest and most handsome man in Israel. Isn't it wonderful how humble we become when someone nominates us for a job?

His second reaction was one of action rather than words; he hid so that they could not find him. But, he was to find that day that—as Jonah had once found—when God wants you for something, it is pretty hard to hide.

"...and the Lord said, 'Behold he has hidden himself among the baggage'" (10:22).

What fascinates me about the story is that, in a sense, Saul was quite correct in discerning that he was inadequate for the job. God chose him and the people wanted him but Saul did not want to be king. Yes, God promised that He would turn him into "another man" and God's spirit fell mightily upon him on several occasions. But, although sometimes in the power of God's spirit he was "another man," there were times when he reverted to being the destructively insecure bumpkin whose personal inadequacies kept him from being the king Israel wanted and needed.

### CROOKED STICKS

What this tells us is that God often—maybe always—chooses people who are inadequate for the job He has for them. Under His power they are sometimes able to do the things for which God calls them, but they are also flawed human beings with weaknesses and tragic inadequacies. Their human failures do not detract from or destroy the good things that God is able to do through them. Greatly flawed people can still be, with the help of God, successful leaders. Or, as someone has put it, "God can strike a mighty blow with a crooked stick."

All of us are crooked sticks in God's hands, so we have no excuse for hiding ourselves among the baggage of life when He wants to use us for His purposes.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "Children are always the only future the human race has; teach them well."

### Lancaster Farming

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