



# OPINION

## Proper Priorities

From time to time we hear about bad ethics in the show ring. And we just want to caution livestock and dairy exhibitors that animal agriculture is under the microscope. We cannot be seen as allowing unethical, deceptive or illegal practices to occur in our industry, especially in our youth programs.

In the October 1994 Livestock Conservation Institute newsletter, Glenn Slack, LCI executive director, reports that at a mid-west livestock show and auction last fall, a fair-goer caught on video one of the livestock industry's weakest moments. A young man held his lamb by the head as another man repeatedly pounded the animal's back, apparently to cause swelling that would give it the firmness judges look for in livestock competition. The home video made the evening newscasts and was an embarrassment to the entire livestock industry.

Formal charges of animal cruelty were brought against the two; a professional fitter and the 16-year-old owner of the lamb. The fitter was found guilty in the beating, ordered to pay \$1,000 in court costs, and received a suspended one-year sentence. The exhibitor, not charged in the case, was forced to forfeit his \$900 prize and was banned from participating in the show for two years.

Other reports of unethical practices in show animals include:

- A bovine nip n' tuck around the brisket or belly to give the animal a leaner look.
- In sheep, the last two ribs surgically removed to give the loin a longer appearance and feel.
- Cosmetic dental surgery in cattle to conceal the true age of the animal.
- Parents switching lambs at the show by using stolen paint and number brands to alter identity.
- Pumping an animal with air or beer before a show to make it appear fuller.

—Jeff Goodwin, extension specialist with Texas A&M says the four biggest possible downfalls to the junior livestock program are as follows: 1, Illegal and extra-label drug use on show animals; 2, False ownership and substitution of animals; 3, Hiring professional fitters and groomers; and 4, physical alteration of animals.

We would add a 5th reason for downfall. The unproportionately high monetary reward that goes to the champions. The right slap on the rump by a judge can mean thousands of dollars of increased income at youth livestock sales. While everyone appreciates the businesses that support our youth with the purchase of these 4-H and FFA projects, a cap should be placed on the amount of money one person can receive, and the excess money above this cap should go to benefit the total youth program involved.

While we do not believe illegal practices in youth programs are widespread, any such activity gives a public black eye to the livestock industry. In addition, when adults are involved in these unethical practices, a terrible example is given to the very youth we want to influence for good.

Everyone needs to keep in mind that the real reason to give a youth a livestock project is not because of the money that can be made, but because of the lessons that can be learned.

It's a matter of proper priorities.



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

### To Know About Frost And Corn

Much of this year's late planted corn was killed by frost before reaching maturity. Frost damage occurs to corn when temperatures remain below 32 degrees for 4 to 5 hours or when temperatures dip to 28 degrees for only a few minutes.

The amount of loss to the crop is dependent on the stage of growth and the amount of leaf surface actually killed. If grain moisture is under 35 percent, the amount crop loss is minimal. When corn is in the late milk stage, losses could be as high as 36 percent; at the soft dent stage, losses will be about 15 percent; at full dent but before the kernel is hard, losses will be about 9 percent; and at hard dent, the losses will be 5 percent or less.

If the frost did not kill the entire plant and some green leaves remain, the plant will continue to mature.

### To Manage Frosted Corn

A good rule of thumb to follow is to let the crop mature more if there are still some green leaves left and it has not reached black layer yet. If the cornfield has been killed completely by frost, management options will depend upon the desired end use of the crop.

The best option for corn frosted in the milk stage is to green chop it or harvest it as silage when whole plant moisture is in the range for putting it into the silo. If corn has reached the dough stage, it may be harvested for grain when dry; however, yields and test weight will be low.

A major problem associated with the harvest of any corn killed

a.m.

67th National FFA Convention, Kansas City, Mo., thru Nov. 12.  
Penn/Jersey Equine Short Course, New Jersey/Rutgers, thru Nov. 10.

Agronomy Ag Service School, Days Inn, Meadville.

Northeast Regional Greenhouse Seminar, Luzerne County Community College Conference Center, Nanticoke, 9 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Westmoreland County Farm-City Night, Mountain View Inn, Greensburg, 7 p.m.

Thursday, November 10

Berks County Holstein Association annual meeting, Berks County Ag Center, 7:30 p.m.  
Centre County Holstein Association annual meeting, Progress, Centre Hall, 7 p.m.

Lancaster County Holstein annual meeting, Country Table Restaurant, Mount Joy, 7 p.m.  
Chester County Cooperative Extension annual meeting, East

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by frost is the slow drying. If harvested as grain, this corn should be fed to livestock whenever possible. If harvesting for silage, remember corn killed by frost often looks much dryer than it is and needs to be monitored.

### To Remember Safety

In 1992, an annual average of 3.2 million people 16 years of age and older were employed in agricultural production in the United States.

According to a review of agricultural injury studies, between one third and one half of fatal farm injuries involved tractors.

Tractor overturns accounted for the majority of tractor-related deaths. A five-state study by University of Minnesota showed the following distribution of injury accidents:

- Livestock — 30 percent
- Machinery — 20 percent
- Tractors — 8 percent
- Surfaces and stairs — 7 percent

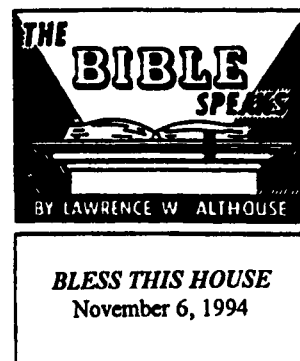
percent

- Small power equipment — 6 percent
- Storage structures — 3 percent
- Chemicals — 1 percent.

There are an estimated 300 deaths to children younger than 20 years of age on U. S. farms each year. For every childhood injury death (not limited to childhood agricultural injury), there are approximately 42 hospitalizations and 1,120 emergency department visits.

These statistics remind us the importance of thinking and practicing safety. It takes time. However, that extra time to check for children around equipment, storing chemicals properly, respecting livestock, etc. could prevent a serious accident, lost time at hospital, recovering from an accident, or planning a funeral. Take time and be safe.

*Feather Prof's Footnote:*  
"Without challenge, there is no achievement."



### Background Scripture:

2 Samuel 7

### Devotional Reading:

Psalms 86:1-12

The word "house" appears in 2 Samuel 7 twelve times, but the meaning of this word varies considerably. Actually, the writer of the book employs it as a play on words.

The first meaning of "house" comes when King David says to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." David is referring to his royal palace. In light of his princely dwelling, he feels it is wrong for God's ark to be located in a mere tent. The tent had become a central feature of Israel's religious life during the 40 years of exodus.

At first, the prophet Nathan tells him it is all right for him to build God a "house"—a temple, but in a revelation from the Lord, he was told that God did not want David to build him a temple. The tent served God and the Israelites very well. If he needs a house, it will not be one build by human hands. Instead his "house" will be the human lives that are opened to him and in which he can live. (Jesus saw himself as the living temple in Mark 14:58, 15:29, and John 2:19)

### THE EDIFICE COMPLEX

In religion there is always the danger of an edifice complex, focusing our loyalty and devotion upon a "house" of worship, rather than the one whom the "house" is intended to serve. Worst of all, the "house" we build may become a human attempt to limit God to a particular place and people. In our denominationalism and sectarianism we often become like the little boy who charged the neighbor kids admission to enter his backyard to see an eclipse.

This can be true, not only of the buildings we dedicate to God, but the institutions we fashion—denominations, ecclesiastical structures, priestly hierarchies, dogmas, and theological systems. Even the Bible can be elevated to

a status and veneration that belong to God alone.

God tells Nathan to tell David that, instead of building him a house, the Lord would build him one: "and your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me" (7:16). Here, "house" means, not a building, but a dynasty, David's descendants. The house God builds for David will be a continual living of the Lord in the lives of David and his heirs. In this sense, David's "house" will also be the Lord's "house."

### A GREAT NATION

So, David prays, asking, "Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that thou hast brought me thus far?" (7:19). Here, David uses "house" to refer to his family. How has his family merited God's special election and favor? And the same question may be asked of Israel itself: why did it merit God's favor? "What other nation on earth is like thy people Israel..." (7:23). For what reason were the Israelites to be his chosen people?

When we speak of a nation being great we refer to its political power, economic preeminence, or military might. But Israel had none of these. All Israel had was a consciousness of God. Ganse Little has termed them a "God intoxicated people...the repository and channel for the loftiest revelations of God's nature and purpose." What made Israel a "great" nation, was not the greatness of the people, but the greatness of the God who chose them.

At the very end of his prayer, David asks, "Now therefore may it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue for ever before thee..." (7:29). Here the "house" is David's, present and future, and his prayer is on the very highest order. Not for wealth, power or prosperity, but that his family might ever be close to the Lord.

So may we pray for God to bless our own houses.

## Farm Calendar

### 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.

Va. Beekeepers' Association Winter Meeting, Best Western Motor Inn, Winchester, Va., 8 a.m.

Incubating and Hatching Seminar, Eastern Regional Emu Chapter, Holiday Inn, Frederick, Md., 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Union County Extension annual meeting, Carriage Corner Restaurant, Mifflinburg, 6:30 p.m.

Berks County 4-H Livestock Banquet, Kutztown Grange Hall, Kutztown, 7 p.m.

### Sunday, November 6

### Monday, November 7

Agronomy Ag Service School, Arena Restaurant, Bedford.  
Food Safety Seminar, York County Extension, 1:30 p.m., also 7 p.m.

Northampton County Extension annual meeting, Allentown-Bethlehem Airport, 7:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, November 8

Election Day  
Agronomy Ag Service School, Penn State DuBois Campus, DuBois.

### Wednesday, November 9

Lancaster County Pasture Walk, Axel Linde and Millie Widmann, Lindenhof Farm, 10:30

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