



# OPINION

## Neighbors Across The Urban Fence Row

We celebrated Thanksgiving day this week, and our gratefulness continues throughout the year. When President Lincoln in 1863 proclaimed the fourth Thursday in November, he said this day would be "henceforth a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens."

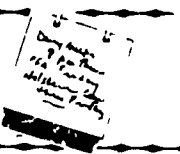
On the national scene we give thanks for an election process that does not incarcerate (or worse) those persons who lose. Only in America can we brush off the ego, polish up the public image, and go back on the campaign circuit again in two or four years.

Locally, we talk about the "Garden Spot" of the world. The garden in this spot is not only corn, cows, and plows, pigs, and poultry. We also have manufacturing, tourism, houses, distribution centers, and retail stores. In addition, we have churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples. And we have much more. Everything and everyone together forms the composite of the whole "spot" we enjoy.

That's why the ag/industry banquet held in Lancaster this week and the similar farm/city events held around the country are so important. These events give us an opportunity to say to our neighbors across the urban fence row: "You are important to us. We recognize that what we do or what we are is made more significant because of what you do and who you are."

Competition has helped many people to achieve great things. But cooperation helps more. "United we stand; divided we fall" is a quote from history that is still relevant today when you count your blessings in this Thanksgiving season.

## Farm Calendar



**Saturday, November 26**

**Sunday, November 27**

**Monday, November 28**

Lehigh Valley Horse Council meeting, Whitehall Mall Community Room, 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 29**

Summit On Risk Management In American Ag, Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C., 7:45 a.m.-6 p.m.

**Wednesday, November 30**

Westmoreland County Extension dinner meeting, Lakeview Lounge, Greensburg, 7 p.m.

Government Regulations Compliance Seminar, Berks County Ag Center, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

**Thursday, December 1**

Liquid Manure Application Systems, Rochester Marriott Thruway Hotel, Rochester, N.Y., thru Dec. 2.

Beaver County DHIA meeting, extension office, 11 a.m.

**Friday, December 2**

Estate Planning Seminar, Columbia Inn, Columbia, Md., 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Saturday, December 3**

National 4-H Youth Congress, Orlando, Fla., thru Dec. 8.

Estate Planning Seminar, Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel, Hagerstown, Md., 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Sunday, December 4**

**Monday, December 5**

Agronomy Ag Service School, Brynwood Inn, Lewisburg.

Intensive Grazing For Dairy Cows Seminar, Franklin County extension, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Lehigh County annual meeting, Bake Oven Inn, Germansville, 7:30 p.m.

Regional Vegetable Growers annual meeting, Arena Restaurant, Bedford.

Dauphin County Ag Conservation Easement Purchase program, Ag and Natural Resources Center, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 6**

Mid-Atlantic Cooperative Extension Meeting (MACE), University of Delaware, Newark, Del.

Agronomy Ag Service School, Sinbad's Restaurant, Wysox. Lancaster County DHIA meeting, Good and Plenty Restaurant, 11:30 a.m.

Berks County DHIA meeting, 4-H Center, Leesport, 7 p.m.

Bradford-Sullivan Forest Landowners Association directors meeting, extension office, 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 7**

Agronomy Ag Service School, Berks county Ag Center, Leesport.

Wayne County DHIA meeting, Bethany Church, Honesdale, 7:45 p.m.

Clinton County DHIA meeting, Big Wrangler, Mill Hall, 11:30 a.m.

McKean County DHIA and Holstein Club annual meeting, First Baptist Church, Port Allegany, 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, December 8**

Extension Strategies For Dairy Farms National Conference and Trade Show, Turf Valley Hotel, Ellicott City, Md., thru Dec. 9.

Adams County DHIA annual meeting, Fire Hall, Hamey, Md., 7 p.m.

Agronomy Ag Service School, Quality Inn, Carlisle.

Centre County DHIA meeting, Logan Grange, Pleasant Gap, 7 p.m.

York County Ag Land Preservation Board annual public meeting and application workshop, York County Vo-Tech School Auditorium, 7 p.m.

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

### To Plan Worker Training

Starting January 1, 1995 training must be provided for any worker who has the potential to come in contact with pesticide treated areas, and any worker who will be applying or who will assist with the application of pesticides.

Owners of the agricultural establishment, their immediate family members, and certified applicators are the only persons exempt from training requirement.

Workers who will enter treated areas on farms, forests, nurseries, or greenhouses must receive worker protection training before they accumulate more than five days of entry time into areas where in the past 30 days a pesticide has been applied or a restricted entry interval has been in effect. Pesticides include herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, etc.

Workers must be trained in the following areas:

- Where and in what form they may come in contact with pesticides or pesticide residue.
- The hazards of pesticides resulting from exposure.
- Routes of pesticides into the body.
- Signs and symptoms of pesticide poisoning.
- Emergency first aid.
- How to obtain emergency medical care.
- Routine emergency decontamination procedures, including eye flush techniques.
- Hazards of pesticide residues on clothing.

### To Train Handlers Of Pesticides

Those persons who are applying or in some way assisting in the application of pesticides must be trained as handlers.

Handlers must be trained before they are allowed to complete any handling task. Training must include:

- Hazards of pesticides.
- Routes of pesticide entry into the body.
- Need for and appropriate clothing.
- Prevention, recognition, and first aid treatment of heat-related illness.
- Safety requirements for handling, transporting, storing, and disposing of pesticides.

**Friday, December 9**

Agronomy Ag Service School, Lancaster Farm and Home Center.

PennAg Nutrient Management Seminar, Eden Resort Inn, Lancaster, 10 a.m.-noon.

Armstrong County DHIA meeting, Bonello, 11 a.m.

**Saturday, December 10**

**Sunday, December 11**

ling, transporting, storing, and disposing of pesticides.

• General procedures for spill cleanup.

• Environmental concerns such as drift, runoff, and wildlife hazards.

• Explanation of Worker Protection Standards (WPS) requirements designed to protect workers such as notification of application and entry restrictions.

### To Develop Your Training Program

There are many sources of information on the Worker Protection Standards (WPS).

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) training materials are available free of charge or on an on loan basis at your local cooperative extension office. These materials include worker and handler training handbooks

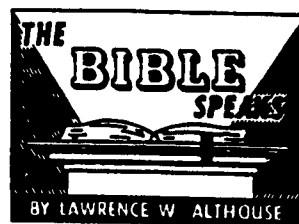
and videos in both Spanish and English.

Training must be provided in a language the workers can understand. As you hire employees, consider developing an employee handbook and orientation program for employees. This orientation program will help you document your efforts.

Also, you may be able to secure a reduction in your insurance premiums while reducing your risk to a lawsuit. There are many people available to help you. These include your local county agent, insurance agent, adult farmer instructor, chemical company representative, etc.

Take advantage of their expertise and develop your own employee orientation and continuing education program.

*Feather Prof's Footnote: "Yard by yard, life is hard. Inch by inch, life's a cinch."*



**ON BEING TOO SMART**  
November 27, 1994

### Background Scripture:

1 Kings 11

### Devotional Reading:

Proverbs 16:1-7

According to the Old Testament, King Solomon was one of the great intellects of his day. Just as his answers to tough questions had astounded the Queen of Sheba, his mental acumen was legendary throughout the Middle East.

But, when we read 1 Kings 11, we have to wonder just how smart Solomon really was. For one thing, the man was insatiable in his appetite for women: 700 wives, princesses and 300 concubines. How smart can anyone be with that kind of home life? Note, too, that although some of the wives may have cemented diplomatic arrangements, the real reason behind their sheer number was Solomon's lust: "Now King Solomon loved many foreign women..." and "Solomon clung to these in love" (11:12) (One doesn't have to be a Biblical scholar to how that "love" here is used in a physical sense.)

Just on the grounds of common sense — which he was supposed to possess — Solomon should have known better than to build himself a harem. What kind of loving relationships can one sustain with multiple partners? This proclivity on Solomon's part was stupid, but how can we explain that with a man reputed to be so wise? The answer, I think, is that if Solomon was ever so wise, arrogance of power eventually permitted him to act with uncommon stupidity. He probably thought assembling such a harem was "smart," but arrogance led him to do what he should have realized was patently unwise.

### COMMON SENSE

Beyond the grounds of common sense, Solomon also should have known better because God had commanded that he not join himself to foreign wives. (Of course, I don't believe God would have been any more satisfied if Solomon had taken 1,000 Israelite wives and concubines.) What did God have against these foreign wives? God knew that Solomon would try to please this multitude

of wives by tolerating and even assisting their pagan religions. "You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods" (11:2).

Can't you just hear Solomon protesting, "Don't be silly, this won't happen; I'm too smart for that." But what God foretold came to pass: "For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God..." (11:4). He not only tolerated the gods of his foreign wives, but he supported their efforts in establishing the worship of Ashtoreth of the Sidonians, Molech and Milcom of the Ammonites, and Chemosh of Moab.

This was no simple mistake that he made, he made it at least 700 times. Furthermore, God had specifically forbidden him this course. As the writer says, "... the Lord God was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the Lord commanded" (11:9). Solomon may have been very wise, but he was much more arrogant than he was wise. Arrogance will cancel out wisdom every time.

God tempered the consequences of Solomon's folly. He would continue as king of Israel, but his son would become heir, not to all of Israel, but just one tribe. And enemies would rise up to threaten Solomon's kingdom and ruin the dynasty he had planned.

Solomon may have begun as a man of great wisdom, but he ended up as a foolish man who squandered a great kingdom for arrogantly thinking he could make his own rules. Unlike intelligence, wisdom is not a constant in our lives; we must cultivate it and renew it every day, lest we become "too smart" for our own good.

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