



OPINION

Father Time

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to cast away stones, and time to gather stones together, a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

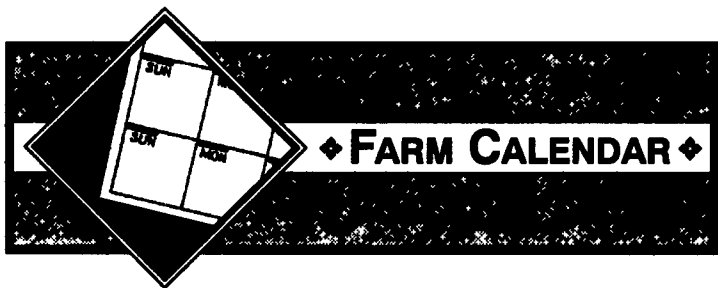
A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

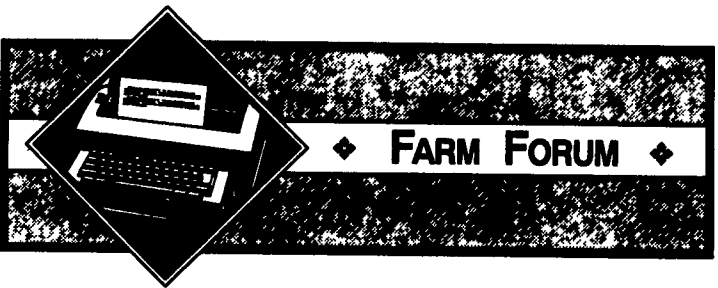


◆ FARM CALENDAR ◆

- Saturday, December 31**
- Sunday, January 1**
Happy New Year!
- Monday, January 2**
North Eastern Weed Science Society Meeting, Boston, thru Jan. 5.
- Tuesday, January 3**
Bucks-Montgomery Dairy Day, Family Heritage Restaurant, Franconia.
Western Pa. Forage Schools, Northwest Rural Electric Co-Op, Cambridge Spring, also Jan. 10.
Solanco Young Farmer meeting, Solanco High School, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 4**
Farm Records Made Easy/Check Writing Workshop, Willowbank Building, Bellefonte, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., also Jan. 6.
Adams County Dairy Day, Extension Office, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Western Pa. Forage Schools, Brown's Country Kitchen, Portersville, also Jan. 11.
Lancaster County Tobacco Show, Farm and Home Center, youth entries 9 a.m., adult entries

- 10:30 a.m., judging 1 p.m.
Chester County Dairy Day, East Brandywine Fire Hall, Guthriesville.
PACD Executive Council meeting, Holiday Inn, Grantville, thru Jan. 6.
- Thursday, January 5**
Sprayer Meeting, Elder's Sales and Service, Stoneboro.
Northeast Regional Tomato Growers meeting, Thompson's Dairy Bar, Clark's Summit, 9:30 a.m.
Western Pa. Forage School, Sandy Kayes Restaurant, Shelocta, also Jan. 12.
Franklin County Dairy Day, Kauffman's Community Center, Chambersburg, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Friday, January 6**
Berks County Dairy Day, Berks County Ag Center, Leesport.
Farm Records Made Easy/Check Writing Workshop, Willowbank Building, Bellefonte, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Penn Jersey Dairy Management Seminar, Holiday Inn, Bethlehem.
Potter County Holstein Annual

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◆ FARM FORUM ◆

Editor:

The silo gas article on page B2 of the December 24 issue of LANCASTER FARMING written by Gay Brownlee of Somerset County surely caught my attention and hopefully the attention of every other family who uses tower silos. The tragic near-death incident shows us how much we need education on biological hazards in handling stored high-moisture organic

matter. This tragedy has been repeated so often that we MUST do more, especially when children are involved with the work we farmers do. The writer of the article told the story very well but failed to suggest how to prevent future incidents. Please allow me to help from my training and extensive experience with tower silos.

A few years ago here in Lan-

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

To Make New Year's Resolutions

Every year at this time it is the custom to make New Year's resolutions.

The key is in keeping them. According to experts, most resolutions are broken very quickly into the new year.

In order for resolutions to be successful, they need to be few in number, something you really want to change and a reward system is in place to re-enforce doing the resolution.

Some New Year's resolutions you may want to consider are:

Allocate at least 4 hours a week to record keeping.

Do not allow work areas to become cluttered.

Place tools in their proper place after use.

Keep grass and weeds mowed around buildings.

Start an effective rodent control program.

Spend more time with family in family activities.

Institute and follow a safety program especially for pesticides and tractors and equipment.

1995 will bring us many challenges and opportunities. Take a few minutes and reflect on the past so you may see ways to improve the future.

To Plan For College Expenses

The Pennsylvania Tuition Account Program enables people to lock in a price today to pay for tomorrow's tuition at any of Pennsylvania's 32 state-owned and state-related universities and community colleges.

The Tuition Account Program (TAP) allows families to pay for a student's entire tuition in a lump sum, or in part by purchasing TAP credits or units.

Units reduce the financial pressure on families by enabling them to pay a smaller price for their children's future tuition. Twenty tuition units equal one TAP credit.

Twenty-four TAP credits equal the annual tuition for an undergraduate student at any of the state owned or state related universities. For community colleges, one TAP credit equals one credit hour. People may apply their TAP credits to any licensed or accredited college, university, or trade school in the country.

A student who receives a scholarship is entitled to a refund equal to the amount of the scholarship. If a student decides not to attend college, TAP credits may be transferred to another eligible beneficiary or the purchaser may receive a refund.

For information on this program, call (800) 440-4000.

To Handle Cattle Correctly
The Beef Promotion and Research Board recently completed a study called the "National Beef Quality Audit." What emerged was a wide range of problems that need to be addressed if the beef industry is to remain competitive with other meats.

The major complaints of retailers and restaurant owners were related to waste (waste fat and trimming required due to injection blemishes and bruises) and lack of uniformity in size of cuts, etc.

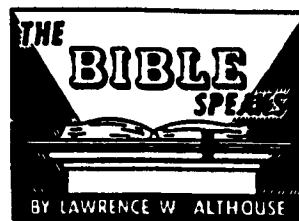
Packers were concerned with problems directly impacting their profits. Their top 10 concerns in order of importance: 1. Hide defects. 2. Injection site blemishes. 3. Excess carcass weights. 4. Bruises. 5. Low quality from

implant use. 6. Condemned livers. 7. Not enough choice. 8. Too many yield grade 4/5. 9. Low uniformity. 10. Dark cutters.

The study also looked at the economic impact of these quality problems. All together, we waste \$280 a head.

Quite a few of the problems need to be handled at the farm. Harold Harpster, Penn State animal scientist, said we need to be feeding the right type of cattle, marketing them at the proper end-point, and practicing careful health and handling management. Gentle handling and injecting cattle only in the neck muscle instead the rump are two simple changes we can make to help the industry.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "The sky's the limit when your heart is in it."



THAT YOU MAY KNOW
January 1, 1995

Background Scripture:

Matthew 8:1-9:8

Devotional Reading:

Luke 4:16-21

We are so accustomed to visualizing the crowds that followed Jesus, that we tend to forget that "when the Gadarenes saw Him," there were many who wanted Him to get out of town right away. If Jesus were walking in the flesh through our world today, I think he'd get the same mixed reception: acceptance from some, rejection from others.

In the past when I have read this passage, I have often wondered why, if Jesus got rid of the two troublesome demonics, the Gadarenes would have begged him to "leave the neighborhood." Surely, being rid of these two disturbers of the peace was beneficial to that community! And, if the Gadarenes had heard anything of the miracles Jesus performed on the other side of the lake, wouldn't they want him to stay in their midst and do likewise?

Not necessarily. If it were merely a matter of having Jesus around to do healings, I'm sure they would have wanted Him to stay. But the Gadarenes must have suspected that there was more to this man than His miracles of healing. The two demon-possessed men said aloud what other Gadarenes were possibly thinking: "What do you have to do with us, O Son of God?" (8:29).

MORE THAN MIRACLES

Up to this point in Matthew, only one other person has identified Jesus as the Son of God—in Matthew 4, the tempter challenges Jesus, saying, "If you are the Son of God..." The Gadarenes must have realized that Jesus was more than a miracle worker. Being in His presence was like being in the presence of God. As I write this, it is Halloween and it occurs to me that in the midst of ghosts and goblins for a really profound, fear nothing can compare with being in the presence of God. That's scary!" "Scary" in the only way that humans ought ever to be afraid.

Another reason the Gadarenes wanted to banish Jesus from their neighborhood was He had a habit of making things and people whole. In our passage Jesus has performed several miracles of healing and cleansing.

TORMENT OR HEALING?

It appears that Jesus would be a good man to have around, but the Gadarenes looked beneath the healings and discerned that Jesus brought something else to their midst—wholeness. Lots of people would like to be rid of physical pain and impairments, but that doesn't mean they want to be whole. Wholeness is a condition, not of the outside, but of the inside. It determines the way we live, what we value, and what our lives are all about. Some people and some communities don't really want wholeness or holiness, for they either thrive on their brokenness or have become housebroken to it. To people such as these the presence of the Christ is seen as torment rather than healing.

"Faith" here is trust, not just belief. These people are healed and helped because of their trust in His authority. "Lord, if you will," says a leper, "you can make me clean." Note the authority in Jesus' reply: "I will; be clean." The Roman centurion comes to Jesus, not to ask Him to come to his house to heal the paralyzed servant, "but only say the word and my servant will be healed." And Jesus replies, "Go, let it be done for you as you have believed" (8:8, 13). To the two Gadarene demoniacs He said simply, "Go" and the demons were cast out. To the second paralytic Jesus says, "Your sins are forgiven" (9:1-8).

But the scribes question His authority and so Jesus says to them—and to us "But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins," and He turns to the paralytic and says, "Rise, take up your bed and go home" (9:6). What does the paralytic do? Does he ask to see Jesus' ordination certificate or a license from the state medical board: Does he discuss doctrine and creeds with Jesus? No, Matthew simply says, "he rose and went home." He trusted in Jesus, acted on that trust, and was healed!

Jesus makes the same offer to each of us today: "That you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth..." Ask what you want in His service and do what He tells you to do.

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