



OPINION

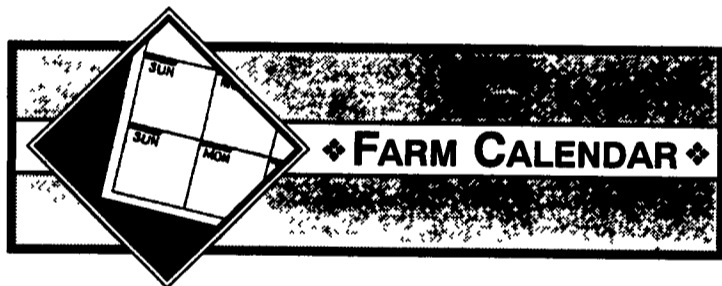
WHERE THE CHILDREN USED TO PLAY

THE old farm-home is Mother's yet and mine,
 And filled it is with plenty and to spare,—
 But we are lonely here in life's decline,
 Though fortune smiles around us everywhere:
 We look across the gold
 Of the harvests, as of old —
 The corn, the fragrant clover, and the hay;
 But most we turn our gaze,
 As with eyes of other days,
 To the orchard where the children used to play.

*O from our life's full measure
 And rich hoard of worldly treasure
 We often turn our weary eyes away,
 And hand in hand we wander
 Down the old path winding yonder
 To the orchard where the children used to play.*

Our sloping pasture-lands are filled with herds;
 The barn and granary-bins are bulging o'er;
 The grove's a paradise of singing birds —
 The woodland brook leaps laughing by the door;
 Yet lonely, lonely still,
 Let us prosper as we will,
 Our old hearts seem so empty everyway —
 We can only through a mist
 See the faces we have kissed
 In the orchard where the children used to play.

*O from our life's full measure
 And rich hoard of worldly treasure
 We often turn our weary eyes away,
 And hand in hand we wander
 Down the old path winding yonder
 To the orchard where the children used to play*
 — James Whitcomb Riley,
 Published 1883 in Riley Farm — Rhymes



Saturday, January 14
 Dauphin County Holstein annual meeting, Western Sizzler Steakhouse, Harrisburg, 10:45 a.m.
 Maple Production School, Bradford County Extension Office, Towanda, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Goat Artificial Insemination Workshop, U. of Md. Eastern Shore Research and Education Facility, Princess Anne, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Sunday, January 15

Monday, January 16
 Pennsylvania Crops Conference, Embers Inn, Carlisle, thru Jan. 17.
 Bradford County Holstein annual meeting, Bonanza Steakhouse, Towanda.
 Warren County MFS Workshop, Warren Extension Office, also Jan. 23.

Tuesday, January 17
 Vegetable Growers' Association of N.J., Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City, thru Jan. 19.
 Lime, Fertilizer, and Pesticide Conference, Days Inn, Penn State, thru Jan. 19.
 Workshop On Strategic Approaches to Herd Health, Meadville Elks Club.
 Live Beef Evaluation Workshop, Leesport Farmers' Market, animals arrive 7 p.m., live evaluation 7:30 p.m., carcass evaluation

tion Jan. 19 at Peters Bros. Meats, Lenhartsville, 7:30 p.m.
 Farm Records Workshop, York County Extension Office, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
 Lancaster Farm and Home Foundation annual banquet, Farm and Home Center, 6:30 p.m.
 Solanco Young Farmers pesticide meeting, Ag Classroom, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, January 18
 Workshop On Strategic Approach-



Dear Editor,
 It truly concerns me that a car-wash/laundromat is in serious consideration before the zoning board of Leacock Township. The proposed site in Intercourse sits across the road from the Stoltzfus Farm Restaurant on Rt. 772 and is bordered by a lovely residential area. Currently the property is beautiful farmland.
 We have been supportive of the beautiful new shops that have been built in Intercourse and which have enhanced the charm of

Now Is The Time
 By John Schwartz
 Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Plan For Quality Hay
 It is never too soon to prepare for this summer's hay crop, according to the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland News.

Now is a good time to start the wheels in motion to make quality hay. What sort of activities should you be engaged in now to insure a smoother and more efficient hay making this summer?
 First, check over your haymaking equipment (mower, haybine, rake, baler, wagons, and elevator) to make sure they are ready to go. A lost day in May replacing the mower knife could cost you a half percentage point in lower crude protein and a percentage point in higher fiber. Have your equipment in good repair before the sun shines!

Second, order supplies (extra knife sections and guards, twine, shear bolts, and preservatives) needed to make hay. With fewer equipment dealerships and lower inventories being maintained by manufacturers, this increases the need for planning ahead and ordering earlier. Remember, nothing can be more frustrating than having a field of hay ready to bale and having to wait because there is no twine.

Finally, repair equipment and order supplies for other spring activities. Making needed repairs

es to Herd Health, Mercer Extension Center.
 Snyder County MFS Workshop, Freemont Fire Hall, also Jan. 25.

Thursday, January 19
 Adams County Cooperating Extension annual meeting.
 Workshop On Strategic Approaches to Herd Health, Ford City,
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to the corn planter, etc. now could save you several planting days next spring. The less time it takes to do other spring activities, the sooner you will be ready to harvest that first cutting of hay.

To Protect Animals From Cold

In cold weather, animals need to consume more energy to maintain body temperatures. Thus, it is important to feed calves more milk, milk replacer, and grain. Or, feed higher quality milk replacers containing more fat and dairy ingredients or add some milk replacer powder to milk.

Equally important is the prevention of body heat losses. Be sure calf hutches are very well bedded, dry, and draft-free. Orient them to the southeast and place them in a well-drained, protected area.

Cover, insulate, or heat water lines and bowls to prevent freezing.

Cattle need water every day, including cold days. Be sure heating devices are in good repair to prevent shocks and fires.

Maintain skid-proof walkways.

To prevent chapped teats, be sure cows' teats are dry before they go out in the cold.

To Watch For Moldy Hay

Wet weather that was conducive to heavy hay production last summer may also be responsible for more mold than usual in the stored hay crop.

Moldy hay may be infected with mycotoxins produced by various molds that thrive in damp forage. Molds also have spores that may be inhaled, provoking possible allergic reactions in livestock.

Young animals are usually affected more seriously than older animals, but most cattle will suffer from extended diets containing mold.

Symptoms include dull hair coats, diarrhea, lack of energy, and reduced weight gain.

Since younger animals are more susceptible to poor nutrition, they should be fed the best available hay.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote:
 "Whatever you do in life, give it your best shot."

ON OFFENDING PHARISEES AND HEALING CANAANITES
 January 15, 1995

Background Scripture:
 Matthew 15:1-31
Devotional Reading:
 Isaiah 35:5-10

As well as I can remember, I have rarely offended anyone on purpose. Of course, I'm probably doing some selective remembering and, whether I meant to or not, there have certainly been people who have been offended at me. Still, I have tried to keep that number just as small as possible.

At the same time, I am also aware that if you never offend anyone, you may not be doing your job. I used to get a fair number of letters from readers of this column — usually complaints and sometimes outright personal attacks. One year a woman in Oregon said I was responsible for the drought in the state! But I haven't received any letters of complaint for a long time and I'm beginning to wonder whether I may not be doing my job.

It was not Jesus' mission to offend the Pharisees, but to proclaim the Good News of God, and sometimes God's Good News is bad news for some people. They were and are offended by it. "Why do your disciples transgress the tradition of the leaders?" the Pharisees asked Jesus. The Good News of Jesus the Christ was bad news because it undermined their tradition.

TRADITION!

As Tevye proclaimed in Fiddler on the Roof, "tradition" is an important glue to the life of a community. But, as Tevye also learned, human traditions must give way in the face of God's will. Jesus was not condemning tradition per se, but tradition that thwarts the purpose of God. The tradition that the Pharisees were defending in this case, the ceremonial washing of hands before eating, was not a bad tradition. But the tradition was man-made, not sent from God, and they forgot that vital fact, just as we do.

Furthermore, by keeping this

tradition some people missed the real point behind it, cleanliness without should reflect the cleanliness within. What good is it to keep the tradition by washing your hands if you let uncleanness come out of your heart and mouth? It is possible — sometimes even probable to keep the tradition and miss the point "For out of the heart," says Jesus, "come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, and slander. These are what define a man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man" (15:19,20). All too often traditions are concerned with human rather than Divine agendas.

OFFENDING DISCIPLES

Actually, although Matthew doesn't use the word "offend" in chapter 15, he is showing us that Jesus offended not only the Pharisees but also the disciples. And, as with the Pharisees, the problem once again is human tradition. Traditionally, Jews had no dealing whatsoever with Canaanites.

I believe that the answers Jesus gives the Canaanite woman in this passage reflect not his thinking but that of his disciples. After they shout, "Send her away for she is crying after us!" Jesus verbalizes what surely prompted their anxiety. "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" and "it is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." Surely it was the disciples, not Jesus, who regarded the Canaanites as "dogs"!

In these two passages Matthew illustrates for us that human traditions often operate as human prejudices that get in the way of God's purposes. The Pharisees clung to their traditions and so did the disciples. Both were quite certain of their position and both were quite wrong.

Sometimes, if we are doing what God want us to do, we have to risk offending the Pharisees and healing the Canaanites.

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