



OPINION

We Wish The New Governor Well

This week Pennsylvania has a new governor. Tom Ridge was sworn into office in Harrisburg to become the state's 43rd governor.

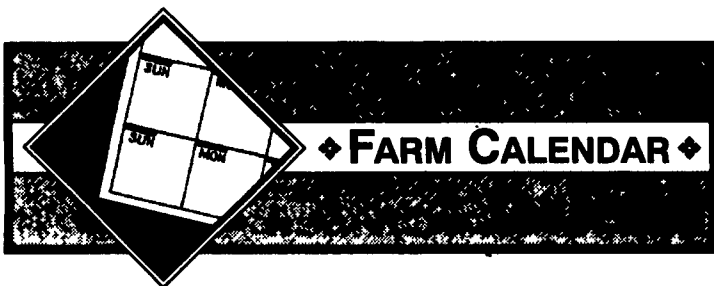
Throughout his election campaign, Gov. Ridge made many contacts in the agriculture community, and some of the first organized support came from members of his party in agribusiness. And the new governor continued to maintain that his support of agriculture was because of the basic foundation that agriculture has for Pennsylvania's economy. His idea was that you needed to treat agriculture as a business before you can call it a way of life.

As recently as during his tour of the Farm Show last week, Gov. Ridge said his presence at the state's largest agriculture event of the year should be taken as "a commitment to restore the vitality of Pennsylvania agriculture and see to it that the men and women who work our farms and agribusiness community realize their full potential."

One of the major platform policies was Gov. Ridge's promise to make the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) more friendly. This caught the attention of many farmers and small business people because of their experience with this ruthless governmental regulatory agency. No other single point of reinventing government will have more effect on how farmers farm than this DER issue.

Above all, people have hope that the new administration can bring changes that will benefit all Pennsylvanians. "There is nothing wrong with Pennsylvania that Pennsylvanians can't fix," Gov. Ridge said.

We wish Gov. Tom Ridge well as he starts his new term of office.



Saturday, January 21
8th Central Md. Farm Toy Show, Carroll County Agricultural Center, Westminster, Md., 9 a.m.-3 p.m., auction 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 22

Monday, January 23
Pa. DHIA Dist. 15 and 17 meeting, Lebanon County Extension Office.

Northeastern Pa. Maple Syrup Producers' Association annual meeting and dinner, Pleasant Valley Grange Hall, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Chester County Crops Day, Guthriesville Fire Hall.
Professional Horticulture Conference Of Virginia Trade Show, Virginia Beach, Va.

Pa. Cattlemen's Association bus tour to National Cattlemen's Association Convention and Trade Show, Nashville, Tenn., thru Jan. 29.

Farm Management Workshop, Upper Dauphin Young Farmers, Upper Dauphin High School, Elizabethville, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, January 24
Pa. DHIA Dist. 9 and 10 meeting, Crosskeys Restaurant.

Bucks-Montgomery Counties Crops Day, Family Heritage Restaurant, Franconia.

Basic Sheep Management Short Course, Neshaminy Manor Center, Doylestown, also Jan. 31, Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 and March 7.

Clarion County MFS Workshop, also Jan. 31.

Perry County MFS Workshop, Ickesburg Fire Hall, also Jan. 31.

Union County MFS Workshop, Lewisburg Club, also Jan. 31.
Worker Protection Standards, EAYF meeting, Ephrata High School, 7:30 p.m.

Farm Records Workshop, York Extension Office, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Franklin County Corn Clinic, Kauffman Community Center, 9 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

ADC Dist. 3 meeting, Solanco Fairgrounds, Quarryville, 11:45 a.m.

Clean and Green information meeting, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 25

Pa. DHIA Dist. 4, Oxyok Inn.
Lehigh and Northampton Counties Crops Days, UGI Auditorium, Bethlehem, 9 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Juniata County MFS Workshop, Family House Restaurant, also Feb. 1.

York County Corn Clinic, 4-H Center, Bair Station, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Capitol Region Greenhouse meeting, Cashtown Fire Hall, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Mount Joy Farmers' Co-Op, Country Table, Mount Joy, 11:30 a.m.

Carroll County, Md. Mid-Winter Forum meeting, Ag Center, Westminster, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Regional greenhouse meeting, Musselman's Greenhouse, Cashtown.



Now Is The Time By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Be Aware Of Crop Insurance

A new law has made Federal Crop Insurance an integral part of USDA farm programs.

Farmers must buy at least a catastrophic level of crop insurance coverage (CAT) to be eligible for many program benefits, including commodity price support, production adjustment programs, certain Farmers Home Administration loans, and Conservation Reserve Program.

CAT coverage will compensate producers for crop losses in excess of 50 percent of their actual production history at 60 percent of the expected market price for that crop. The coverage is comparable to disaster program benefits in recent years. The new law also provides increased premium subsidies that make additional coverage more affordable.

Producers thinking about insuring spring planted crops have until March 15, 1995 to sign up. Additional coverage is generally available only from private insurance agents.

To Study Crop Insurance Costs

Farmers may obtain catastrophic level of crop insurance (CAT) coverage for a nominal administrative fee of \$50 per crop per county. The maximum cost for all insurable crops in a county is \$200 per farmer or \$600 per farmer for all

Schuylkill Co. Dairy Day/DHIA annual meeting, Penn State Schuylkill Campus, Schuylkill Haven, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 26

PA. DHIA Dist. 18 meeting, Hoss's Steakhouse, Lionville.
Woodland Owners of Centre County, Centre County Vo-Tech School, Pleasant Gap, 7 p.m.

Berks County Crops Day, Berks County Ag Center.

York County Ag Recognition Banquet, Wisheaven Hall, 7 p.m.

Luzerne pesticide exam, Wilkes-Barre, 8 a.m.

N.Y. and Pa. Horticultural Producers Conference, St. Bonaventure U., Allegany, N.Y., 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Bradford County Cooperative Extension board meeting, Towanda, 7:30 p.m.

Wayne County Dairy MAP, extension office, Honesdale, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Pest control meeting, Dover Young Farmers, Dover High School Ag Classroom, 7:30 p.m.

Cumberland Corn Clinic, Hunts-

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counties in which there are insurable crops. CAT coverage for insurable crops is available until the sales closing date for each crop.

Sales closing dates vary by crop and region. For Pennsylvania counties, the CAT sales closing date for apples, barley, forage, grapes, peaches, and wheat is March 15, 1995.

The 1995 spring planted crops will not have additional time to sign up for insurance coverage. Remember, sales closing dates vary by crop and region so producers should consult a crop insurance agent or the local Farm Service Agency (ASCS) office to verify the sign up date and ask any questions they may have.

To Review Insurance Policies

Remember last year? Record snowfall and ice caused a lot of damage to farm property.

Frozen pipes and fallen roofs were a couple of the losses farmers experienced. However, many far-

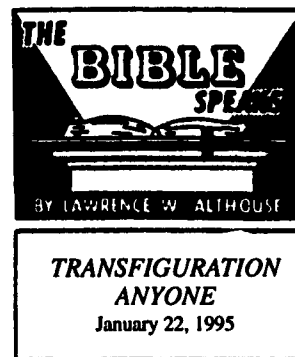
mers found out too late that their insurance policy did not cover snow or ice damage.

Now would be a good time to sit down with your insurance agent and discuss your insurance coverage. A type of insurance you may want to consider is income interruption coverage. This insurance could become very valuable in making loan payments if you have a loss from fire, roof collapse, etc. and lose the use of your confinement housing.

Also, review your health, liability and life insurance coverage. In view of recent food safety claims, be sure your liability insurance covers products and animals you sell.

These insurance policies are designed to reduce the risk of you losing your farm. The amount of insurance you need depends on how much money you can afford to spend on unexpected costs and still stay in business.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Our success tomorrow relies on effective strategy today."



Background Scripture: Matthew 17:1-23

Devotional Reading:
2 Peter 1:16-21

Nothing in my background and education predisposed me toward the mystical or miraculous. The Pennsylvania Dutch are not particularly known for their visionary or ecstatic religious experiences. Even as a seminary student I was skeptical of those whose Christianity was not as hard-headed and practical as mine.

Nevertheless, along the way I have had a few mystical experiences that have been both transforming and ineffable. One of the most memorable of these was my call to the ministry. It happened on the old P&W high-speed trolley line between Philadelphia and Norristown, PA in my second year as a student at the University of Pennsylvania. I remember vividly the sensation of brilliant light that filled that railway car, although I was the only one to whom it was obvious.

Since then, in reading and hearing about the transformative experiences of other people, I have been intrigued with the fairly consistent theme of "light" in these experiences. It seems that whenever a person is lifted up into an awareness of God and his or her own highest self, there is an experience of supernatural light. This is particularly true in many of the accounts of the Near-Death-Experience.

SHINE AS THE SUN

The experience of a kind of divine light is significant in some of the mystical experiences in the Bible. When Moses came down from Mt. Sinai his face was seen to be bathed in a heavenly light. When Jesus was born it was the radiance of a star that guided wise men to his cradle. When He ascended a mountain — traditionally Mt. Tabor or Mt. Hermon — with three of his disciples we are told that "He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became white as light" (15:2).

We do not have to totally

understand what happened on this mountain to realize that, as far as his disciples were concerned, Jesus was in the presence of God and His appearance was temporarily altered because of it. It was as if for a moment the disciples could see Jesus in His true and ultimate nature — physical body transformed into a spiritual substance that appears to mortal eyes as heavenly light. (Paul speaks of a "resurrection body" in 1 Cor. 15.)

But the experience of Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration is significant not only for Jesus but for us. When Peter, James and John beheld the transfigured Jesus, they caught a glimpse, not only of his destiny, but their own as well. And ours, too. No one can adequately or accurately explain what happens when we stand in the presence of God, but there is a sense of transfiguring radiance from our Creator.

A BOOTH HERE

It is understandable that Peter wanted to remain on the mountaintop and continue to dwell in the eternal light. "Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." Perhaps the three disciples believed that the final age had arrived; I probably would have assumed that.

But Jesus knew that this was not yet the time and he led the dazzled disciples down from the mountain back into the valley of everyday reality where a father was waiting for healing of his epileptic boy. The divine light that they experienced on the mountaintop would be the power by which this boy was to be healed. The glimpse of eternity empowered Jesus to continue his mission in the here and now.

Call it what you will, the transfiguring mountaintop experience gives us a momentary glimpse of what God creates us to become and on the strength of that enlightenment we return to live and labor in the valley for the time being.

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