



# OPINION

## The Most Empathic Methods

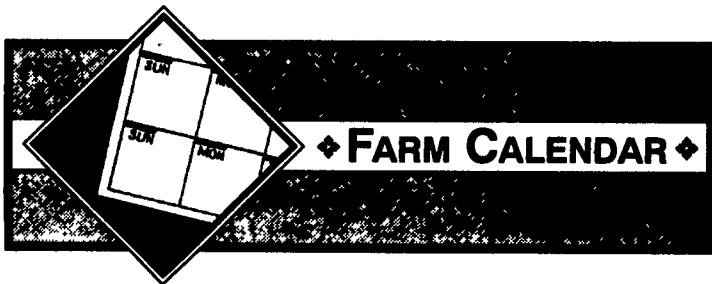
Researchers and farmers have a moral responsibility to minimize the suffering animals undergo in research and production. Ian Duncan, an animal behavior researcher with the University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada, told the attendees of the American Society of Animal Science annual meeting recently in Pittsburgh that all too frequently things are done to animals only to see benefits. But there may be a cost involved in the things we do to our animals.

For example, Duncan noted that producers who raise chickens in confinement often trim the birds' beaks to reduce fighting and cannibalism among the birds. New research indicates de-beaking causes acute and chronic pain for the birds and reduces their feed intake.

"There is evidence that animals feel pain. We have an obligation to alleviate that pain," Duncan told more than 1,000 researchers gathered for a joint meeting of the society and the International Society for Applied Ethology. Ethology is the study of animal behavior.

Because there is no evidence that animals have any concept of their own mortality, Duncan sees no reason to stop using animals for research or food. But he believes the suffering of animals in agriculture must be minimized. "The animal welfare issue will not disappear and cannot be solved by public relations alone," Duncan said.

The only way we can answer critics of animal agriculture is to prove by scientific research that our theories are correct. And when we know the right way to treat our animals, we have a God-given responsibility to use the most empathic methods possible.



### FARM CALENDAR

#### Saturday, January 28

- Beaver/Lawrence Holstein annual meeting, Liberty Grange, New Castle, 11 a.m.
- Lambing School, T&R Center Sheep Unit, Harford.
- Estate Planning Seminar, Wicomico Youth and Civic Center, Salisbury, Md., also Feb. 18.

#### Sunday, January 29

- Pa. DHIA Dist. 3 & 6, Hoss's Steakhouse, Greensburg.
- Weed Science Society of America meeting, Seattle, Wash., thru Jan. 31.
- Pesticide applicator certification update training, Penns Valley Area High School, Spring Mills, 8 p.m.
- Crawford County MFS Workshop, Crawford extension office, also Feb. 6.
- Elk/Cameron Crops Day, Bavarian Hills Golf Course, St. Marys, 9 a.m.-3:15 p.m.
- Clean and Green information meeting, Solanco Fairgrounds, Quarryville, 7:30 p.m.
- Beef Educational Evening, Trainer's (Midway) Diner, 5:30 p.m.
- Turf pesticide management meeting, Lebanon Valley Ag Center, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

#### Tuesday, January 31

- Pa. Vegetable Conference and Trade Show, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, thru Feb. 2.
- State Horticultural Association of Pa. annual winter meeting, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, thru Feb. 2.
- Pa. DHIA Dist. 1 & 2 meeting, Bonanza Restaurant, Franklin.
- Pesticide applicator certification

update training, Logan Grange Hall, Pleasant Gap, 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

- Farm Records Workshop, York extension office, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Pa. Crop Management Association annual luncheon, Knights of Columbus Hall, State College.
- Cattle Feeder's Day, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Crop Management Association annual meeting, St. Thomas Fire Hall, 7 p.m.

Solanco Young Farmers meeting, funding for conservation improvements, Solanco High School, 7:30 p.m.

#### Wednesday, February 1

- Pa. DHIA Dist. 13, 16, 14, Bonanza Restaurant, Wysox.
- Worker Protection Standard, Md. Dept. of Ag., 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- MFS Workshop, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, also Feb. 8.
- Pesticide applicator certification update, Greene Township Building, Loganton, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
- Making Crop Management Decisions, Mahantango Fire Co., Pitman, also Feb. 8 and 15.
- Beef management meetings, Wesley Grange, Barkeyville, also Feb. 8 and 15.

#### Thursday, February 2

- Pa. DHIA Dist. 7 & 8 meeting, Happy Hollow, Saxton.
- Marketing Short Course, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Dairy Nutrition Conference, Adams extension office, also Feb. 9 and 16.
- Md. Agronomic Dinner, Martin's Restaurant, Baltimore, 6:30 p.m.



**Now Is  
The Time**  
By John Schwartz

*Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent*

#### To Know Fire Safety

Being prepared for emergencies can save lives and property. Children especially have a greater chance to survive a crisis if taught how to react to safety signals.

- Some items to consider:
- Each house needs smoke detectors. Do a battery check once a week and replace batteries twice a year.
  - Make a map for your family that will be used to escape from the house in case of a fire. Have each child talk and draw his or her own map to explain how they will make an emergency exit.
  - Practice having each child lead the family to a designated place to meet outside the house.
  - Practice stop, drop, and roll techniques.
  - Have emergency numbers posted at each phone.
  - Treat minor burns with cold running water or hold an ice cube on the burned area.
  - Teach children that matches, charcoal lighter fluid, and gasoline can start fires and are not play items anytime.

#### To Analyze Net Farm Income

According to Steve Ford, Penn State agricultural economist, the average net farm income for the 934 farms in the 1993 Pennsylvania Dairy Farm Business Analysis was \$20,132.

However, looking at averages, we fail to recognize the variation around the average. A truer depiction of the financial health of the Pennsylvania dairy industry may be drawn from the distribution of net farm income across all farms.

Ranking farms by percentile, an equal number of farms made more or less than \$17,784. More importantly, 30 percent of the farms in the sample made less than \$5,566 and only 10 percent made more than \$57,255. The range was from -\$115,040 to \$283,575.

There are many factors that affect net income, including productivity, investment, manage-

ment, business planning, etc.

Beginning Farmer Workshop, Nittany Lion Inn, State College. Dairy Nutrition Teleconference, Lebanon Ag Center and other extension sites, also Feb. 9 and 16.

Clean and Green information meeting, Blue Ball Fire Co., 7:30 p.m.

Lancaster County extension annual meeting, Farm and Home Center, 6:15 p.m.

Pesticide applicator certification update, Courthouse Annex, Lock Haven, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Pesticide disposal/safety, (Turn to Page A29)

ment, business planning, etc.

As you start doing your 1994 taxes, now would be a good time to evaluate your farm business and see where you stand financially. If you are not happy with the numbers, you need to evaluate your future.

Dairy MAP is an excellent program to help you map a future for your dairy farm. Contact your local county extension office for more details.

#### To Plant At Proper Depth

The depth at which forage seeds are planted is extremely important to the initial stand establishment and ultimately to the life of a stand.

Forage seeds are small and contain a limited amount of energy to support plant growth without photosynthetic activity.

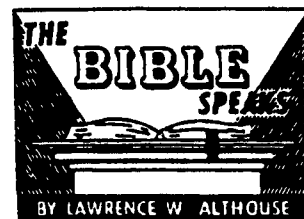
Planting forage seeds too deep may exhaust the energy reserves in the seed and inhibit seedling emergence or weaken the newly

emerged seedling. Poor seedling establishment of non-spreading forage species can spell problems for the stand through increased weed competition and lower yields. Precision in depth of planting for forage seeds is extremely important.

In general, increasing seeding depth of forage seeds below one-half inch is detrimental to seedling establishment. Increasing planting depth from one-half to one inch decreased forage seedling establishment an average of 30 percent in clay soils.

At shallow seeding depths, seed-to-soil contact is also important to insure that the seeds can imbibe adequate water from the soil to germinate. This may be accomplished with press wheels or cultipacking.

*Feather Prof's Footnote: "It takes courage to push yourself to places that you have never been before, to test your limits, and to break through barriers."*



WHAT DO YOU WANT?  
January 29, 1995

**Background Scripture:**  
Matthew 20:17 through 21:17  
**Devotional Reading:**  
Matthew 20:17-28

In the November, 1994 issue of *Circuit Rider*, a magazine for United Methodist clergy, a former colleague, Dr. Kenneth W. Kruger of Dayton, Ohio, writes an article entitled, "10 Reasons Why It's Hard to Be a United Methodist Minister and a Christian." One reason, he says, is that "our system (the denominational structure) fosters a caste society" in which "the apex of achievement is to be elected bishop." Furthermore, he says, "We (clergy) seek prestige instead of practicing servanthood." He asks: "Have you ever heard of the senior pastor of a prestigious church leaving his/her pulpit to become the shepherd of a struggling church?"

Although these remarks were directed specifically to United Methodist clergy, they are applicable to clergy of all denominations. And I believe that, by extension, they have some relevance for laity as well. The church structures we have fashioned—Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox—are often more reflective of the values of the secular world than of the Gospel that motivated them in the first place. Churches espouse spiritual themes but tend to run on secular principles.

Why is that? Probably the answer lies in the fact that secular values are generally more attractive to us than spiritual ones. When we want to know what "success" means, we look to secular models, not spiritual ones. When we want to know what is "important," we look somewhere else than to the example of Jesus. Although the Gospel calls lay and clergy alike to servanthood, this concept has never really caught on.

#### TO BE SUCCESSFUL

So, the situation in Matthew 20:20-28 is just as current as the latest edition of your parish paper or denominational magazine. The mother of James and John, is very understandable: "...kneeling before him she asked him for

something." "What do you want?" Jesus replies. She said to him, "Command that these two sons of mine may sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." What did she want? Just for her boys to be successful in their chosen profession, that's all.

How did the other disciples react to this audacious but honest request? Understandably: "And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers." How dare they put their mother up to an obvious power play! I'm sure their indignation was no little fueled by their own ambitions. If Jesus were to have asked each of them the same question—"What do you want?"—and they had answered honestly, would any of them ask for less? And when Jesus asks each of us, "What do you want?", what is your honest answer?

#### "WE ARE ABLE"

His reply to the mother of James and John is also directed to us: "You do not know what you are asking." The gospel is not material or worldly gain, but servanthood. "Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?", He asked. And James and John replied, "We are able." It is easy to say, "We are able," but putting that resolve into practice is something else.

The only "success" Jesus knew was his faithfulness to the Good News. The only "importance" to be gained in following him is the role of the servant, not the welder of power. "You know the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave; even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve..."

After all these years we still haven't got the "success" and "importance" thing right! Maybe that's because we don't know what we really want.

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—by—

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