



OPINION

Save Wildlife By Increasing Farm Production

Agriculture has been trying to talk to city people by telling them what we want them to hear. Perhaps we should start figuring out what they want to know about agriculture and then give them some good answers that help bridge the misinformation gap.

In the November 7 issue of *Time*, Dennis Avery from Hudson Institute's Center for Global Food Issues is quoted with a message every farmer would want the urbanites to hear.

"The real question for today is whether American agriculture can fulfill its potential as one of America's premier growth industries in a world about to triple its demands on farming resources. Few farmers have yet looked at the opportunity. They are still fixated on saving their crumbling subsidies in Washington."

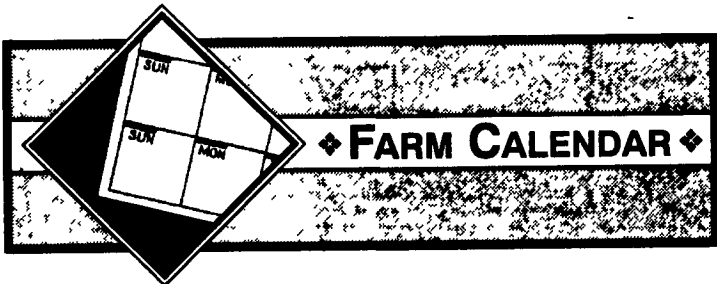
Avery's answer is to eliminate price supports and trade barriers, and above all, increase the U.S. farm yield even further. American's grain is what can feed the livestock of prospering nations as they move to improve their diets.

"The market for American farming has been and will be meat, milk and eggs, and the feeds with which to produce them. If American agriculture fails to seize this opportunity, says Avery, then in 50 years, 40 million sq. mi. of the globe's remaining wildlife may be plowed up in a desperate race against hunger."

The article makes two points:

- High farm yields saves wildlife because it reduces the number of acres that are needed for food production, and
- Farmers can earn more by exporting, while doing global good.

The message is refreshing and provides persuasive answers to critical questions from the opponents of agriculture.



Saturday, February 4

Delmarva Forestry Seminar, Parkside High School, Salisbury, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

The Fertilizer Institute's 1995 annual meeting, Marriott's Orlando World Center, thru Feb. 7.

Animal Products Spectacular, Nittany Mall, State College, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Ephrata Area Young Farmers annual banquet, Mount Airy Fire Hall, 6:45 p.m.

Agronomy Facts Review meeting, Susquehanna County Extension Office, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Sunday, February 5

Delaware Valley Milk Goat Association Annual Kidding Seminar, Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Emmaus, 1:30 p.m.

Monday, February 6

36th Annual Shade Tree Symposium, Lancaster Host Conference Center, thru Feb. 7.

Lebanon/Dauphin Crops Day, Ono Fire Hall, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Centre County pest exam, Logan Grange Hall, Pleasant Gap, 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Cornucopia '95, State Capitol, Harrisburg, 2:30 p.m.

Tulpehocken Young Farmers meeting, Tulpehocken High School, 7:30 p.m.

Mid-East DHI meeting, extension office, Westminster, Md. (supervisors 10 a.m., dairy farmers 1 p.m.).

Mid-East DHI meeting, extension office, Forest Hills, Md. 7:30

p.m.

Maryland Holstein, Frederick County Dance, Walkersville, Md.

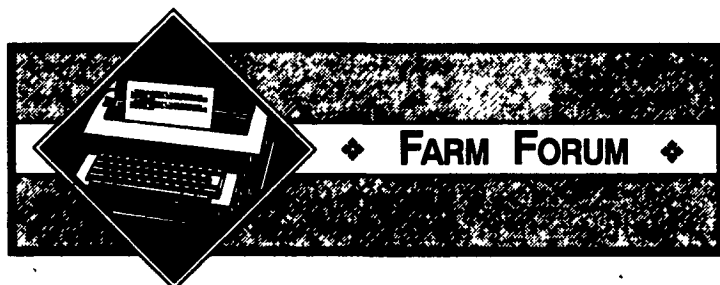
Octorara Young Farmers Assoc. nutrient management meeting, Octorara H.S., 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 7

35th Pa. Young Farmers' Association Winter Convention, Days Inn, Brookville.

2nd Annual Southeast Pennsylvania Grazing Conference, Good 'N' Plenty Restaurant, Smoke-town, 8 a.m., snowdate Feb. 8.

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Editor:

At a time when the general economy in the United States is allegedly improving and at a time when a trade agreement like NAFTA has been implemented (which supposedly was geared to help agriculture), then why did agriculture prices plummet to a disastrous level during 1994?

Something is wrong when cull dairy cows can bring only between 25¢ and 30¢ a pound, or when a top steer brings only 35¢ a pound, or when a top hog of 225



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Apply For Dairy Refund

This week, many dairy farmers received from their milk marketer the amount of milk they shipped each month for the years 1993 and 1994. If you shipped less milk in 1994 than 1993, you are eligible for a refund.

This refund is based on a deduction taken from your milk check. The estimated refund will average 16.5 cents per hundred weight. Your refund is based on how much milk you produced each month and the monthly deduction. To sign up for the refund you must visit your local Farm Service Agency (former ASCS) office before March 15. You must take with you monthly record of your milk production for 1993 and 1994.

If you shipped less milk in 1994 compared to 1993, sign up now and do not wait for March 15. Bad weather could cause you to miss the registration deadline. Crop insurance or conservation plan are not necessary to receive payments, just a reduction in milk shipped. If you have any questions, contact your local Farm Service Agency.

To Look At Protective Equipment Options

Two new fact sheets from Penn State explain the personal protective equipment (PPE) farmers need for protection from pesticide exposure, respiratory hazards and other farming risks.

The fact sheets are part of a series on PPE. Personal Protection from Pesticides, fact sheet Safety-35, describes how to choose the appropriate equipment for jobs involving pesticides. Items covered include types of gloves, respirators, chemical protective clothing, eye protection and boots available. It also covers

pounds brings 25¢ a pound.

Something is wrong when a dairy farmer in Bradford County receives a total check of \$13.45 for 210 lbs. of holstein calves, or when a farmer receives \$5.45 for a calf, and something is certainly wrong when a farmer receives a bill from a sales barn stating the farmer owes \$1.45 to the sales barn because his calf did not cover the cost of running her through the sale.

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PPE maintenance and what to do in the event of an accident.

Farm Respiratory Protection, fact sheet Safety-36, discusses respiratory hazards commonly found on farms and types of respirators that are appropriate. It also covers respirator maintenance and testing. According to one survey, only 44 percent of farmers always wear gloves when working with pesticides, 22 percent always wear eye protection, 8 percent always wear respiratory protection and 4 percent always wear coveralls.

Now is the time to increase these percentages to 100 percent.

To Care For Horses

Just because it is winter, it is easy to confuse over kindness with necessity. Horses do not have to be kept in their stalls and buried under layers of blankets and hoods to be happy, according to Chester Hughes, extension livestock agent.

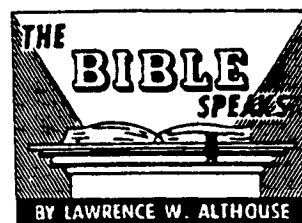
In fact, they are much happier and healthier outside. Nature provides horses with a winter coat designed to keep them warm. A horse's winter coat traps body heat between the hair fibers. Placing a

blanket on a horse at home with a winter coat actually compresses the insulating hair fibers, eliminating the air layer and reducing the horse's natural protection against the cold.

Horses start to grow their winter coats when the days begin to shorten. It is the shorter length of day light, not temperature, that stimulates hair growth. Very cold temperatures will not affect healthy horses, but cold, soaking rains or drafts can make them sick. As a conscientious owner, all you really have to do is provide horses with a place to get away from the wind, rain and snow.

Horses who live outdoors most of the time need a three sided shelter. Build the shelter tightly and position the opening away from the prevailing winds. Also, take advantage of natural windbreaks by locating the shed on the leeward side of small hills or groups of trees. Be sure the site and shelter floor are well drained to prevent muddiness.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "When called to lead, do so with foresight, courage, and character."



AND SO SAY WE ALL
February 5, 1995

Background Scripture:

Matthew 26:17-35

Devotional Reading:

John 6:30-40

Recently someone published a biography of Benedict Arnold, remembered as the man who betrayed his country to the British during the American Revolution. Reading a review of it, I remembered that the tragedy of Benedict Arnold was not that he was an evil man who turned traitor, but that he was one of the Revolution's best generals who, disappointed by rebel politics, sold out not only his countrymen but himself. This is the story of a good man who went wrong.

Much the same can be said of Judas. He was a man trusted to manage the finances of Jesus' band of disciples, a task for which he was obviously suited. Although today we see him as an evil man—the way he has been traditionally portrayed—apparently his fellow disciples did not regard him thus. When Jesus announced that one of them would betray him, instead of pointing the finger at Judas, they each asked "Is it I, Lord?" (Matt. 26:22). If Judas had been so obviously untrustworthy, they would have turned first to him. Perhaps he too is a good man who went bad.

FRIEND, WHY ARE YOU HERE?

Why did Judas betray Jesus? We will never really know, although many have suggested plausible reasons. The most obvious is that he wanted the 30 pieces of silver reward. Others have suggested that he was disappointed in Jesus because he had expected him to be a conquering Messiah, rather than a spiritual one. Still others wonder if perhaps he was impatient waiting for Jesus to bring in the kingdom of heaven and intended to force Jesus to start his reign. This view is somewhat reinforced by Matthew's statement that "When Judas...saw that

he (Jesus) was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, 'I have sinned in betraying innocent blood.'" (27:3,4) Jesus even greets his betrayer in the garden with these words: "Friend, why are you here?" (26:50). That is a question that remains forever unanswered.

If you read carefully the story of Jesus' last night with his disciples, you find that it is not a story about betrayal by just one of his disciples, but all of them. Judas, of course, is only the most obvious. But we sometimes forget that Jesus said, "You will all fall away because of me this night" (26:30). Doesn't Jesus say that to us too? On some particular day or night we also will "fall away" because of him.

NOT I, LORD

Most of us, like Peter, want to protest, "though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away" (26:3). Even the suggestion that we might betray our Lord seems an impossibility. But, although Peter was undoubtedly sincere — aren't we all! — "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you"—he denied him three times that very night.

"And so said all the disciples," just as you and I would be likely to protest our loyalty to Christ. But they failed him as we fail him. One way or another we "fall away" or deny him.

Yet their denial of Jesus was not the end of the story. "But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee" (26:32). One serves as a disciple of Jesus Christ not because we never fail him but because he is able to both forgive us and use us in his ongoing ministry. Only Judas was lost, not because Jesus would not have forgiven him but because he couldn't forgive himself. When we turn to ourselves for forgiveness instead of God, we are already lost.

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