



OPINION

Take Away The Incentive

"Livestock tampering should not and cannot be tolerated," said Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Fred L. Dailey. "Our best deterrent is the swift prosecution of exhibitors who break the rules."

As reported in "Farm and Dairy," based in Salem, Ohio, the statement came in response to a guilty plea in court by the father of an exhibitor whose steer that was shown in a major state show was found to have been injected with vegetable oil and also retained traces of the illegal drug, clenbuterol. The guilty pleas are based on charges of cheating and sale of adulterated meats. The tranquilizer chlorpromazine hydrochloride and falsification of documents are also involved.

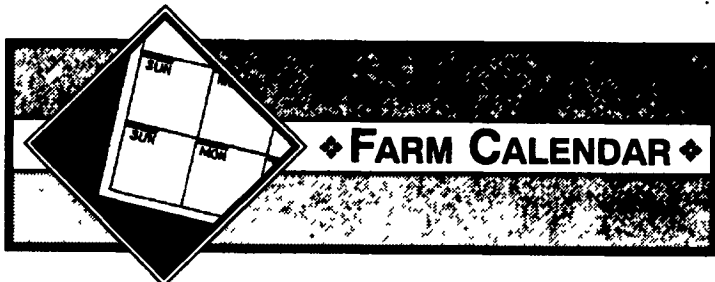
The father faces up to six months to five years in jail and a fine of up to \$2,500. And the son faces disqualification of his steer's seventh place win.

This is not the first report from across the country that shows to us that the emphasis in youth programs have taken a turn away from their intended educational value. When families get involved with 4-H and FFA projects to "show off" rather than to learn and be together, the reason for being involved is questionable. The efforts put forth in an honest youth project shows activity that will be impressive on a youth's future work resume regardless of how the project finished in a show ring. But a criminal record for involvement in tampering will stick with the youth for life and put serious limits on what he or she can do.

We think it's time to return to an educational emphasis. Among other things, Ohio is recommending the implementation of a grand champion project that would include a skillathon of project knowledge in addition to the reserve champion placing in the show. In addition, they want to increase the current 17 percent that is deducted from the sale of champion exhibitor's proceeds for use in scholarships and bonuses to those exhibitors whose animals are automatically entered into the carcass competition. One option would be to increase the percentage to reward those who do well in the skillathon and showmanship competitions, or provide greater bonuses for the carcass class animals.

Whatever the methods used, we need to make changes. We can no longer afford to provide the incentive for fine farm families to be caught in the web of competition that causes criminal and unethical actions to spoil all the good that is accomplished when a boy or girl takes responsibility for a youth project.

The laws are in place and will get you if you break them. Now we need to take away the incentive to break the law as well.



Saturday, February 11

Nuts and Bolts of Sheep and Goats, Binghamton extension office, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Quarryville Growers' Market organizational meeting, Quarryville Fairgrounds, 2 p.m.

Sunday, February 12

Game Bird Production and Management of Hunting Preserves, Days Inn, State College, thru Feb. 14.

Monday, February 13

Poultry Management and Health Seminar, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, noon, and Days Inn, Shamokin Dam, 6 p.m.
Vegetable Growers' meeting, Walnut Bottom Fire Hall, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Northumberland County Winter Conference, Otterbein United Methodist Church Hall, Sunbury, 9 a.m.-2:45 p.m.
Fayette Dairy Day, Fayette Fairgrounds, 10:30 a.m.
Octorara Area Young Farmers pesticide meeting, Ag Ed Room at Octorara, 7:30 p.m.
ABC Dist. 1, Virginville Grange Hall, noon.
ABC Dist. 5, Hoffman Building, Solanco Fairgrounds, 7 p.m.

ABC Dist. 10, Fiddlers Bldg., Fayette Fairgrounds, 10:30 a.m.
ABC Dist. 12, Cambria, New Germany Grove Hall, 7:30 p.m.
ABC Dist. 15, Mercer, County Extension Office, 10 a.m.
ABC Dist. 15, West Crawford, Vernon Central Hose Company, Meadville, 7:30 p.m.



Editor:

An article that appeared in the January 1995 issue of *Apprise* magazine entitled "Why Vegetarianism" by Lisa D. Diantoniis was filled with misconceptions, myths and misleading information.

The story contains numerous fallacies and reads like an animal rights recruiting brochure. In her story, the writer questions animal consumption and the so-called negative effects animal agriculture has on the environment, our diets and overall health.



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Install ROPS

Compared to other expenses on the farm, the cost of installing rollover protective structures (ROPS) is a small price to pay and it could save your life.

Every tractor you use should have a ROPS and seat belt.

To make installing ROPS easier, one major manufacturer of farm equipment has introduced a new foldable ROPS for row crop tractors and priced it without markup. Last year this same company introduced a foldable ROPS for utility tractors.

This ROPS program uses attractive pricing to help encourage farmers to equip their older tractors with rollover protection and seat belt. Farmers interested in learning more about ROPS should contact their local farm equipment dealer.

To Prepare Winter

Emergency Kit

The recent snow storm reminds us of the need for a winter driving emergency kit.

The kit should contain a snow shovel, extra warm clothing, traction mats, ice scraper, booster cables, abrasive material such as sand or kitty litter, snow brush, flashlight, cloth or paper towels, and blankets. Most of these items could be stored in a plastic or rubber storage box in your trunk.

Tuesday, February 14

Happy Valentine's Day!

New York State Vegetable Conference and Trade Show, Syracuse Sheraton Inn and Community Center, Liverpool, NY, through Feb. 16.
Montour MFS Workshop, Danville Ambulance Garage; also Feb. 21.
Alfalfa and Corn Crop Management, EAYF meeting, Ephrata (Turn to Page A31)

Some driving tips you will want to consider are:

- Wear good sunglasses to avoid the combined glare of snow and sunshine. At night, let your eyes adjust to darkness before driving. Do not wear sunglasses at night.
- During a nighttime snowstorm, drive with your headlights on low beam.
- Check your windshield wipers and replace worn blades that streak. Make sure the washer reservoir is filled with antifreeze solution.

To Evaluate Boarding Horses

The equine industry in Pennsylvania has doubled in size since 1967 and continues to expand and diversify. As a result, the demand for horse boarding services has increased.

This growing industry provides opportunities for small-scale, part-time or full-time farmers to add income by boarding horses.

However, caring for horses requires considerable time and financial commitments that will affect all family members. Before

starting a boarding operation, you should carefully evaluate all aspects of the enterprise.

First, you need to like horses and be willing to learn and provide what horse owners want as they pursue this hobby and recreational activity.

Second, much knowledge and experience are needed to manage horses.

Third, boarding horses results in a loss of privacy on the farm.

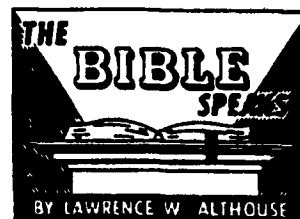
Fourth, Managers must get along with many types of people and must deal with complaints or undesirable client behavior.

Fifth, you will need a lawyer to draw up legal documents and advise you on legal issues.

Sixth, liability issues should be a major concern.

When planning a horse boarding operation, you should consider the demand and growth potential for such services. For more information, consult Penn State Cooperative Extension publication "Agricultural Alternatives — Boarding Horses."

Feather Prof.'s Footnote:
"Lead with vision and soar to new heights."



WHAT DOES IT COST YOU?
February 12, 1995

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Background Scripture:

Matthew 26:36-68

Devotional Reading:

Isaiah 53:1-12

Sometimes Jesus is depicted as being eager for martyrdom. But Matthew makes it clear that was not so. For one thing, he tells us that Jesus "began to be sorrowful and troubled" and he says to Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me" (26:37, 38). That does not sound like a man who desired to die on the cross.

Matthew also tells us that Jesus then prayed, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me" (39). First, he asks to escape the cross, but realizing that escape might run at cross purposes with God's will, he adds: "Nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt." When he prays again a little later, his prayer has changed to: "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, thy will be done" (42). Finding his disciples still asleep, he comes back and prays once again the same prayer. When he returns to the sleeping disciples it is obvious that he has accepted the passion that lies just before him: "Behold, the hour is at hand, and the son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners" (45, 46).

AVOIDING THE CROSS

I believe that Jesus could have avoided Good Friday — if he had not decided to go up to Jerusalem for the Passover, if he had avoided the wrath of his enemies by cancelling the Palm Sunday procession, if, knowing that Judas was going to betray him, he had sneaked out of Jerusalem so that his enemies could not find him. If he had done any or all of these things he probably could have avoided the cross — but he would have failed to honor his commitment to

the Father. So, Jesus did not seek death at the hands of his enemies, but he did accept it as an unavoidable consequence of his unshakable commitment to God.

Remaining faithful to God meant dying on a cross for Jesus. But what does it mean for us? Probably no one who reads these words has ever been called upon to risk dying for his or her faith, so perhaps his example seems irrelevant to us. But it is not: bearing the cross is just as important as being willing to die on it. Living for God is perhaps no less a challenge as dying for him. Remaining faithful to God's will and purpose in the way that we live means being willing to pay the consequences.

PAYING THE PRICE

I read recently of an engineer who some years ago tried to persuade his employers that one of their products was dangerous. Although the data he assembled should have convinced them, they told him the cost of recalling the product would be too great a burden for the company. Eventually the man brought his findings to the attention of a federal agency that forced the company to recall its product. But the engineer was forced out of his job and so far has been unable to get employment in his profession. His conscience has cost him dearly.

We'd all feel a lot better if this man were to be recognized for his courageous action and reemployed in his profession, but often it does not work out that way. Remaining faithful is no guarantee that eventually everything will work out all right. For Jesus it meant death on a cross in the here and now and the promise of vindication only in the life beyond the grave. That's the only promise God gives us.

It was enough for Jesus, but is it enough for us?

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