

Christian Farmers' Fellowship To Hold Spring Luncheon

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) —Late March brings early signs of spring, and a day of spiritual preparation for farmers and the agricultural community. On Saturday, March 25, the Southeast Pennsylvania Chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Farmers will host a Spring Outreach Luncheon at the Leola Family Restaurant.

It is open to all farmers and agribusiness people interested in Christian music, fellowship and inspiration. Keynote speaker for the event is Loren Kruse, vice president of Fellowship of Christian Farmers (FCF), International Kruse, from Ankeny, Iowa, is a founding member of the organization and the editor of Successful Farming magazine.

Kruse said he'll be speaking about "Rocks, weeds, flies and little foxes." That's the light-hearted title of his personal testimony about his growth in Jesus Christ. Kruse, who also manages his own farm, fits all of farming's challenges into four categories—rocks, weeds, flies, and little foxes. In an amusing, inspiring manner, he talks about how to have victory over them.

The outreach luncheon is an opportunity for people within the greater family of agriculture to gather in a joy-filled fellowship, said Don Hershey, president of Pennsylvania's only FCF chapter. Other testimonies and uplifting music also will be part of the program. Hershey encourages bringing friends who may not personally know Christ.

FCF includes farmers, agribusiness people and friends, and welcomes new members. It was formed to help build and strengthen faith in God through salvation in Christ throughout the

farming community.

Registration for the Outreach Luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Leola Family Restaurants five miles east of Lancaster on Route 23 in Leola. It costs \$7.50 per person, payable to Fellowship of Christian Farmers. March 15 is the luncheon deadline.

Mail reservations to David and Phoebe Bitler, RD4, Box 4176, Fleetwood, PA 19522, or call (610) 944-0541.

Southeast Pennsylvania FCF chapter still seeks additional sponsors for the meeting. For more details, contact the Bitlers, or Hershey at (717) 665-3808.

Lancaster Dairy Day I Features In-depth Review Of Mastitis

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — The first in a two-day-over-two-weeks series of programs for Lancaster County dairy farmers was held Tuesday at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center and emphasized cow comfort and mastitis control.

Lancaster County Extension offers the programs annually as part of its service to the county, and they are strongly supported by area agribusinesses.

The second dairy day event is scheduled for 9 a.m., March 7, at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center with an emphasis on managing dairy herds for profit and stressing the business aspects of operating a dairy farm.

Also scheduled during the March 7 meeting is a presentation on weed control such as wild cucumber, spring redroot, and pesticide safety. Attendance is worth credits toward pesticide certification.

Tuesday's event started with an overview by Penn State Extension agricultural engineer Dan McFarland of cow comfort designs in barns and stalls, with an emphasis on ventilation.

Explaining the basic principals of air flow dynamics in barn con-

struction, McFarland showed examples of cross ventilation and tunnel ventilation.

Tunnel ventilation has become more and more popular in recent years, especially in some of the older bank barns where location and construction make natural ventilation almost impossible, and cross ventilation impractical.

The key to ventilating any building is to remember the second law of thermodynamics, which paraphrased and in terms of air flow, is that air will always take the easiest and quickest path.

In other words, if the desire is to move air from point "A" to point "B," then there can not be any point "C" in between.

In applied terms, it means that in order to move air from one of the barn to another, there can't be any windows or major air vents along the side walls.

If there would be a side window open, the flow of air would "short circuit" and come into (or out of) the barn at the point closest to the fan.

To get good air speed in a tunnel ventilation system, both ends of the barn have to be opened up, with the exhaust portal about equal in ability to allow air flow as the inlet portal.

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John Weidman has a collection of husking pegs to complement his life-time interest in corn.

Weidman Retires After Lifetime With Pioneer

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of families. Today we see more young people coming back to the farm because the operations are larger and farming is now a business challenge.

"I have also been working with younger people in Pioneer and this has kept me young. The future is going to be very exciting. Every decade has been exciting with many challenges. In the '90's we have more emphasis on biotechnology. Biotechnology will not replace the plant breeder but it will help us come up with new hybrids in a shorter period of time.

"Environmental issues cannot be overlooked on the farm. But farmers are already the best environmentalists in the country. Most people don't know that. But we have a lot of home owners who are doing more to hurt the environment with everything they put on their lawns. But the majority of farmers do a good job with nutrient

management."

As a hobby, Weidman has a collection of farm tools and other items that have taken his interest over the years. Of special note and fitting to Weidman's interest in corn is a collection of about 50 husking pegs of all descriptions—bone, brass, spikes—even the thumb-through-leather peg that helped him husk out more than 38 bushels in 80 minutes in that early contest as a teenager.

Weidman and his wife Barbara have three grown children

"So many people have helped me in my life that are now in retirement homes," Weidman said. "I don't want to forget those people. I want to spend a lot more time with Barb and do some volunteer work in the community. The Lord put me here to serve and, as long as I can, I want to continue to serve my fellowman in the church, the community and some special projects."



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