



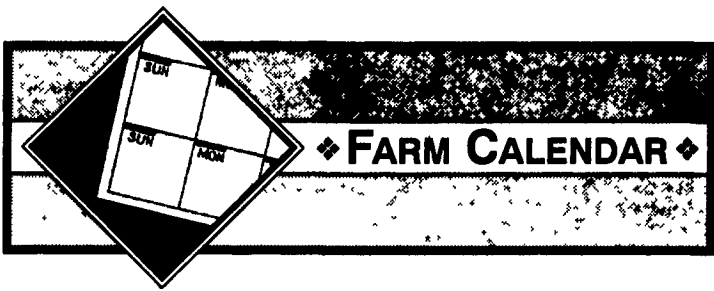
OPINION

Farmers Deserve Health Care Tax Deduction

As you know, the deduction of 25 percent of health insurance premiums from income taxes for farmers and other self-employed business persons expired at the end of 1993. Late last month the House passed a bill (H.R. 831) that would permanently and retroactively restore the deduction.

Many farmers pay for their families' health insurance out of pocket while corporations can deduct the cost of employee health benefits as a business expense. To be fair, the U.S. Senate should pass the 25 percent deduction bill before the tax filing deadlines are reached this year to save farmers a lot of extra refiling costs to obtain the benefit later.

Of course, this should only be the first step. When Congress takes up the health care reform debate later this year, they should include in the final measure a 100 percent deduction for self-employed people. In this case, the little guy deserves equal standing with corporate America.



◆ FARM CALENDAR ◆

Saturday, March 11

Professional Shearing Clinic, T & R Center Sheep Unit, thru March 12.

Small Enterprise Livestock Mini Workshop, Beef, Harford County Md. Extension Office, Forest Hill, Md., 9 a.m.-noon. Columbia/Luzerne Holstein Association annual meeting, Bonanza Steak House, Berwick, 7 p.m.

Tioga County Holstein Association annual meeting, Fairgrounds, Whitneyville, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 12

Monday, March 13

Poultry Management and Health Seminar, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, noon.

Penn State Christmas Tree Pest Control Short Course, Days Inn, State College, thru March 14.

Soil Fertility School, Lebanon Valley Ag Center, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Kent Dairymen's Dinner-Breed Awards, DHIA, Galena Fire Hall, 7 p.m.

Eastern Milk Producers educational meeting, Mifflinburg School Building, Mifflinburg, 10 a.m. Eastern Milk Producers educational meeting, Guthrie Inn, Sayre, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 14

Delmarva Safety Seminar and Exposition, Wicomico Youth and Civic Center, Salisbury, Md., thru March 15.

"Moving Your Farm Enterprise?", Chester County Government Services Center, West Chester. Annual pesticide update meeting, EAYF meeting, Ephrata Cloister Dairy, 7:30 p.m.

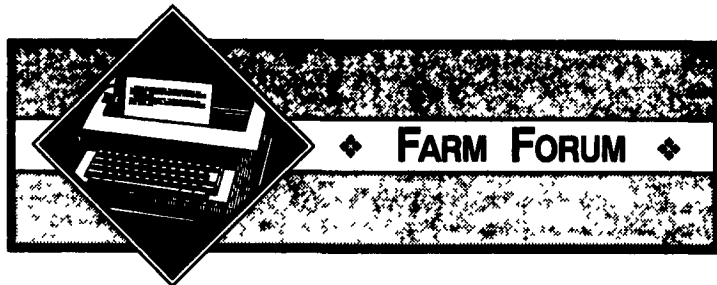
Pesticide Recertification, York Extension, 10 a.m.-noon or 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Greene County annual meeting, 7 p.m.

Maryland Small Fruit Workshop, Wine and Table Grape Culture and Marketing, Oregon Ridge Nature Center, Baltimore County.

Lancaster County Honey Producers meeting, Farm and Home Center, 7 p.m.

Bradford County Agronomy Day, (Turn to Page A11)



◆ FARM FORUM ◆

Editor:

The following article should be of interest to the readers of "Lancaster Farming."

"This time it's bees, next time roadside produce stands . . ."

Anyone in PA who has ever had a hive of bees inspected has probably received notice of the new bee law (act 131), signed into law by Gov. Casey at the 11th hour of his term.

I question the entire program but the part informing us that the "Beekeepers Association" has actively supported this legislation I expect is deliberately misleading. I don't know how it was pulled off but I am sure that a poll of beekeepers will show they are not in favor of giving the bureaucrats another \$10 every 2 years to have inspectors spread disease in their colonies.

The inspection of beehives by state inspectors is the most effective way of spreading bee diseases that can be imagined. A man who has been to numerous other hives, breaks yours open and pulls frames from the brood area, the most vulnerable part of the hive. Bees are smashed both in the re-

moval and replacement of these frames. This is the area the queen operates in and the possibility of her being killed or injured is real. Over and above the physical damage any disease organisms he is carrying on his self, clothing or equipment has an excellent opportunity to infect your hive.

Yes, I know the part about the inspector taking precautions, cleaning themselves and their equipment: baloney! Effective cleanup between hive inspections short of boiling the guy in hot water is impossible. The inspection program is superfluous. It is an after the fact event at best, that has nothing to do with disease prevention. It tells you your bees are infected and any attentive beekeeper becomes aware of this through his routine hive maintenance long before an inspector shows up. At worst it exposes your hive to infection.

The first time an inspector visited my bees I was too green to associate the loss with his visit. On the next visit he brought me foul brood. On his last visit he brought

(Turn to Page A31)



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Protect Against AI

The outbreak of avian influenza (AI) in Mexico has become more serious with mortality reaching up to 50 percent in broiler flocks.

The virus has become highly pathogenic and spreading despite tight biosecurity measures. There is concern the virus could spread to the United States by way of migratory birds returning to the United States.

Now is the time to implement a very good biosecurity program. Farmers should enforce a restricted movement of people to their poultry houses. Avoid contact with migratory and wild birds. Make sure your poultry houses are birdproof. Also, change footwear after working in fields and disinfect boots or shoes before entering poultry houses.

Do not allow dogs and cats that have been in fields or in contact with wild birds in your poultry houses. Finally, if you have any abnormal mortality, contact your service person immediately or take some birds to one of the laboratories.

Taking a few precautions now

could prevent a major disease outbreak latter.

To Make Adjustments For Milk Base

Will breeding problems that occurred this winter affect your ability to establish a good milk base this fall?

According to Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, it will.

He states it could have a reducing effect on your milk price for 1995. Cows you wanted to have in peak milk around September may now peak around the beginning of the year. Instead of building a milk base, they will be contributing to excess production.

One way to help solve this problem is to purchase some "tail enders" that are bred and in late lactation this spring at reduced prices. You will be buying them when feeds and pastures are more plentiful and more affordable while having animals ready to freshen during late summer.

To Plan For Future

This past week, the future of agriculture in Lancaster County was discussed by two different

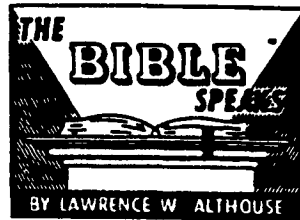
panels of agribusiness leaders. All six speakers stated the future depended on the people and their outlook.

Pennsylvania is the major agricultural area in the Northeast. There are many reasons for this: the strong work ethic of the farmers, excellent livestock and poultry farmers, efficiencies of production, young age of farmers, and a strong infrastructure, including banks, feed mills, equipment dealers, sales people, and agricultural educators.

As one industry leader stated, if you doubt there is a bright future in agriculture, then look around at the number of major national companies making large capital investments in Pennsylvania. They would not be making these investments if they thought agriculture is declining in the area.

The consensus of these speakers was agriculture will remain strong as long as the farmers stay competitive by making the necessary changes and continue being the best there is!

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Constant and determined effort breaks down all obstacles and sweeps away all resistance."



BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

ON TALKING OR PLAYING A GOOD GAME
March 12, 1995

ON TALKING OR PLAYING A GOOD GAME
March 12, 1995

Background Scripture
I Corinthians 4
Devotional Reading
Romans 12:1-10

Is Paul contradicting himself in I Corinthians 4:20? He has been speaking of the ultimate weakness of temporal power, but now he says: "For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power."

But the "power" of which Paul is speaking here is not temporal power, but spiritual power — and he has already demonstrated in this letter that there is a vast gulf between these two types of power. Temporal power appears to be mighty, but ultimately it is weak. Spiritual power seems to be weak and ineffectual, but in the long run it is the only power that prevails.

Lots of people bemoan the churches' loss of temporal power. In the last 50 years we have seen a tremendous loss of that kind of power. When I was growing up in Reading, Pennsylvania, the churches there seemed to be pretty powerful in the community: able to keep the stores closed on Sunday, influence the local schools, and often get its way in the community.

SPIRITUAL POWER

The churches have mostly lost that temporal power and, although we all mourn the loss of it, the loss may be a blessing. For now, the church can focus upon what it should have been concentrating on all along: spiritual power, the power to influence, not by coercion, but by shining example. It is always easier to compel than to inspire, but "easy" doesn't equal "success." All too often, we in the church have assumed that temporal power is the measure of the effectiveness of the gospel.

That's what the cross of Jesus Christ was all about. God could have intervened and kept Jesus from dying on the cross. But the victory was not dependent upon escaping the cross, but in transforming it. An object that represented human nature at its worst has become the symbol of divine and human love triumphant. The cross says to us that we cannot win with temporal power because it is always inferior to spiritual power.

TALKERS & DOERS

A young exchange student from Southeast Asia, after being exposed to American television and radio, came to the conclusion that Christianity is mostly a matter of how people talk. We preach, teach, discuss, argue and sometimes fight over the words people choose to talk about their faith. The essence of the gospel seems to be the precise way in which people articulate it.

In writing to the church at Corinth, Paul distinguished between the talkers and the doers. "But I will come to you soon," he said, "if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power. For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power" (4:19, 20) — spiritual not temporal power. The gospel is about doing, not talking. Not talking about love, but doing it; being it.

What does that mean? Paul gives us a good idea: "When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate. . ." (4:12b, 13a). Like good music, the Gospel is dependent not upon spirited argument but inspired playing.

I'm not saying there's anything wrong with Christian talk so long as we don't let the talk become a substitute for Christian action. We are called, not to sing about the "old rugged cross," but to bear it.

Lancaster Farming

Established 1955

Published Every Saturday

Ephrata Review Building
1 E. Main St.
Ephrata, PA 17522

—by—

Lancaster Farming, Inc.

A Steinman Enterprise

Robert G. Campbell General Manager
Everett R. Newsinger Managing Editor

Copyright 1995 by Lancaster Farming