



OPINION

Strange Devices

Today, imagine what it would be like to show your grandfather, who passed away years ago, what a presidedress soil nitrogen test could do. Or a portable field chlorophyll meter, to indicate how much nitrogen a plant would need. Or a global positioning system to help track and identify soil configuration on your cropland. Or how you could pick up, from satellite, a storm system that is about to move into your area.

All these things, years ago, were lambasted as "strange devices" that couldn't possibly work and often scared away many farmers. But countless farmers use them now to help grow crops profitably.

For years, state departments of agriculture have used technology to test for pesticide residues on crops, to incredibly small amounts. The public knows this, and has reacted with concerns for residues on food; as a result, no matter how safely most farmers observe label rates and take care to ensure the food is completely safe, states such as California have enacted "prescription pesticide" laws that tightly regulate when, how, and why pesticides can be used.

There is concern that, as a result, states such as Pennsylvania and others in the Mid-Atlantic region could be headed toward the same fate.

What it comes down to is: there is increased societal pressure to do more thinking, gather more data, and assess just what we can do to make farming more "user" and "environmentally" friendly.

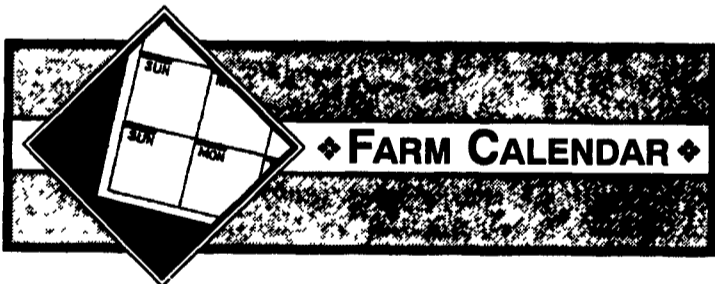
Enter integrated pest management (IPM). In two articles by *Lancaster Farming* staff writer Andy Andrews last week, IPM was carefully explored — how it could be used effectively by layer house managers in poultry operations and in orchards by fruit growers.

To make a complicated matter short, IPM is simply asking growers to do more thinking, more observing, and use more selectively diverse approaches to handling pests. Gone is the day when you sprayed every Thursday, no matter what the insect pressure or expected crop damage. Growers can use inexpensive and effective IPM technology — strange as it may seem — to monitor pests and pinpoint effective strategies to deal with them.

Down the road, Penn State is looking at several other IPM-related "strange devices" that, while they sound pretty far-fetched to us now, could open up big opportunities to help us come to grips with an increasingly demanding public:

- "Spraying" pheromone traps to detract crop-damaging pests.
- "Microwaving" bugs to death through portable equipment in the field, much like the old "tobacco" steamers of your grandfather's days.
- Using photoactivated dies that flies can eat — once the flies enter the sunlight, "zap," they're dead.

We can imagine the microwave in the field, zapping pests. But feeding flies to death — well, that's technology for you!



Saturday, March 25

Maryland Holstein Showcase Heifer Sale, Quarryville.

Small Enterprises Livestock Mini Workshop, Harford County Md. Extension office, 9 a.m.-noon.

Maryland/Virginia Milk Producers Co-Op young cooperators meeting, Holiday Inn, College Park, Md., noon.

New York State Grazing Conference, Holiday Inn, Cortland, N.Y., 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Western Pa. Sheep Conference, Mercer Extension Center, Mercer.

Horse Management Seminar, Elks Club, Tyrone, 9:30 a.m.

Cumberland Area Feeder Pig Sale, Allegany County, Md. Fairgrounds, 1 p.m.

Sunday, March 26

National DHIA Convention and Trade Show, Sheraton, Burlington, Vt., thru March 29.

Mason-Dixon Red & White Dairy Cattle Association, Spangler's Restaurant, Gettysburg, 1 p.m.

Monday, March 27

Pesticide credit meeting, Lebanon Valley Ag Center, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

and 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Lehigh Valley Horse Council meeting, Whitehall Mall Community Room, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 28

MFS Workshop, Ridgway Courthouse, also April 4.

Pennsylvania Farm Link Program educational meeting, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Headquarters, Camp Hill, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Nutrient Management Workshop, southwest region, manure, Westmoreland Extension Office, Greensburg.

Pa. FFA Legislative Breakfast, Sheraton Inn-East, 7 a.m.

Bradford-Sullivan Forest Landowners Association dinner, Bonanza, Wysox, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 29

Tri-County Swine AI Short Course, Greencastle Livestock Market.

Mid East UDIA meeting, Brier Inn, Lewisburg, W.Va., 9:30 a.m.

On-Farm Composting Conference and Tour, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 9:15 a.m.-4 p.m.

PennAg Educational Seminar,



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Keep Cows' Feet Dry

Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, reminds us one unpleasant effect of the wet season of spring is mud and the problems it causes — foot infections, environmental mastitis, and uterine infections.

Some ways to eliminate mud are:

- Provide cows with a concrete lot so they may be outside without being in the mud.

- Keep dirt areas well drained. Select high ground or create mounded areas. Fill in low spots. If stones keep sinking away in the mud, try using some geotextile fabric in these areas to support the stone. To prevent foot injuries from the stone, be sure the stone base is covered with a hoof friendly surface.

- Do not allow cows to linger long in any one spot. This helps to prevent muddy areas from developing at the entrances to barns and lots, in cow lanes, under shaded areas, etc. Walk cows quickly through these sensitive areas and confine them to pasture area until it is time for them to come in.

- Place feeders and waterers on solid surfaces. If you cannot, then select high, well-drained areas or keep moving them around.

- Seed heavy traffic areas to a rugged grass such as K-31 tall fescue.

- Fence cows away from wet areas or control their access to

Commercial Feed Law, Eden Resort Inn, Lancaster, 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Fumigation pesticide recertification meeting, Northampton County Extension Office, Nazareth, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Worker Protection Standard informational meeting, Susquehanna County Extension Office, 10 a.m.-noon.

Adams County Farm Bureau Spring meeting, York Springs Community Fire Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 30

1995 Annual Maryland Conference For Bovine Practitioners, Holiday Inn-Frederick, Frederick, Md., thru March 31.

Tractor Safety Training, Lehigh County Ag Center, Allentown, 7:30 p.m.

Nutrient Management Workshop, northeast region, manure, Knight's Inn, Danville.

Bucks County Fruit Growers meeting, Neshaminy Manor Center, Doylestown, 1 p.m.

Lehigh County Holstein Tour to Chester County, report Junge Farm, Lynnville, 8:15 a.m.

(Turn to Page A35)

them.

To Manage Pastures

This past week marked the beginning of spring. With the warmer weather, grass is beginning to grow and cows are being turned out to pasture.

To keep pastures from being cut up, do not let cows in any one area for more than 2 to 3 days. This will give trampled areas an opportunity to recover. To do this you will need a lot of small pasture paddocks. This will allow you to rotate cows through at a rapid rate. This will greatly improve pasture yield and quality while preventing an unsightly mud area.

Remember, when cows are confined to pastures for an extended period of time, they should have access to water.

To Insure Safe Play Areas

With spring now here, children

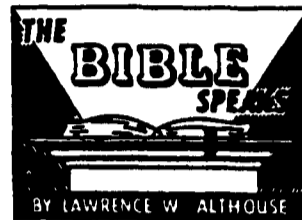
will be playing more outside. Yards are great places to run and explore: Do you have a play yard on your farm that is separated from traffic, livestock, and machinery?

It is difficult, if not impossible, to see or hear someone while running farm machinery. Parents should walk around with your children and set boundaries for where it is safe to play. Identifying and staying in safe play boundaries reduces the risk of being hurt.

Play areas should be free from dangerous debris. This will help prevent cuts, scrapes, falls, and injuries. In addition, toys should be picked up and properly stored when not in use. Play equipment should be free of broken pieces, sharp edges, protrusions, and tripping hazards.

Finally, never mow a yard when children and others are present.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "To recognize opportunity, you must see beyond the obstacles."



"BUILDING UP" or
"TEARING DOWN"
March 26, 1995

"Building Up" or "Tearing Down"
March 26, 1995

Background Scripture:
2 Corinthians 12 & 13
Devotional Reading:
Colossians 3:8-17

Someone once told me that he didn't like reading the letters of Paul because it became so evident that there were church conflicts even in the earliest days of Christianity.

But one should not be surprised to find conflict in the early church. As long as there are humans there will be conflicts. Where two or three are gathered together there will often be five or more opinions. Conflict is not inherently evil. Actually, it is often very constructive. Without conflict there would be little growth, either as individuals or as groups.

The problem is not with conflict, but with what we let conflict do to us and others. Conflict merely means that there are differences which cause friction. Conflict is harmful only when we permit it to have harmful effects. We can learn to handle conflicts constructively.

Church Conflict

Churches sometimes do a poor job of handling conflict. Because we have illusions about everything in the church being peaceful and unanimous, we tend to pretend that conflict is not there. Instead of dealing with it, we ignore it and hope that it will go away. Shoved under the carpet, it often festers and grows. Most of the wounds we sustain in church conflicts are the ones we get while backing away from constructive confrontations.

In 2 Corinthians we can see that Paul is facing up to a conflict between himself and various persons in the church at Corinth, perhaps the whole church. Since writing the letter we know as 1 Corinthians, we know from 2 Corinthians 2:1 that Paul made what he terms a "painful visit" to Corinth. Later, instead of returning to Corinth, he wrote a letter that apparently was quite severe.

This letter he sent by Titus, one of his trusted co-workers. Paul became anxious about the letter's reception, but at Macedonia he receives a favorable report from Titus. 2 Corinthians is apparently the letter he wrote after receiving the report from Titus. If you keep this in mind when you read 2 Corinthians you will better understand what Paul is saying. You will also understand why Paul speaks several times of his next visit. "Here for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be a burden..." (12:13).

Into The Open

The important thing is that Paul reacted to the conflict at Corinth by facing it and bringing it out into the open. It is obvious that he does not want to alienate himself from the Corinthian church, but neither does he want to duck the issues. He makes his case. If they thought he had been boasting of his authority, he wants to correct that impression. He has had revelations from God (12:1-6) but he does not boast of them because he deserves no credit for them. He claims no power for himself, but admits his weakness (12:10). He acknowledges: "I have been a fool!" (12:11). But they are not without some fault either, "You forced me to it..." He understands that they may have misunderstood his motives: "Have you been thinking all along that we have been defending ourselves before you?" (12:19). Actually, it is the gospel itself he has been defending. He acknowledges that the authority which the Lord has given him is "for building up and not for tearing down" (13:10).

Paul wants to resolve the conflict in a constructive way and he ends his letter with a benevolent benediction: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (13:14).

Conflicts in the church today can be handled with the same openness and constructive good will. All it takes is honesty, humility and love.

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. Newawanger Managing Editor

Copyright 1995 by Lancaster Farming