



OPINION

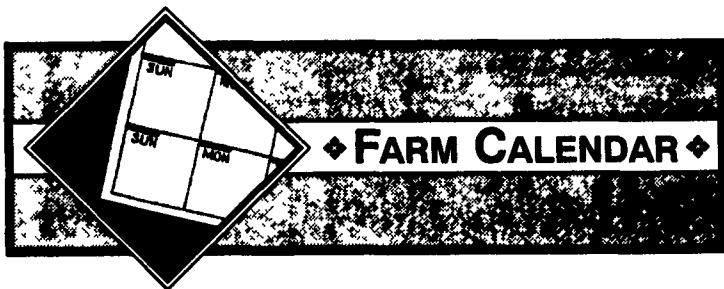
Begin To Document Your Worker Protection Activity Now

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) worker protection law that went into effect in January of this year includes almost anyone who uses pesticides on his or her farm. It becomes the responsibility of each farmer to follow the rules related to education of workers who are going to work with pesticides or work near fields that have had pesticides applied to them. In addition, the law calls for verbal notification and/or posting of warnings so that employees do not enter these treated areas.

The days are gone when pesticides can be used without documenting how, when, and where they were used. For the busy farmer this may be the most burdensome part of the law. Specific delayed entry times after application are important. Each pesticide has its own re-entry time that may be from a few hours to a few days. And each pesticide has its own demands for warning farm workers about the application.

Therefore, you need to document when you give the training to workers. Have them sign in at the training session and sign when they receive the materials from the training classes. Keep notebooks and diaries of everything you do related to the use of pesticides on the farm. Note when you make applications and what pesticides you have used. Follow all the directions on the label.

While not much has been said about the penalties for not following the law, they are quite stiff, and you can't just ignore your responsibility. Sooner or later, violations will be reported, investigated, and fines will be given. It is important that you start to document your activity as you comply with the law so that if any question from an employee or an inspector arises in the future, you will have written information to prove your position. Begin now!



FARM CALENDAR

Saturday, June 17

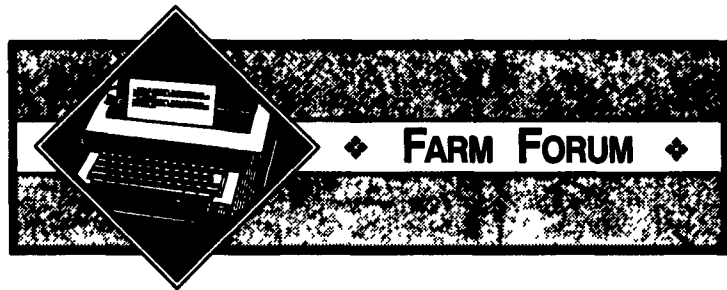
- Pa. Cattlemen's Field Day, Maytown Park, Lancaster County, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Ludwig's Corner Riding and Driving Club, Marsh Creek State Park, 9 a.m.
- Delaware Valley College Summer Bee meeting, DVC, noon.
- Erie County dairy princess pageant, Erie Zoo.
- Beaver-Lawrence County dairy princess pageant, Westfield Grange, New Castle, 8 p.m.
- Lancaster County dairy princess pageant, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 7 p.m.
- Somerset County dairy princess pageant, Somerset Area High School, 7:30 p.m.
- Sullivan County dairy princess pageant, Dushore, 7 p.m.
- Susquehanna/Montour dairy princess pageant, United Methodist Church, Montrose, 8 p.m.
- York County dairy princess pageant, 4-H Center, Bair, 7:30 p.m.
- McKean/Potter Master Gardener Summertime tours, Walker Gardens, Bigler, 2 p.m.
- Perry County dairy princess pageant, extension office, 8 p.m.

Sunday, June 18 Father's Day

Monday, June 19

- Precision Ag Field Day, USDA/ARS Beltsville Ag Research Center, Beltsville, Md., 9 a.m.
- Penn State 4-H Ambassador Conference, Penn State University,

- thru June 21.
- PennAg 1995 Annual Grain Meeting, Eden Resort Inn, Lancaster, dinner 7 p.m.
- Berks Dairy Bowl, Berks 4-H Center, 8 p.m.



FARM FORUM

Hi everyone! This past year I have helped the dairy industry in an important way by serving as the Lancaster County Dairy Princess. Since receiving my crown last June, I have been involved in many dairy activities. Summer is, of course, time for ice cream festivals and tired arms from dishing out scoops and scoops of ice cream. Next comes fair season with farmers showing off their best cows at dairy competitions. You may have seen me dodging cow piles while handing out ribbons to the winners. Another part of the fair season is parades. Although some of them seemed to last forever and I felt like I couldn't smile anymore by the end, it was great to see so many people. Grocery store promotions are also an important part of being Dairy Princess. Handing out store-brand cheeses, recipe pamphlets, and samples of my very own milk punch, Purple Cow, entices consumers to buy more dairy products.

I have also visited area elementary schools this year. After a short speech about what cows eat to make milk, calcium, and comparing milk to soda, I play a dairy tic-tac-toe game with the children. Although some children had me confused with "Miss America" and the "Tooth Fairy" it was still a lot of fun. I have also met many of you at various Co-Op, Farm Women, and other groups.

I want to thank each and every one of you for making my year so special. Growing up on a dairy farm myself, the industry is a very important part of my life. Next year I will be quite a distance from home attending school at Penn State University. However, my heart will always be right here in Lancaster County. Thank you again for making my reign as the 1994-1995 Lancaster County Dairy Princess a year I will always treasure!

Amy Espenshade



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Look For Potato Leafhopper

The major alfalfa insect pest in this area is potato leafhopper.

This very small insect, which looks like a small green grasshopper, injects a toxin into the alfalfa plant as it feeds on it. This toxin plugs the plant's vascular system and stunts the growth of the plant. Leaves of infected plants take on a brassy yellow color.

The leafhopper does not overwinter in Pennsylvania. Each spring it must migrate here from the Louisiana Gulf Coast. This migration takes place in the winds from southern storms. This usually brings leafhoppers to southeast Pennsylvania in June.

Their arrival date and numbers will determine if second cutting alfalfa needs to be sprayed. A regular scouting program will identify when spraying is needed based on the height of alfalfa, the number of leafhoppers found, and the cost of the spray.

Tuesday, June 20

- Schnecksville Community Fair, thru June 24.
- Lancaster County Honey Producers meeting, Ralph McLaughlin, 7 p.m.
- Lancaster FFA Hog Show and Sale, Manheim Fairgrounds, show 10 a.m., sale 6 p.m. (Turn to Page A11)

To Scout Alfalfa Fields

A check of several alfalfa fields by Robert Anderson, extension agronomy agent, showed that potato leafhoppers are in some fields.

The best way to determine if a spray is needed is to use an insect net and count the number of leafhopper adults and nymphs caught. If the alfalfa is less than four inches tall and scouting with a net shows one leafhopper per four sweeps of the net, control is needed. If the alfalfa is between four and eight inches in height and scouting finds four leafhoppers in 10 sweeps, a spray is needed.

When the alfalfa is between 8 and 12 inches tall, there must be 12 leafhoppers in 10 sweeps. If you are planning on cutting in 7 to 10 days, you should not spray. However, it may be better to spray and delay cutting and allow the alfalfa to come into fairly full bloom.

With spring seedings, Anderson recommends spraying an insecticide as soon as possible after the threshold is reached and delay harvest on these fields until full bloom.

For more information on alfalfa pest management, contact your county cooperative extension office and ask for Special Circular 284, "A Pest Management Program for Alfalfa in Pennsylvania."

To Look For Flea Beetles

An insect pest which is present in large numbers this year is flea beetle.

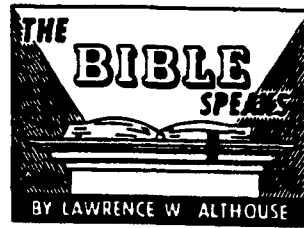
Robert Anderson, extension agronomy agent, reports he has had several calls where they have become problems on tobacco beds. He suspects they will be soon feeding on corn and other crops.

The cause is the extreme mild winter we had.

Flea beetles are not hard to control. There are several products which will do an excellent job.

The economic threshold for corn is two or more flea beetles per plant. Most other crops do not have an economic threshold established. Anderson suggests farmers consider spraying vegetables and tobacco crops if they average two or more flea beetles per plant.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Perseverance overcomes almost everything, even nature."



ARE YOU FOR SALE?
June 18, 1995

ARE YOU FOR SALE?
June 18, 1995

Background Scripture:

I Kings 21

Devotional Reading:

Micah 6:6-13

King Ahab is our contemporary. He is a person with great power and equally great appetite. He sees something he wants and makes a reasonable offer. As Ahab said to Naboth, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden . . . and I will give you a better vineyard for it; or if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money" (21:2).

There, what could be more fair than that? A reasonable offer: (1) Ahab was the king, (2) the vineyard was next to Ahab's palace, and (3) Naboth would be fairly compensated for it. Surely a reasonable man would go along with a deal like that!

But of Naboth there was one consideration above all others: the vineyard was an inheritance from his forefathers. To sell it to King Ahab would have been a betrayal of family trust. Nothing Ahab could offer would compensate him for betraying that trust. So, Naboth, a man who had remarkably little, couldn't be bought at any price.

VEXED AND SULLEN

The King was also very contemporary in the way that he reacted: "And Ahab went into his house vexed and sullen because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said to him . . . and he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food." Here was a man who had great power and riches, yet, he focused not on all that he had, but on this one little thing he didn't have. And that too is contemporary.

Some may be too lenient with

King Ahab, blaming Jezebel for actually doing the terrible deed, having Naboth stoned on a trumped-up charge. But Ahab and Jezebel are equal partners in this crime. Ahab could have said, "No, I am deeply disappointed, but I will not permit any injustice." But he didn't. Instead he sets the stage for Jezebel's diabolical advice by sulkily calling attention to his unhappiness.

Note how Jezebel appeals to Ahab: "Do you not govern Israel?" Are you the King or are you not? Don't you have the power? Once again, the deadly, seductive corruption of power. Aren't you the star of the team? Aren't you the CEO of this company? Aren't you the governor of this state?

PERMISSIVE EVIL

And just like today, Ahab gets to eat his cake and keep it too. "Arise, and eat bread," Jezebel assures him, "and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard . . ." He knew it was wrong, but he permitted someone else to do it for him. And so do some of us. It takes only one person to do great evil, but multitudes may willingly profit from it.

There should be no doubt about Ahab's complicity: "And as soon as Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it" (16). No questions raised about this vile deed. No rebuke to Jezebel. No hesitation to profit from this heinous crime.

And then Elijah comes with God's terrible judgment: "I have found you. You have sold yourself to do what is evil in the sight of the Lord" (20). Naboth wouldn't sell himself and his birthright for a magnanimous price, but Ahab sold himself for a mere vineyard.

What about you? Are you for sale?

Lancaster Farming
Established 1955
Published Every Saturday
Ephrata Review Building
1 E. Main St.
Ephrata, PA 17522
—by—
Lancaster Farming, Inc.
A Steirman Enterprise
Robert G. Campbell General Manager
Everett R. Newswanger Managing Editor
Copyright 1995 by Lancaster Farming