



# OPINION

## Job Well Done

The National Holstein Convention held last week in Pittsburgh was an example of one of the greatest volunteer team efforts we have seen in a long time. These volunteer Pennsylvania Holstein breeders and officials worked for four years to bring off this extravaganza.

The coordination of events, including farm and city tours, ladies' programs, business meetings, exhibits, and the national sale, in addition to a complete youth program of events and judging contests in another hotel, called for a staggering amount of legwork, committee meetings, and individual dedication.

Because the event was so successful, we want to add our congratulations to everyone who helped make it possible. To mention everyone would be impossible, but here are the convention committees as taken from the convention booklet:

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John & Helen Cope, Chaircouple  
R. Wayne & Marjorie Harpster  
Lewis & Barbara Berkley  
Jay & Pat Landis  
William & Lilly Nichol

### TREASURER

Thomas W. Kelly

### BANQUET COMMITTEE

Samuel & Beverly Minor, Chaircouple  
Stanley & Janice Burkholder  
William & Jan Jackson  
Lee & Rose Kummer  
Joe & Eleanor McCray  
John Scott  
William & Connie Marteeny

### COMMERICAL EXHIBITS COMMITTEE

Thomas W. Kelly, Chairman  
Lloyd & Denise Pease  
David & Betty Burket  
Howard & Nancy Halstead  
Kenneth Mowry  
Steve Mowry

### PRE-SALE BUFFET COMMITTEE

Keith & Debbie Decker, Chaircouple  
Paul & Penny Lawrence  
Mike & Cindy Weimer  
Jim & Dorothy Neely  
Charlie & Denise Bean

### DAIRY BAR COMMITTEE

Terry & Wanda Kuehn, Chaircouple  
Rick & Sandy Allen  
Robert Graham  
Howard & Nancy Halstead  
Janet Harding  
Jim & Adeena Harteis  
James Marburger  
Charles Turner  
Richard & Sharon Love  
Steve & Donna Quigley  
David & Eileen Schuler  
Gary Sheppard  
John & Connie Will  
Elder & June Vogel

### GOLF OUTING COMMITTEE

Jay Landis, Chairman  
J. Lloyd Ebersole  
Steve Neely  
John Kreider  
Bob & Jane Pepple  
Fred Strouse

### HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Laszlo & Lana Mozes, Chaircouple  
Keith & Debbie Decker  
James Bates  
Arthur & Shirley Moore  
Dave & Lois Dowler  
Paul & Penny Lawrence  
Mark & Marie Canon  
Dennis James  
Bob & Barb Freyermuth  
Lawrence & Dorothy Neely  
Shirley Mitcheltree  
Arthur Baxter

### HOST DAY COMMITTEE

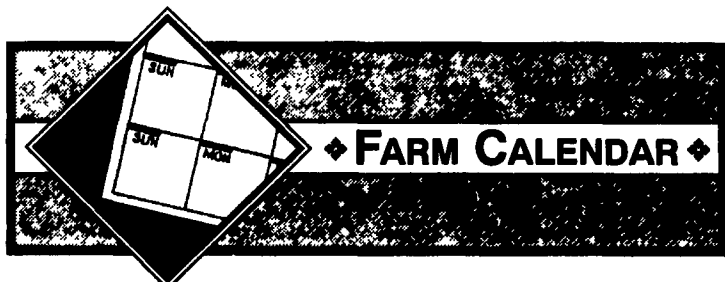
Dean & Melinda Johnson, Chaircouple  
John & Judy Grice  
Steve & Sandy Haagen  
Jim Houser  
Dan & Mary Johnson  
Mary Ann Keith  
Marcia Minor-Opp  
Dave & Kaye Slusser  
Tim & Kathy Sturgeon

### NATIONAL BOARD SPOUSES PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Peg Kelly, Chairperson  
Helen Cope

### PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION COMMITTEE

Lewis & Barbara Berkley, Chaircouple  
Robert & Jean Taylor  
Calvin & Mary Elizabeth Will  
Andy & Sue Meier  
David & Linda Countryman  
Obie & Mary Ann Smider  
William & Corky Conyngham  
Don & Geraldine Seipt  
Dennis & Penny Reiman  
Russell & Carol Jones



Saturday, July 8

Sunday, July 9

Derry Township Fair, Derry, thru July 15.

Monday, July 10

Pa. Junior Holstein Judging Schools, Butler County Holstein Club hosts July 10-11, and Bradford County Holstein Club hosts July 12-13.

Nutrient Management Planning

Software Computer Workshop, University Park, also July 21.

Tuesday, July 11

Penn State Field Diagnostic Clinics, Rockspring Agronomy Research Farm, also July 13.

Nutrient Management Seminar, Sheraton Inn-Harrisburg East, 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Mid-Atlantic Dairy Grazing Field Day, Delta Springs Farm, Inc., Mt. Solon, Va., 6:30 p.m.-8:30



## Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent

### To Register Century Farms

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for Century Farms.

To qualify as a Century Farm, the farm must have been owned by the same family for 100 consecutive years. A family member must live on the farm. Also, the farm must consist of at least 10 acres of the original holding or gross more than \$1,000 annually from the sale of farm products.

Applications are available from your local county cooperative extension office. In Lancaster County, you may also receive free assistance in researching your deed by contacting the extension office at 394-6851.

Applications from Lancaster County processed before Oct. 1 will be honored at the Lancaster County Farm City Banquet on Nov. 21.

This is an excellent program to honor farm families and recognize the importance of family farms to agriculture. If your farm meets the criteria for this program, take time now and fill out the simple two-

p.m.

No-Till Tomato Field Day, Groff Farm, Holtwood, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Grazing meeting, Dave and Bonnie Klinger, southern Northumberland County, 7 p.m.

Pa. Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program, Ivan Lauver, Mt. Pleasant Mills, 8:30 a.m.-10 a.m. and Moyer's Agway, Middleburg, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Pa. Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program, Mifflinburg Farmers Exchange, 1:30 p.m.-4 p.m.

Pa. Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program, Martin's Feed and Fertilizer, Coburn, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Pa. Composting Assoc. Second Annual Forum, Doubletree Club Hotel, Middletown.

Agronomy "Pitstop" meeting, pesticide credits, Wilcox's Fivebrooks Farm, Leroy, 1 p.m.-2 p.m.

Wednesday, July 12

Mid-Atlantic Dairy Grazing Field Day, Red Mill Farm, Crimora, Va., 9:15 a.m.-3 p.m.

Pa. Junior Holstein Judging School, Bradford County Holstein Club hosts, Troy Fairgrounds, thru July 13.

Passively Aerated Windrow Method For Composting Field Day, Paul and Carol Hauser, Maplewood Farms, Lincoln University, 6:30 p.m.

Wyoming-Susquehanna Wool Pool, Kiwanis Wyoming County Fairground, Meshoppen, 8 a.m.-11 a.m.

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page form and assist us in promoting agriculture.

### To Participate In Soybean Poll

The USDA will be conducting a poll of soybean producers to determine if there is interest in conducting a referendum on the continuance of paying refunds under the Soybean Promotion and Research Order.

The poll will be conducted at your county Consolidated Farm Service Agency (CFSA). This is your old ASCS office.

Farmers who certify that they produced soybeans between Sept. 1, 1991 through June 1, 1995 may participate. The poll will be conducted on July 26.

Absentee forms must be obtained and returned by July 14. The poll is designed to determine if refunds will continue to requesting farmers. If enough people do not vote for the referendum, the refunds will discontinue.

Farmers are now assessed 0.5 percent of net market value of soybeans they market.

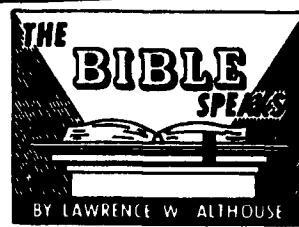
### To Apply For Fuel Tax Refund

The Pennsylvania Board of Finance and Revenue has mailed liquid fuel tax refund forms to farmers who have applied for refunds in the last two years.

State law exempts farmers from a 12 cent per gallon state excise tax if fuel is used for agriculture. Claims must include copies of paid receipts or a statement from your fuel dealer indicating gallons purchased, purchase dates, and verification that the state excise tax was paid.

The Board of Finance and Revenue must receive completed forms by September 1, 1995. If you did not receive a form you may request one from the Board of Finance and Revenue, 500C Finance Building, Harrisburg PA 17120, (717) 787-6534, or you may contact your state legislator's office.

*Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Excellence can be yours if you set your expectations a notch higher than others."*



MEETING THE BEAR  
July 9, 1995

MEETING THE BEAR  
July 9, 1995

### Background Scripture:

Amos 4 through 5

Devotional Reading:

Amos 5:6-15

I didn't choose the text for this column. As you probably know, the texts are chosen by an ecumenical Uniform Lesson Committee.

I point that out only because this week's particular background scripture, Amos 4 and 5, rather clashes with a piece of mail that just arrived: an announcement for a National Day of Prayer Breakfast sponsored by a local religious foundation. The speaker will be a national personality known as both an outstanding athlete and a Christian. The price of the breakfast is \$30 per person.

Even before I opened my Bible, it struck me that, at \$30 per person for breakfast, there would be a lot of Christians in this city that could hardly afford to attend. Are prayer breakfasts only for the well-heeled, I wondered?

### WHAT GOD DESPISES

Then, I opened to Amos 4 and 5 and this is what I found: "I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take not delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings . . . I will not accept them . . . Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen" (5:21-23). And I couldn't help adding, "Lord, what about prayer breakfasts at \$30 a head?"

A rough calculation indicated they could gross between \$15,000 and \$50,000. So, I called the sponsoring foundation and asked to what purpose the funds from the breakfast would be used. I was told that this is the foundation's major annual fund-raising event. Foundations have to have money, I know, and bills have to be paid for headquarters and staff and all of that. Still, this is a city in which there are inadequate shelters for the homeless, where people go

hungry every day, a community where the basic needs of children and youth are not being met, and so on. Would anything come out of this event which would alleviate some of this human need?

I doubt it, but I hope I'm wrong.

I am not naming the foundation involved because I do not want to single them out for criticism. Among religious organizations there are lots of "worthy" events of this nature. There is nothing wrong with them per se and their hearts are usually in the right place. How can you go wrong touting the National Day of Prayer?

But, while we do all these things in the name of God and presumably for his benefit, aren't we getting wrapped up in the very things which divert us from what he wants of us? — "But let justice roll down like waters; and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (5:24).

### WHAT GOD WANTS

The words "justice" and "righteousness" are not the words we speak at prayer breakfasts, convocations, rallies and so forth, but deeds that help those in need. Why does God condemn Israel? Because they "oppress the poor," "crush the needy," "afflict the righteous," and "turn aside the needy in the gate" (4:1,12).

Read the prophets of the Old Testament and you will see that the treatment of the poor, helpless and needy was always what their religion was about. Read the four Gospels and you will see that Jesus sounded the same note — helping the needy, not feasts, assemblies, or ritual offerings. But today we would rather hold a meeting about prayer, than pray for and help the needy. Holding meetings may become a substitute for giving a cup of cold water.

We are not saved by our meetings. Depending upon them, says Amos, it is "as if man fled from a lion and a bear met him" (5:19).

Look out for the bear!

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