



OPINION

Vanishing Acres

How does the farm stay as a viable business operation, while neighbors complain about the odors, the flies, and all the challenges faced by farmers?

A long time ago, a great writer was asked a series of questions by an interviewer, and he responded, "what makes you so certain there is an answer to every question?"

However, perhaps some answers for farmer/development situations can be found in the experiences of the farmers interviewed for the three-part series, "Vanishing Acres," in *Lancaster Farming*.

From their stories, it is easy to see there are some solutions to the challenges of farming in a heavily urbanized area, or in dealing with the pressures of developments as they engulf farmland:

- Talk to your neighbors. Communication should be the top-most consideration. Try to understand what the problems are and work with an open mind to coming up with solutions.

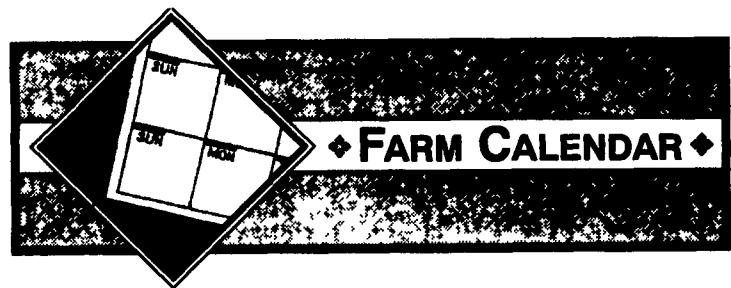
- Follow common-sense management strategies. Incorporate manure by moldboard plowing immediately. Don't wait to spread the manure before the urban neighbors' July 4 picnic.

- Watch what is going on around you. If you believe there are moves to put developments in near or around your farm, attend township board meetings. A lack of involvement is the spark that starts the fire of future problems.

- Use the tried-and-true public relations skills of those who faced similar situations. Invite the neighbors over for farm tours. Hand out free sweet corn for landowners who border your property. Do what is necessary to promote the fact that you really do care about their welfare.

"Entertainment farming" might be the extreme solution to the problems. For most, it works. At the least, finding out exactly who your urban neighbors are and trying to educate them about farming could go a long way.

Take the experiences of the farmers in the series and put some of them to use.



Saturday, July 22

New York Beef Field Days, Beef Teaching and Research Center, Harford, N.Y.

Farm and Family Independence Day, Rodale Institute, Rodale Research Center, Kutztown, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Allegheny County 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale, Allegheny County Fair, 5 p.m.

Bradford-Sullivan Forest Landowners Tour of Schrader Creek Area, meet at Monroe Franklin School, 9:30 a.m.

York County Beekeepers annual picnic, John Rudy Park, 1 p.m.
Charolais Educational Seminar Day, Central Md. Research and Education Center, Clarksville Facility.

Sunday, July 23

Shippensburg Community Fair, Shippensburg, thru July 29.

Westmoreland County Cattle Producers Picnic, C. Paul Jones Farm, Blairsville, noon.

Clarion County Fair, New Bethlehem, thru July 29.

Natural Resource Conservation School For Youth, Northern Lancaster County Game and Fish Protection Association grounds, thru July 29.

1995 Ag In The Classroom Teacher Workshop, Penn State University, University Park, thru July 28.

Monday, July 24

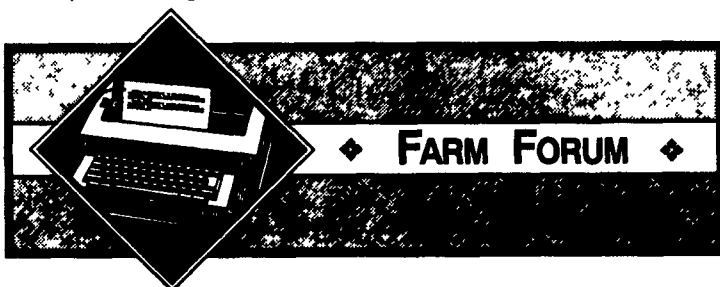
Jefferson Township Fair, Mercer, thru July 29.

Kimberton Fair, Kimberton, thru

July 29.

Troy Fair, Troy, thru July 29.
Western FFA Dairy Show, Butler County Fairgrounds, Enon Valley.

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Editor,

I am a subscriber to *Lancaster Farming* and have just read the first part of your 3 part series entitled "Vanishing Acres." You did an excellent job! But I had to write as I am infuriated by the behavior of "transplanted" people!

We are a "transplanted" family. However I am angered by others who are so intolerant of our farmers.

I have been a farmer-want-to-be ever since I can remember. My grandparents had a small farm from which my grandmother sold eggs to her neighbors. I have wonderful memories of tractor rides, feeding chickens and my cousins and I running among the corn. Of course I was a child then and never realized how much work my dad did to keep even this small operation going.

As a teen my family frequently vacationed on a working dairy farm in Dauphin County where I

really learned a lot about the realities of farm issues and what it takes to keep a farm running. This only made my desire to raise children on a farm or at least in the country among farm folks more important to me.

We've lived her in Lancaster County for nearly 8 years. By the grace of God we were able to buy an older home on a small amount of acreage in rural Conoy Township from which we feed our family through the winter and our daughters learn the value of a little hard work.

We have a pig farm to our right and a chicken house to our left and a dairy behind us and I wouldn't change a thing. We love the quality of life and closeness with God that we are able to give our children. We are in constant awe of God's creation and provision here in the country.

If people wish to transfer to the country it should be they who

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Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Scout For Corn Rootworm

According to Robert Anderson, extension agronomy agent, a few hours spent now scouting your corn fields could go a long way in protecting next year's corn crop.

While the adult rootworm beetle is not responsible for a large amount of damage or economical losses to the corn crop, the adult beetle is much easier to scout for than is the larvae stage which feeds on corn roots in June.

Fields which should be checked very carefully are those that show corn plants crooked due to larvae feeding. These fields should be checked very carefully for adults.

If you find an average of over 1 beetle per corn plant, the number of larvae which will be feeding next spring in that field will be sufficiently high to cause an economic loss if corn is going to be grown in that field again. If the number of adult beetles is extremely high, you may want to rotate to a crop other than corn.

Fields with extremely high adult beetle numbers may produce so many larvae even a good insecticide program may not control the larvae sufficiently and could have an economic impact.

The female adult beetle will lay close to 1,000 eggs. With 15 to 20 adults per plant, there could be 7,500 to 10,000 larvae per plant next year.

To Look At

Rootworm Control

It could take some planning to have an effective corn rootworm control program. Most of the soil insecticides applied at planting time will do a good job.

However, under normal growing conditions these applications at planting time will remain effective for approximately six weeks. The rootworm larvae normally hatch in early June and begin feeding on the corn roots. When corn is planted in late April or early May, there is a good possibility that the soil insecticide applied at planting time has lost its effectiveness before the larvae reach their peak feeding time.

Larvae feeding will continue through early July most years. When corn is planted early, an alternative to at planting time application of insecticides should be considered.

The best control of the rootworm larvae on early planted corn is a sidedress application of an insecticide along with cultivation in late May or very early June. An application near the beginning of June would be effective until mid-July, which is the peak feeding

period for rootworm larvae.

To Consider

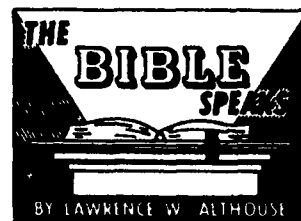
Adapting Equipment

Most corn growers are not equipped with the type of equipment that is needed to make a sidedress application of an insecticide applied to corn. It will take some preparation and planning time this winter to get ready.

Most granular insecticide application equipment will work if mounted on the cultivator, if you find a way to drive the unit. If you are lucky, you have an electrically driven unit and not a ground-driven unit on your corn planter. Thus, all you need to do is build a mounting bracket on the cultivator.

If your corn planter is equipped with a ground-driven insecticide unit, you will need to mount a ground drive wheel on the cultivator or buy electric motors for the units. Time will be needed to get ready, so plan to work on it this winter before next spring's rush.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Excellence can be yours if you regard adversity as a building block rather than a stumbling block."



BENT IN THE WRONG DIRECTION
July 23, 1995

Bent In The Wrong Direction
July 23, 1995

Background Scripture:

Hosea 11

Devotional Reading:

Psalms 103:6-14

Much of the Book of Hosea is based upon his love for Gomer and shows us that this love which Hosea has demonstrated in his own marriage is suggestive of God's love for us.

In chapter 11, however, Hosea changes the analogy from his love of Gomer to the love of a parent for his children. Some of the most tender expressions in the Bible are to be found in this passage; at the same time it is one of the most powerful chapters in the Old Testament.

Anyone who is a parent can appreciate what God is saying through Hosea. Even the most disappointed or heartbroken parent can identify with the tender love of God: "When Israel was a child, I loved him" (11:1). Children are loved the moment they come into the world, if not before. There is no way they can deserve the love that is poured out to them. It is given to them as grace, unconditioned love. (I realize that this has not been the experience of some children, but I believe it is still the prevailing one in the world.)

We can appreciate God's lament, "The more I called them, the more they went from me..." (11:2). What parent hasn't had that experience? And we know that, just because a child ignores our call, that is no reason to withdraw our love. Do we love our children any less because they disobey us?

The child receives all this love without being aware of its great dimensions. Who among us lovingly remembers our parents because they taught us to walk? Most of us don't even remember that experience. And all those times our parents took us lovingly in their arms and healed our hurts—we absorbed all that with-

out really being aware of the love we received. No child at any age is ever truly aware and appreciative of all the love the parent bestows.

And so it is with God and his children. How much love each of us receives every day of our lives and yet how unaware we are. Like children, we accept it because we assume that it is naturally due us. So, we can appreciate God, saying of us: "Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them" (11:3).

Then, like a parent, God's mood changes and he is irate over the way that his children have treated him. As parents we have experienced that, too: tenderness turning to anger. When a child is very late getting home, you have probably felt the conflicting emotions of worry and anger. And even when they finally came home and are o.k., we can feel both relief that they are all right and anger that they made us worry. That is the way it is with God's love, too.

In this moment of anxiety, God says, "My people are bent on turning away from me..." (11:7). So it is with children. They seem bent away from us, inclined to do the very things that disappoint us and break our hearts.

But God is torn between his tender love and his anger: "How can I give you up, O Ephraim!" (11:6). Yes, the children of the Lord deserve to lose his love, deserve the worst kind of punishment. But his love is stronger than his judgement: "I will not execute my fierce anger, I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not man" (11:9). Men and women may give in to their anger and despair, but not God. His love is divine.

That love redeems us; though we are bent in the wrong direction, his love seeks to find us and bend us back in the right direction.

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—by—

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