



OPINION

An Educational Experience

This year at Ag Progress Days you will be able to test drive new products and see many new ag technologies. Not only is there a wealth of information available for large and small-scale producers but for families and the average consumer.

New this year will be tractor ride and drive opportunities. In addition, special attention will be given to bean planting and harvesting, as well as many other machinery demonstrations.

The Pennsylvania Hay Show has been a long-time feature of the event, and the 1995 judging will be held in the hay tent.

The equine exhibits and demonstrations will showcase Penn State's Quarter horse equine teaching programs.

Landscapes, lawns, and gardens get their share of attention too. Especially noteworthy is the demonstration of a computer-assisted landscape design that shows you what to plant and then projects what your grounds will look like in 10 years.

If you want to compare brands of farm equipment or see the latest in Penn State's exhibits, a trip to the Russell E. Larson research facility at Rockspring in Centre County next week will be an educational experience.



Saturday, August 12

Bucks County Field Day and Picnic, Tom Haldeman.

South Central Championship Show, Shippensburg Fairgrounds, 9:30 a.m.

Pa. State Beekeepers Picnic, Penn's Cove, Centre County.
Md. Holstein Association Second Annual Picnic, My Ladys Manor Farm, Monkton, Md., 10 a.m.

Lancaster County 4-H Roundup, Lampeter Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.
Harvest Festival, Walnut Acres Organic Farms, Penns Creek, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Tioga County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Whitneyville, 9 a.m.

Old Time Plow boys Club Annual Summer Planning Show, German Cultural Heritage Center Farm, Kutztown University, thru Aug. 13.

Sunday, August 13

Huntingdon County Fair, Huntingdon, thru Aug. 19.

Washington County Fair, Washington, thru Aug. 20.

Bullskin Township Fair, Mount Pleasant, thru Aug. 19.

York County 4-H Swine and Sheep Roundup, Weikert's, Thomasville, sheep show 2 p.m.

Monday, August 14

Kutztown Fair Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Kutztown, 6 p.m.
McKean County Fair, Smethport, thru Aug. 20.

Dayton Fair, Dayton, thru Aug. 19.
Venango County Fair, Franklin, thru Aug. 19.

Lawrence County Fair, New Castle, thru Aug. 19.

Montour-Delton Community Fair, Washingtonville, thru Aug. 19.

Gloucester County Board of Ag Public Relations Tour and Picnic, 4-H Fairgrounds, Mullica Hill, 5 p.m.

Forest Landowners Workshop and Tour, Garrett and Kathleen Smith residence, Mayberry

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Township, Montour County, 6:30 p.m.

York 4-H Swine Roundup, Weikert's, Thomasville, 9 a.m.

York 4-H Market Sheep and Swine Sale, Weikert's, Thomasville, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, August 15

Ag Progress Days, Rockspring, thru Aug. 17.

Huntingdon County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Huntingdon, 9 a.m.

Kutztown Fair, Kutztown, thru Aug. 19.

1995 Pa. Hay Show, Ag Progress Days.

Pa. Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program, Helena Chemical Company, Biglerville, 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

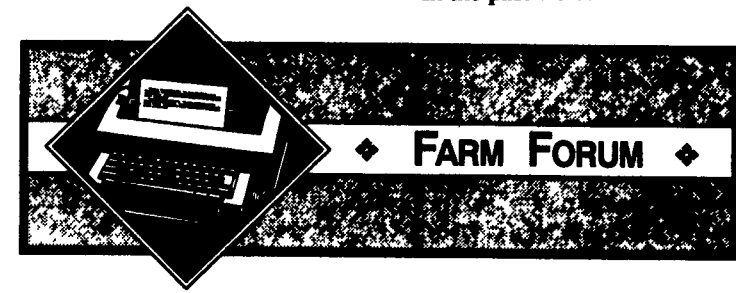
Pa. Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program, Adams County Nursery, Aspers, 12:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

Wednesday, August 16

Mt. Nebo Fair, Mt. Nebo, thru Aug. 19.

Accent On Plants: Annuals and Perennials, Pittsburgh Civic Garden Center, Pittsburgh, 8:45 a.m.-4 p.m.

Vegetable Growers' Bus Tour To Ag Progress, leaves Montgom-



Editor:

It was with a great deal of interest that I read the articles on development pressure on agricultural land. This was a subject upon which I spent a great deal of time, effort and concern since about 1970, so much so that in 1992 my wife and I donated our development rights to a local conservancy.

However, since then, I have taken a different viewpoint on the

Now Is The Time
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Attend

Ag Progress Days

Penn State's Ag Progress Days will be held Aug. 15-17 at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center, nine miles southwest of State College on Route 45.

This is the largest agricultural technology show in Pennsylvania. Come see the latest in equipment and cultural practices and take a peek into the future.

Learn how Penn State research on crops, soils, pests, dairy, and livestock translates into farming practices. There will be a tractor ride and drive area this year.

Field machinery demonstrations include precision planting, mowing, baling and round bale handling, primary and secondary tillage, and composting. In addition, there will be educational activities, opportunities to ask questions to researchers and extension experts, activities for children, and a variety of food booths.

More than 300 commercial and noncommercial exhibitors will be on the grounds. Admission and parking are free.

The hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday.

To Prevent Poisonings

I just received the 1994 Annual Report of the Central Pennsylvania Poison Center at the Penn State Hershey Medical Center.

Some highlights of the report include:

- Fifty-three percent of poison exposures involved children under the age of six. Medications represented 36 percent of substances, followed by cleaners (9 percent), personal care items (8 percent), and fumes (6 percent).

- Poisonings because of drug ingestion most frequently involved analgesics, specifically aspirin, acetaminophen, and ibuprofen.

In the past we have stressed the

subject. I no longer condemn farmers for selling to developers. My reasons . . . prices paid to farmers are on the decline while the costs of farming are keeping up with inflation and taxes perhaps even exceeding the rate of inflation.

Basically, there are two very powerful forces which drive the action of mankind, one of which is

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importance of keeping people, especially children, away from pesticides and dairy sanitizers and detergents. We need to continue our efforts in those areas.

However, based on this report, we need to be extra careful with medications and household cleaning compounds and keep them away from children under six.

Now is the time to do a check of your home and farm and make sure poisonous compounds are properly stored. Also, post the Poison Control Center number next to all telephones.

For central Pennsylvania, the number is (800) 521-6110.

To Teach

School Bus Safety

It is hard to believe school will be starting soon.

According to Pennsylvania SAFE KIDS Coalition, an estimated 22 million students ride school buses daily. In 1993, seven school bus passengers were killed

and an estimated 5,000 children ages 14 and under were injured in school bus-related crashes.

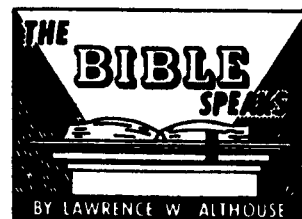
Many injuries occur when children are boarding or exiting because a blind spot extends approximately 10 feet in front of the bus.

Some safety tips you should consider are:

- When waiting for the bus, children should stay out of the street, avoid horseplay, wait for parents on the same side of the street as the school bus loading and unloading zone, and cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus.

- While on the bus, children should: 1. Remain seated at all times and keep the aisles clear; 2. Do not throw objects; 3. Do not shout or distract the driver; 4. Keep hands and arms inside the bus at all times; and 5. Exit from in front of the bus.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Excellence can be yours if you know that the real danger in life is doing nothing."



GETTING THE SIGN
August 13, 1995

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Background Scripture:

Isaiah 7; II Kings 16

Devotional Reading:

Psalms 125:1-5

Put two persons in the same situation and you may well get two radically different interpretations. One person may see it as a dire threat, the other as a challenging opportunity. Which person's perception is the right one? Actually, both are right. If you interpret a situation as threatening, then it is. If, instead, you interpret it as a challenge, perhaps an opportunity, then it is likely to be just that.

Stress research has indicated that those who do most poorly in stressful situations are those who react with fear and anxiety; those who see it as an obstacle to be overcome will be the least affected. In other words, the situation's effect upon us is largely determined by the way we perceive and react to it.

Medical researchers, Doctors Jeanne Achterberg and G. Frank Lawlis, did extensive studies with cancer patients. Having the patients draw pictures of their disease and their therapy. Patients whose drawings depicted their disease markedly stronger than their therapy, proved to be least likely to survive the disease. The drawings, represented their deepest feelings about their chances, in a sense, their faith.

LEARNED FAITH

Another researcher, Dr. Martin E.P. Seligman, has found that people with an optimistic perspective on life are generally happier, healthier and achieve more. Furthermore, says Dr. Seligman a positive outlook on life is generally learned. People become hopeful by practicing thinking that way. Correspondingly, helplessness is also learned when people practice a helpless outlook.

What these people are talking about is basically what we have in mind when we speak of faith. Faith preserves us from the tolls of stress. With faith we tend to be

healthier, happier and achieve more. And faith is essentially learned. We can grow in faith if we keep ever before us the promises of God and practice living on those promises. Similarly, unfaith or distrust can also be learned.

King Ahaz of Judah was a man afflicted with learned cynicism. He practiced his negative, hopeless attitude whenever he was confronted by a challenge. So when Israel and Syria brought their armies to attack Jerusalem, Ahaz panicked: "his heart and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind" (7:2).

LEARNED HELPLESSNESS

Ahaz's tragedy is not that he was frightened of his enemies, but that he stayed frightened despite all the signs God sent to assure him. The first of these was the sending of Isaiah with a message of hope: "Take heed, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint . . ." (7:4). To reinforce his message of hope, God tells Isaiah to take along his son, Shearjashub, whose names means "A remnant shall return."

God also sends the king a prophecy concerning the invasion by his enemies: "It shall not stand, and it shall not come to pass" (7:7). And to these signs God adds a magnanimous offer: "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven" (7:10). But Ahaz's mind was steeped in practiced negativism and he refused, not because he didn't want to test God but because he didn't want to test his own faith.

So God gave him yet another sign: "Behold a young woman shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel" — *God with us*. No matter what the challenge or the danger, there is ground for faith in the assurance that God is with us.

So, there were signs aplenty for Ahaz, but there was no room for them in his mind. And, so there are signs aplenty for us, too. Are you getting them?

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