



OPINION

4-H Against Crime

In Pennsylvania, the state police commissioner says violent crime among juveniles has reached alarming proportions. Teen-age hoodlums, armed with deadly weapons, are terrorizing our streets and neighborhoods, committing senseless acts of brutality. Often their victims are other teenagers, but these young criminals ultimately prey on all of us, young and old alike.

Last year, 6,270 juveniles were arrested for violent crimes. And of course, everyone is concerned. The state proposes a get-tough policy. And as children grow up faster, they become liable to be treated as adults earlier in life. But there is a better way. And this way has its roots in agriculture.

We're talking about the 4-H clubs and their volunteer leaders. According to Lamartine Hood, dean, Penn State College of Ag Sciences, there are 117,000 young people who are in the 4-H system in the state, with 12,000 4-Hers in Philadelphia and 6,000 members in Pittsburgh. While there are no records to show if rural youth are more or less likely to be arrested, we know that the young people who have a 4-H experience certainly have an opportunity to learn and grow in the right direction. To us, the recent crime reports only emphasize the need to "train up a child in the way he should go." And 4-H does its part.

It will never be known how many young people have been pointed away from a life of crime into a productive adult life by the 4-H system. But we believe the number is greater than you think.



BST & ME

It was Feb. on the farm and the year was '94.

Dairy farming was pretty good.

Milk prices were rising in the store.

Monsanto came out with a new product.

For short they called it BST.

Give the cows a shot every two weeks

And end up with 15 percent extra for me.

The consumer put up quite a squawk.
They were concerned about safe milk to drink.

But I said I'm still going to use it.

I really don't care what you think.

After my first set of shots production was up.

It was making milk at every turn,

So I said to my wife, "Let's plan a vacation.

This year we'll have money to burn."

When I got my first milk check I noticed

That the total was lower than before.

That was because by using BST

Everyone was shipping much more.

But I said to myself that's easy to solve
I'll milk three times a day for another 15 percent.

But on my next milk check the total was lower,

As on down the milk price went.

Then my herd average shot to 24,000.

I was the talk of the local feed store,

But when I sub the 30 percent increase'

My average was lower than before.

I noticed my cows were getting thinner.

Getting them bred I couldn't seem to do.

My feed rep said, "Oh that's easy to solve,

Just feed more of my high energy brew."

My feed bills began to go higher

And my ability to pay was slipping.

But I said to my wife, "Oh don't be concerned

Just look at all the milk we're shipping."

Then one morning I woke up with chest pain

So I had the doctor check me out

He listened to my heart, X-rayed my lungs

And said, "I see what your pain is about.

You've got to cut back on your work load

If your grandchildren you want to see."

I said, "But doc I just can't.

I'm making money with BST

So I'm going to decrease my hours
And milk two times a day instead of three.
With less milk around it should up the price,
And Monsanto you can keep your BST."

Robert E. Martin
Strasburg



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Observe Corn Maturity

One of the secrets to harvesting high quality corn silage is to harvest the crop at the proper maturity and moisture level.

This is something farmers need to think about now because of all the hot weather and possible drought conditions we are experiencing.

How fast corn matures is determined by growing degree days, not by calendar. The warmer the days and the nights, the greater the growing degree days. This causes the corn to mature and dry down more rapidly.

Hot, dry windy conditions may cause corn to dry down at an accelerated rate. It may be drier than what your casual observations may lead you to think.

Check your corn fields frequently to monitor the rate your silage corn is maturing and drying down. Also, you will want to check your fields now to observe how well the corn has pollinated.

If some of the fields you intend to pick or shell did not pollinate well, you may want to salvage them as silage and harvest your silage fields as grain. However, remember that well-eared corn also makes the best quality silage.

To Consider Cover Crops

Winter cover crops are often overlooked nutrient management tool that can provide numerous benefits.

Many farmers need to empty their manure storage units during the fall season. This means these crop nutrients are applied to cropland at a time of year when they are not needed by a growing crop.

Winter cover crops can take advantage of these nutrients. If you are applying manure to cropland this fall, plan on planting a small grain cover crop such as rye. The rye will take up the available nitrogen and hold it in the plant, preventing its loss to the water supply.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, August 26

Northeast Lamb Pool, Troy Sales Barn, grading 9 a.m., sale 3 p.m.

West Virginia Holstein Association Annual Cattle Sale, Marshall County Fairgrounds, Moundsville, W.Va.

South Central District 4-H Dairy Show, Farm Show Complex. Maryland State Fair, thru Sept. 4. Susquehanna County 4-H Livestock Sale, Harford Fairgrounds, 1 p.m.

Southeast Pa. Fellowship of Christian Farmers second annual summer picnic, Samuel Lew-

(Turn to Page A11)

If the rye is harvested, the nutrients will be utilized as high quality feed. If the rye is killed or plowed in the spring, the nutrients will become available to the following crop.

The rye will also prevent nutrient loss by slowing soil erosion. Rye can be planted as late as November, but the earlier it is planted the more nutrients it will take up and the more it will yield in the spring.

To Watch Potassium Levels

Many of the fresh cow and early lactation problems in dairy cattle could be related to excess levels of potassium in the dry cow ration, especially in the weeks preceding calving, according to Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent.

Excess potassium can tie up calcium and magnesium. A lot of this

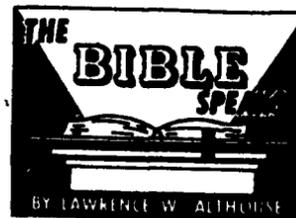
potassium could be coming from feeding forages that are high in potassium.

Heavy applications of manure and/or the application of potash fertilizers can elevate potash levels of legumes, grasses, corn, and other crops.

What is the solution to the problem? Shirk recommends purchasing grass hay for dry cows. This grass hay should be high quality and not grown on heavily manured or heavily fertilized land.

Feed anionic salts such as calcium sulfate, magnesium sulfate, etc. to counteract high potassium levels in the ration. Finally, balance the fresh cow ration for calcium and magnesium, as well as for other nutrients.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Excellence can be yours if you rise every time you fall."



A BANQUET OF
CONSEQUENCES
August 27, 1995

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Background Scripture:

II Kings 17:1-23

Devotional Reading:

Deuteronomy 8:11-20

Someone has said, "Sooner or later we all sit down to a banquet of consequences."

That's what happened to the nation of Israel.

Keep in mind that when King Solomon died, the Hebrews split into two nations: Israel in the north and Judah in the south. In 722 after a considerable siege, Shalmaneser V, king of Assyria, conquered Israel and carried off more than 27,000 of its inhabitants to faraway lands. He also brought foreign peoples to settle in what had been Israel, which is also called Samaria. That is one of the reasons why in Jesus' time there was such hostility between Jews and Samaritans.

The fall of Israel was not something that had happened overnight. For years the prophets had been warning the people that their disobedience to God would bring his judgment upon them. Obviously, these prophetic messages had not much effect upon them then in 722 the prophecies were fulfilled. The Samaritans were a polyglot mixture of peoples.

It is important to realize that Israel was carried off into captivity from which it never returned not because of the sheer might of the Assyrian nation. The cause of Israel's fall was its moral decay; Shalmaneser V and his Assyrian armies were only the means whereby the consequences of this decay were carried out. The problem of Israel in the 8th century B.C. was not the danger without, but the one within.

INTERIOR DECAY

Nations and individuals are more likely to fall from interior decay than exterior perils. For Israel the inner decay included the worship of idols, debauched behavior, disobedience to the commandments of the Lord, human sacrifice, and the practice of sorcery. All of this corrupted the moral fiber of the nation. Israel

would fall, not because of God's anger, but as the natural consequence of their own depravity. Unfortunately, when we decay from within we are not likely to notice it until too late. By the time the inner decay surfaces, the consequences may be inevitable.

But Israel had lots of opportunity to escape the inevitable. Yet the people were oblivious to the moral decay of their nation. God had sent Isaiah and others to alert the people to what was happening. Isaiah had reduced it to a simple formula: "... cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow" (1:16,17). Israel had the opportunity to recognize its sin, repent and receive God's forgiveness. God's invitations were very precise: "Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool" (1:18).

IF YOU'RE WILLING

The thing about prophecy is that its predictions are not inevitable — if we need and change. "If you are willing and obedient you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword" (1:19,20). So prophecy is not intended to pronounce doom, but to inspire repentance. It becomes doom only if we refuse to hear and respond to the message.

In Israel's case it was doom that was chosen. "But they would not listen, but were stubborn, as their fathers had been, who did not believe in the Lord their God" (II Kings 17:14). An old eastern proverb says that calamities sent by heaven may be avoided, but from those we bring on ourselves there is no escape.

While all this was happening to Israel, their southern cousins in Judah were watching. One would think they would learn a lesson from Israel's tragic example and realize that the same banquet of consequences would be their fate as well — unless they repented and changed their ways.

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