



OPINION

Education Across The Rural/City Fence Row

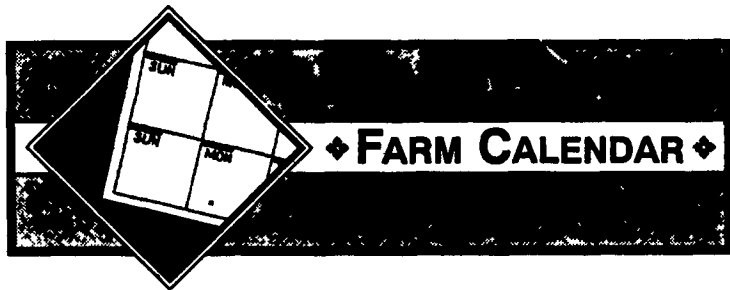
Food and fiber production requires 20 percent of the work force to accomplish the monumental task to feed the nation. These people are involved in plant and animal science, food production, supply, processing, transportation, finance, economics, marketing, leadership, community, public policy, regulation, human nutrition, recreation, trade, environmental stewardship, natural resource conservation, and education. Who says farmers don't have influence on public and social policy?

Within the next 35 to 40 years, world demand for food will double. The leverage future opportunities and meet responsibilities associated with increased population and purchasing power in developing countries, our nation needs a highly-talented cadre of professionals, technicians, and skilled workers in the food system.

That's why we think the new project of The National Council for Agricultural Education (The Council) is so important. This program is called "Reinventing Agricultural Education for the Year 2020, and will be a collaborative, grassroots activity to help redefine, broaden and strengthen agricultural education at local, state, regional, and national levels. The program will begin immediately and conclude in 1998.

The W. K. Kellogg Foundation, Battle Creek, Mich., has provided a three-year, \$1.49 million grant to help fund this initiative as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. The idea behind this program is that agricultural education is the key to create and sustain healthy rural and urban economies, and that it can play an important role in the national education reform movement.

We agree. But we hope the idea is also expanded to include education in the city school system. Not only could this help prepare city youth for the many jobs that will be available in the agriculture/food system, the information gap between farm and city could be effectively filled also. Agricultural education needs to be reinvented on both sides of the rural/city fence row.



Saturday, September 9
Agronomy Field Day, Penn State Campus, Uniontown, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Northeast Classic, Fairgrounds, Montrose, noon.
Agro-Business Initiative Conference, Church Hill Elementary, Church Hill, Md., 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Schaefferstown Harvest Fair, Farm Museum, thru Sept. 10.
Pasture Walk and Grazing meeting, Bath, New York.

Sunday, September 10
Northampton County 4-H Center Family Fun Day and Public Auction, 4-H Center, Nazareth, noon-3 p.m.
Md. Organic Food and Farming Association Annual Field Day, Drew and Joan Norman Farm, Whitehall, Md., 2 p.m.-6 p.m.
East Central Pa. 2-Cylinder Club, JD Antique Show, Pikeville Equipment Co., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Monday, September 11
Greene Township Community Fair, Commodore, thru Sept. 10.
Cloister FFA Chapter Fish Fry and EAYFA meeting, Ephrata High School, 6:45 p.m.
Poultry Management and Health Seminar, Kreider Farms Restaurant, noon.

Tuesday, September 12
Denver Fair, Denver, thru Sept. 16.
Nutrient Management Workshop, Conservation Planning, Uni-

versity Park.
Albion Area Fair, Albion, thru Sept. 16.
Sinking Valley Fair, Altoona, thru Sept. 16.
Managing Milkhouse Waste Water With Jet Pulse Irrigation Field Day, Lane and Judy Sollenberger Dairy, Fayetteville, 10 a.m.-noon.
Where Is Money In Farming? Workshop 1, Shinglehouse, 1 p.m.-3 p.m., also Sept. 19 and 26.
Dauphin County Fall Field Day, Leffler's Farm, Gratz, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Lancaster County Honey Producers meeting, Friends Meeting House, 7 p.m.
Pa. Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program, Jarzinko's Ringtown Mill and Hardware, 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Pa. Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program, Helena Chemical Company, Mifflinville, 12:30 p.m.-3 p.m.
Farm Field Day, Lane and Judy Sollenberger, hosts, Fayetteville, 10 a.m.-12 noon.
Fruit Growers' Twilight meeting, Frank Winter's Side Hill Orchards, Collomsville, 4:30-7:30 p.m.
Lycoming County Fall Crops meeting, Montoursville, Gene Sellers test plot, 10 a.m.-12 noon.
Beekeepers' Meeting, Friends



Now Is The Time
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Control Coccidiosis In Calves

Coccidia organisms may severely impair the health and vigor of calves starting at a very young age according to Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent.

Coccidia oocysts can survive six months or more in the soil and in the fecal material. Thus, reinfections are a continual threat to young cattle. The organism may be killed by extreme temperatures and by prolonged exposure to hot, dry, sunny conditions. Therefore, it is no surprise that coccidiosis is more of a problem during periods when cool, wet, sloppy conditions prevail.

Moving calf hutches to new locations that have been exposed to sunny conditions may help reduce the risk. Calves may be exposed to coccidia organisms soon after birth and for months thereafter. Calves raised in close confinement and calves under stress are at greatest risk. Thus, it is recommended that calves be fed a coccidiostat in their milk replacer and in their calf starter.

Coccidial compounds should be fed until cattle weigh about 800 pounds. Coccidiosis is not a problem in all herds. For more advice on coccidiosis, consult your veterinarian.

To Select Top Rams

According to Chester Hughes, extension livestock agent, the majority of the genetic improvement in a sheep flock results from proper ram selection. Selection of the ram starts with establishing a set of goals and outlining the performance criteria necessary to meet those goals. Purchases should be made from breeders or ram testing stations that provide appropriate performance data. Records are essential, including immunization status, herd health management and medical history.

Fertility evaluation (testicular size and spermatozoa quality) should be part of the selection criteria. Spermatozoa output is directly related to testicular size and weight, which in turn is correlated with body condition. In ram lambs, testicular growth correlates with body growth and levels off at maturity.

The minimum scrotal circumference for a yearling ram (12-18 months) should be 33-34 cm. and 30-31 cm. for a ram lamb (6-9

Meeting House, Lancaster, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, September 13
Berlin Brothers Valley Fair, Berlin, thru Sept. 16.
Williamsburg Farm Show, Williamsburg, thru Sept. 18.

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months). The semen should have a minimum of 30 percent progressively motile spermatozoa and 75 percent morphologically normal spermatozoa and no white blood cells. A complete breeding soundness evaluation includes a thorough physical and conformational examination plus a negative ELISA test for B. ovis within 30 days of purchase.

Purchased animals, regardless of the source, should be isolated for an observation period of 30 days prior to introduction into the flock.

To Provide Cows With Water

Cows need easy access to an abundant supply of good quality water close to feed. Notice the emphasis on easy access, abundant supply, good quality and close to feed.

Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, states our goals are to maximize water and dry matter intakes. If water is close to the feeding area,

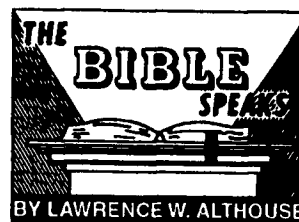
cows are more apt to consume more dry matter.

Are you providing enough waterers and drinking area for the herd? A good indication is whether or not cows have to stand in line for a drink. Are pipe sizes and water pressure great enough? Are water valves of a design that provides generous flow rates? Are the water bowls and valves designed and located in a manner that is easy for cows to operate? In other words, do they encourage or discourage usage?

Would drinking vats be more desirable? Do cow trainers and stray voltage problems hinder intakes? Are the watering devices kept clean? Is the water from the well, the stream or farm pond of good quality?

These are a few things to consider as you evaluate your water system and cows' water intakes.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "Excellence can be yours if you use the intensity of your disappointments to fuel your endeavor."



What Shall We Do?
September 10, 1995

WHAT SHALL WE DO?

Background Scripture:
Acts 2
Devotional Reading:
Acts 2:16-24

My wife went to a store yesterday and, when she got home, she found in the paper bag containing the things she had purchased a Christian tract.

It purported to outline and explain "God's Plan of Salvation." The author claimed to have discovered a system comprising the grace of God. It read pretty much like a corporation's organizational chart or a detailed legal document. The writer implied that, if the reader understood the tract, they also understood the grace of God.

This reminded me of the little girl who was busy with crayons and paper and, when her father asked what she was doing, replied, "I'm drawing a picture of God." "But no one knows what he looks like," the father protested. "They will when I'm finished," she snapped.

SURELY YOU KNOW!

Lots of us are sure we can cut through all the mystery and transcendence of God and serve Him up in a nice little system. But all these systems come from human minds rather than from God. They make simplistic what is beyond full human comprehension. Whenever we think that we have captured God in one of our human systems, we need to remember what God said to Job: "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements — surely you know!" (Job 38:4,5).

Yet, although we should never assume we have reduced God and His grace to a formula, neither should we make difficult and complex what is deceptively simple. In Acts 2, Peter preaches movingly at Pentecost. "Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the Apostles, 'Brethren, what shall we do?' And Peter said

to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins'" (2:37,38).

I wouldn't pretend that the length and breadth, height and depth of the grace of God can be reduced to a system, but the question of "What shall we do...?" can be answered, not with arrogance, but humility.

When we hear the Good News of Jesus Christ, most of us will be "cut to the heart" with a sense of our own moral failure. In a sense, the Good News starts with what may seem to be the Bad News — our need to repent. "What shall we do?" In simple language: "Repent..." To respond to God's Good News in Jesus Christ we need to acknowledge that we have not done what He wants or been what He has created us to be. We need to realize our need for His forgiveness. Nothing complicated about that.

A GIFT OF ALL

"Repent and be baptized..." Baptism symbolizes the grace of God that is poured out upon us when we acknowledge our need for him. It is the sign of our commitment to Him and His kingdom. It is a public avowal that we have received God's grace and what we intend to do about it. Nothing complicated about that either.

Now, we are ready and able to receive God's empowerment: "...and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (2:38). Lots of people would prefer to argue about the Holy Spirit than let it be channeled through their lives. But the Holy Spirit is not some rare gift to the few, but the common legacy of all who surrender themselves to God's grace. You don't have to understand an elaborate system in order for the Holy Spirit to be alive and well in your life.

"Brethren, what shall we do?" The answer is simple, but never simplistic: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Lancaster Farming

Established 1955

Published Every Saturday

Ephrata Review Building

1 E. Main St.

Ephrata, PA 17522

—by—

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