



OPINION Storekeepers?

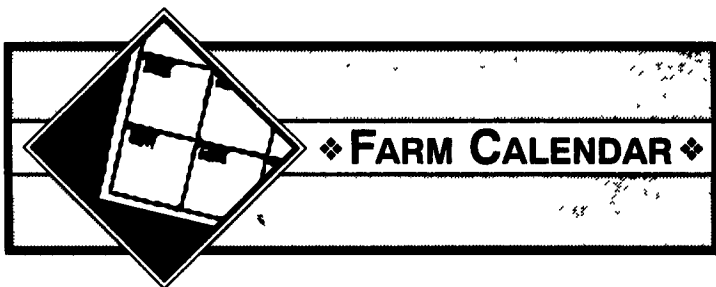
Editor's Note: The following excerpts were written more than a half-century ago. But they contain a certain reality that can be felt by the farmer-at-heart even today.

"—a hord of tattered feverish Americans poured in. And such was their hunger for land that they—guarded with guns the land—. They put up houses and barns, they turned the earth and planted crops. And these things were possession, and possession was ownership. —frantically—Americans wanted land.

"Then with time—their children grew up and had children on the land. And the hunger was gone from them, the feral hunger, the gnawing, tearing hunger for land, for water and earth and the good sky over it, for the green thrusting grass, for the swelling roots. They had these things so completely that they did not know about them any more. They had no more the stomach-tearing lust for a rich acre and a shining blade to plow it, for seed and a windmill beating its wings in the air. They arose in the dark no more to hear the sleepy birds' first chittering, and the morning wind around the house while they waited, for the first light, to go out to the dear acres.

These things were lost, and crops were reckoned in dollars, and land was valued by principal plus interest, and crops were bought and sold before they were planted. Then crop failure, drought, and flood were no longer little deaths within life, but simple losses of money. And all their love was thinned with money, and all their fierceness dribbled away in interest until they were no longer farmers at all, but little shopkeepers of crops, little manufacturers who must sell before they can make. Then those farmers who were not good shopkeepers lost their land to good shopkeepers. No matter how clever, how loving a man might be with earth and growing things, he could not survive if he were also not a good shopkeeper. And as time went on, the business men had the farms, and the farms grew larger, but there were fewer of them.

"—And it came about that owners no longer worked on their farms. They farmed on paper, and they forgot the land, the smell, the feel of it, and remembered only that they owned it, remembered only what they gained and lost by it. And some of the farms grew so large that one man could not even conceive of them any more, so large that it took batteries of bookkeepers to keep track of interest and gain and loss; chemists to test the soil, to replenish; straw bosses to see that the stooping men were moving along the rows as swiftly as the material of their bodies could stand. Then such a farmer really became a storekeeper, and kept a store. He paid the men, sold them food, and took the money back. And after a while he did not pay the men at all, and saved bookkeeping. These farms gave food on credit. A man might work and feed himself; and when the work was done, he might find that he owed money to the company. And the owners not only did not work the farms any more, many of them had never seen the farms they owned." —From *The Grapes Of Wrath*, by John Steinbeck. Copyright 1939.



Saturday, October 28

Md. Shorthorn Association Fall Calf Sale, Federick Fairgrounds, Frederick, Md., 7 p.m.
HRM Discussion and Pasture Walk, Bonanza Restaurant, Mansfield, 10 a.m.

Sunday, October 29
Daylight Saving Time Ends

Monday, October 30

Computerized Farm Recordkeeping Workshop, DuBois, Workshop 1, 6 p.m.-10 p.m., repeats Nov. 6 and 13.

Tuesday, October 31
Halloween

Computerized Farm Recordkeeping Workshop, Ridgway, 6 p.m.-10 p.m., repeats Nov. 14 and 21.

Penn Jersey Equine Short Course For Barn Managers, Ramada Inn, Delaware Water Gap, 9:30

a.m.-4 p.m., also Nov. 7.

Wednesday, November 1

Computerized Farm Recordkeeping Workshop, Ulysses, 6 p.m.-10 p.m., repeats Nov. 15 and 22.

Va. Cattle Health Conference, Ingleside Hotel, Stanton, Va.
Lebanon Extension Annual Banquet, Schaefferstown Fire Hall, 7 p.m.

Penn Jersey Equine Short Course For Barn Managers, Heritage Family Restaurant, Franconia, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., also Nov. 8.
Annual Farmland Preservation meeting, York County Vo-Tech School, 7 p.m.

Beef Replacement, Heifer Management Program, Frostburg State University, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, November 2

Carroll County Md. Private Applicator exam, Carroll County Extension Office, 1 p.m.-3 p.m., or 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

**Now Is
The Time**
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Check Smoke Detectors

This weekend marks the end of Daylight Saving Time. At 2 a.m. Sunday morning, we are supposed to turn our clocks back one hour, otherwise we will be at church one hour early.

This Sunday also marks "Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery Day." The International Association of Fire Chiefs sponsors this day to encourage homeowners to change the batteries in their smoke detectors the same time they turn back their clocks. This helps to insure all battery operated smoke detectors are kept operational.

If you do not have smoke detectors installed in your home, now would be a could time to do it. If you have smoke detectors in your home, change their batteries this weekend and look to see if you need to install additional smoke detectors.

Properly located and operational smoke detectors saves lives. So check your smoke detectors and change their batteries this weekend.

To Produce Healthy Calves

Healthy and vigorous calves start with cows and heifers that are healthy, properly fed, and well cared for to calving, according to Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent.

To help reduce stress on the calf and its dam at time of calving, someone should be present to render assistance if necessary.

As soon as the calf is born, be sure air passages are open and that it is breathing. Another concern is to protect the newborn calf from exposure to infectious organisms. This starts with providing the dam with a clean maternity area.

One of the best places is a well sodded pasture. Then separate the calf from its dam immediately after birth and move it to its own

ADADC Dist. 13 meeting, Dibbles Inn, Vernon, N.Y., 7:45 p.m.
Berks County Farm-City Banquet, Riveredge Restaurant, Greenfield, dinner 7 p.m.
MAEF Annual Dinner, Turf Valley Country Club and Hotel, Ellicott City, dinner 7:15 p.m.
Erie County Cooperative Extension annual meeting, Waterfall Restaurant, Erie, dinner 7:30 p.m.
Wyoming County Cooperative Extension annual meeting, Nicholson Fire Hall, 7:30 p.m.
Farm-City Dinner, Centre County Vo-Tech School, Pleasant Gap, 6 p.m.
Bradford County Extension meeting, Troy High School, 7:30 p.m.

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individual pen or hutch. This minimizes the risk of the calf ingesting any Johnes contaminated fecal material from older animals.

Do not even let the calf nurse its dam. Instead, wash the dam's udder, milk out some colostrum, and bottle feed it to the calf. Aim to have at least 1 to 2 quarts of colostrum into the calf within the first hour of birth and about 4 quarts by 6 to 8 hours after birth.

The early feeding of colostrum is key to the health and life of the calf. It is the calf's first line of defense. Also, dip the calf's naval in tincture of iodine.

To Prevent Accidents

Dr. Zoann Parker, extension 4-H agent, reminds us accidents are the leading killer of children.

More children die from preventable injuries each year than from all childhood diseases combined. Last year, nearly 8,000 children under 14 were killed and 50,000 were permanently disabled. This year one child in four will suffer a

preventable injury serious enough to require medical attention.

The major risk areas for kids fall into five groupings: motor vehicle accidents, fires and burns, drownings, falls and poisonings and chokings.

What can you do to prevent these things? Some ways are:

- When children are passengers in a car, they must wear seat belts.
- As children grow up they also need instruction in safe bicycle riding and crossing streets.

- Children need to learn what to do if the smoke detector awakens them.

- They should be taught to swim as early as possible and to respect water.

- Keep poisons, cleaning materials, and medicines away from children.

By always thinking and practicing safety, you could prevent a very serious accident.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Remember you have the power to choose your direction in all aspects of life."

THE BIBLE SPEAKS
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE
LETTING THE GLORY OUT
October 29, 1995

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Background Scripture:
Acts 11:19-30; 12:24,25
Devotional Reading:
Acts 12:1-11

John Lahr, son of Bert Lahr who is best remembered as the Cowardly Lion in *The Wizard of Oz*, wrote of the seemingly endless array of obstacles director Victor Fleming faced in producing that movie. "How do you get a rusted Tin Woodsman off his mound of earth and onto the road for a dance? How will the Cowardly Lion wag the tail of his one-hundred pound lion suit? How do you teach 350 Munchkins to sing 'We Welcome You to Munchkin Land,' when only a third of them speak English?" The key, says Lahr, was Fleming's production philosophy: "Don't get excited — obstacles make a better picture."

I have been a long time in beginning to learn that obstacles also make a better life. I confess that I'd rather not have it that way. I would prefer that life be always onward and upward, progress steady on a 45-degree angle. I would probably sacrifice a few big victories for a steady procession of little ones.

PAINS AND GAINS

Yet, I have personally experienced that obstacles have often provided me with some of my best opportunities. And what I have regarded initially as defeat has often been seen in retrospect as an opportunity for victory. The problem is that I do not have the divine intelligence and understanding to know what is defeat and what is victory. Some of the biggest gains and growths in my life have come to me in the midst of what seemed like insurmountable obstacles. Sometimes the experiences that have saddened and depressed me most have yielded the greatest growth and understanding.

Unfortunately, at the moment I faced those obstacles, it seemed anything but a time of encouragement or hope. That's the problem — confronted by an obstacle we cannot see our situation clearly.

Someone once said, "Obstacles are those frightening things you see when you take your eyes off your goal."

This is obvious — at least to us — in the earliest days of the life of the Church. Stephen was stoned to death and the terrible persecution broke out against the church. A black day for the cause of Christ? Not necessarily. "Now those who were scattered because of the persecution ... traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch" (11:10). The persecution actually served a good purpose because it ignited the spread of Christianity from Jerusalem to other cities.

THE CHOICE

But it's not automatic. The persecuted Christians might have decided to cease and desist from practicing their new faith in their places of refuge. If they had done that there would have been no spread of the gospel there. But the refugees chose to seize their opportunities and the gospel prospered as a result. And because news of the growth of the gospel at Antioch got back to Jerusalem, Barnabas was sent there. And Barnabas persuaded Paul to join him, thus initiating one of the great missionary movements of Christian history. It is amazing what can happen when we choose to regard our obstacles as opportunities.

But after the good news from Antioch, there was also some bad news. A prophet there by the name of Agabus foretold that there would be a great famine over all the world. Another obstacle — but also another opportunity. "And the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea..." (11:29). The famine was an obstacle, but it was also an opportunity for the church to experience Christian love and brotherhood.

As Edwin Markham has written: *Defeat may serve as well as victory to shake the soul and let the glory out.*

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