



OPINION

Recently the world heard about a memorable baseball event—Cal Ripken, in breaking an old record held by Lou Gehrig, set a new one for consecutive games played. A hero to the people of Baltimore and to baseball fans everywhere, Cal Ripken is a dedicated, committed individual with a strong work ethic. But so are many in the American work force—workers who go unrecognized and unsung.

Without detracting from Ripken's accomplishments, we can acknowledge the many individuals who strive daily in the field of agriculture and who exhibit the same straightforward dedication and unending commitment to their jobs of producing food.

Scores of farmers work from daylight to dark producing food for people in Delaware and beyond. These stewards of the land labor during times of ill health, high stress, foul weather and uncertainty to put food on America's tables at a cost much less than in any other country.

The livestock farmer is on the job every day year-round. The dairy producer milks cows two or three times each day, 365 days a year. Poultry growers tend their chickens twice a day, making sure that feed is always available and the environment in the house is safe and healthy. Beef and hog producers also must provide daily care to their animals.

Grain and vegetable producers are committed to the job of what and when to plant their crops. They work, despite bad weather, to plant, cultivate, and harvest for optimal production. Dry conditions make irrigation necessary, requiring long hours and some sleepless nights to ensure that the crops get adequate water. Hot, dry summers take a severe toll on unirrigated crops as well as livestock and animal performance, reducing profits and increasing emotional stress on the grower.

Yet these people, like Cal Ripken, never give up. They are our American farmers. It is time we salute them, too, for their hard work and dedication, which benefits us all.

Richard E. Fowler
Director
Delaware Cooperative Extension



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

**To Provide
Fresh Air
To Calves**

As outside temperatures drop, farmers could be tempted to house young calves indoors with older cows and heifers.

To help keep the barn warmer, they might close windows and air inlets.

According to Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, that could be a big, big mistake. It jeopardizes the health of the herd and the lives of the calves.

Calves need fresh air. If calves are housed indoors, it is much more important that the air is kept fresh rather than warm. The air should flow from the calf area to the older animals, not vice versa. Warm moist air from the cow area when pulled into the calf area, exposes the calves to more disease causing organisms and it increases the humidity of the air in the calf area.

Both conditions are unhealthy for calves. Ideally, they should be housed separately for several months, until they have developed sufficient immunity to protect them from disease causing organisms from older animals.

Harvest Drive Family Restaurant, Intercourse.

Pa. Farm Bureau 45th Annual Banquet, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, 7 p.m.

'95 Quality Forages Conference, Shadowbrook Inn, Tunkhannock, 9:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

N.E. Pa. Forage Day, Tunkhannock.

Swine AI One-Day Session, Leesport Farmer's Market, Leesport, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Penn State Income Tax Institute, Days Inn, Butler, thru Nov. 15, Wednesday, November 15


Berks County 4-H Recognition
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N.J. Farm Bureau Annual Convention, Landmark Inn, Cherry Hill, N.J., thru Nov. 14.

Penn State Income Tax Institute, Days Inn, New Kensington, thru Nov. 14.

Md. and Va. Milk Producers Cooperative Association Inc., local district meeting, Fulton Grange Hall, Wakefield, noon. Managing Dry Cow For Maximum Profitability, Mercer County extension, 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 14
Dairy Feed Industry Seminar,



FARM FORUM

Editor:

I am enclosing a news article I have written to include in your paper.

You will be able to look up the data I have researched by using the Market Report listed for the Dewart Livestock Auction. Recorded Oct. 31, 1995.

I have tried to report facts along with inserting a little humor, since it appears we farmers have to be good natured to keep things going when the going gets tough.

I hope you will be interested in printing the article. Inaccurate reports to farmers are very serious, the extra money that we had projected to make on our animal, would have paid another bill at our farm.

Everything has become a critical issue to the farmer at this time. Everyone dealing with agriculture should be able to have papers publish a correct market analysis. The analysis helps projecting to sell at the farm or market.

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**To Prepare Calves
For Cold Weather**

Calves do not need warm housing. However, they do need to be fed more energy on cold days to help them generate more body heat.

This may be accomplished by feeding more milk and grain or offering calves feed of higher energy content. Then we need to help calves retain their body heat.

Their hair coat is an excellent insulator if it is clean, dry and protected from prevailing winds.

Remember, cold, wet surfaces pull heat away from the body. Thus, clean, dry bedding is very important.

**To Increase
Crop Yields**

Looking for a way to increase crop yields? Consider information available from university research trails which compare varieties.

Penn State Agronomy Department conducts trails for corn, soybean, wheat, barley, oats and many forage crops including alfalfa, red

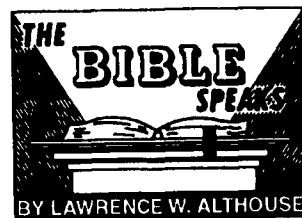
clover, and many grass species.

According to Robert Anderson, extension agronomy agent, plant breeders are constantly improving the productivity of plants by selecting plants which produce more or are less susceptible to insects and diseases.

Penn State has released the 1995 Pennsylvania Winter Wheat and Barley Performance Tests. The test at Landisville, Lancaster County, showed the five best wheat varieties grown this year produced between 123 and 128 bushels per acre and had bushel weights between 55.2 and 57.5 pounds per bushel. That compares to the old standard Redcoat which produced 95 bushels per acre with a weight of 57.3 pounds per bushel in the same test.

Similar results were seen for barley. In 1995 the best barley produced 162 bushels per acre compared to 112 bushels per acre produced by the standard Barsoy.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "A leader makes decisions founded on sound morals and fair judgment."



RESOLVING CONFLICT
November 12, 1995

Resolving Conflict
November 12, 1995

Background Scripture:

Acts 15:1-35

Devotional Reading:

Romans 3:21-31

Sooner or later in religion it comes down to this—or something similar: "But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brethren, 'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved'" (Acts 15:1).

I don't mean that "sooner or later" circumcision becomes an issue, but that inevitably our bright spiritual horizons become clouded with human conflict over religious belief and practice. The problem is not with the various beliefs and practices that are meaningful to us, but our conviction that others must adopt these to be full-fledged followers of Jesus Christ.

I can respect the Christian commitment of both those who practice infant baptism and those who practice infant dedication. Or of those who prefer to take Communion in the pews instead of at the rail, of "trespassers" as well as "debtors," of those who observe only two sacraments as well as those who observe seven. I have little patience with those who, instead of living by the gospel as they perceive it, spend their efforts trying to get others to do so.

What Is Necessary?

Ideally, Christians ought to have fewer conflicts than others, but I don't think it works out that way. Actually, the key is in the way we resolve them. Very often, if we resolve them constructively, we may grow in the process. This is what happened in the early church. When some insisted on circumcision and the laws of Moses as essential for all Christians, church leaders met the challenge in a straight-forward manner.

The deliberations were based not so much upon ideology, as upon testimony to what God had been doing in their midst. Peter reminded them that God had bestowed the Holy Spirit upon uncir-

cumcised Gentiles as well as circumcised Jewish Christians. This experience had been in direct contradiction to what he believed. Paul and Barnabas testified to the "signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles" (15:12). The appeal was to the church's experience, not its belief systems.

Peter also reminds them that none of them will be saved by circumcision or following the laws of Moses. "But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, just as they will" (15:11). All of us, even those of us with the "right beliefs and practices" are solely dependent upon the grace of God.

Only Grace!

So the leaders of the church resolved the conflict in a positive manner and, instead of thundering threats to the gentile Christians, in their letter to them spoke persuasively rather than commandingly. Three times, they say, "it seemed good to us..." (15:22, 25, 28), rather than setting forth dogmatic pronouncements.

We live today in a world where most conflicts are settled either by force or litigation, often unsatisfactorily in the long run. Unfortunately, instead of showing the world how conflicts can be resolved peacefully and constructively, the churches have often provided some of the most glaring examples of how not to solve conflict.

But the Jerusalem Conference gives us a good example, reminding us that we are saved, not by our clever ideologies and rituals, but by the same grace of God that is available to all. As Alan Paton writes, "The tragedy is not that things are broken. The tragedy is that they are not mended again."

(Note: if you are interested in how one denomination is pioneering in the ministry of reconciliation and conflict resolution, send for a sample copy of *Conciliation Quarterly Newsletter*, 21 S. 12th Street, PO Box 500, Akron, PA 17501-0500.)

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**Saturday, November 11
Veterans Day**

Nittany Lion Fall Classic Sale, Ag Arena, State College, 11 a.m.

North American Rhea Association Mini-Seminar and board meeting, Lancaster.

Mushroom Production Workshop, WMREC, Keedysville, Md., 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

W. Va. Farm Bureau annual meeting, Beckley Hotel and Conference Center, Beckley, W.Va., thru Nov. 13.

Berks County Farm Tour, 12 p.m.-5 p.m., thru Nov. 12.

Adams County 4-H Leaders' Banquet, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Biglerville.

Sunday, November 12

Penn-Jersey Equipment Dealers Association Dealer Convention, Champion, thru Nov. 15.

Monday, November 13

1995 National Grange Convention, Harrisburg Hilton and Towers, thru Nov. 19.

Dairy Feed Industry Seminar, Lighthouse Restaurant, Chambersburg, 9 a.m.

Poultry Management and Health Seminar, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, noon.

Pa. Equine Council Annual Membership Meeting and Election, Chambersburg.

Pa. Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, thru Nov. 15.