



OPINION

Farmers Due Respect

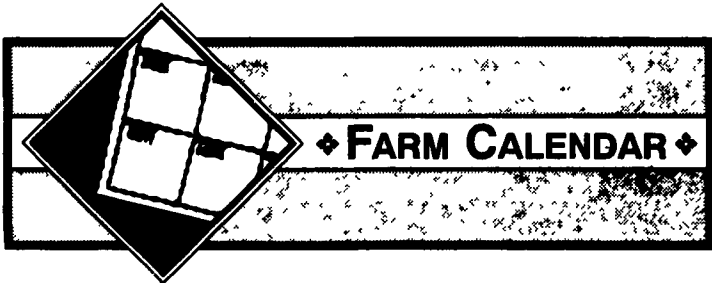
An appropriate tie between the nationally-recognized Farm-City Week activities and Thanksgiving Day brings to mind the fact that everyone should be thankful for the important link between farm and city families. This event runs from Friday, November 17 until the Thanksgiving holiday.

"Farm-City Week provides us with an opportunity to share the message that we are all interdependent on one another," Pennsylvania Ag Secretary, Charles Brosius said. "Farms and cities are a team, working together to provide our nation with the safest, freshest, most affordable food supply in the world."

Without farmers, there would be no food on urban tables. And without urban residents, farm families would have no markets for their products.

In addition to the dependence on the farmer for food, many people's employment depends on the farmer's output. One farmer produces enough food and fiber for 129 people. But to get this food to so many consumers, jobs for people in marketing, transportation, processing, wholesaling and retailing are created. These jobs of distribution are created both by the farmer as his production moves out to the consumer and again as the farm input products, services, and machinery move back from the urban factories to be bought by the farmer. Nearly 20 percent of the total workforce owe their jobs to the farmer.

It's time to tell people that both their food and their paycheck depend on one source—the farmer. It's time to give the farmer due respect. And Farm-City Week to Thanksgiving Day is a good time to do this.



Saturday, November 18
Pa. State Beekeepers meeting, Country Cupboard, Lewisburg.

Sunday, November 19
Farm Visitation Day, William Buser Farm, York County, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Monday, November 20
Pa. State Council of Farm Organizations legislative meeting, Harrisburg.

Vegetable Production School, Carroll County Ag Center, Westminster, Md., thru Nov. 21.

Penn State Income Tax Institute, Country Table Restaurant, Mount Joy, thru Nov. 21.

Tuesday, November 21
Lancaster County Holstein Club annual banquet and meeting, Hoffman Building, Solanco Fairgrounds, 7 p.m.

Lancaster County Ag Industry banquet, Lancaster Host Resort, 6 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. dinner.

Southwest Pa. Hay Auction, Westmoreland Fairgrounds, 11 a.m.

Penn State Income Tax Institute, Embers Convention Center, Carlisle, thru Nov. 22.

Wednesday, November 22
Happy Thanksgiving!

Thursday, November 23
Happy Thanksgiving!

Friday, November 24
Happy Thanksgiving!

Saturday, November 25
Happy Thanksgiving!

Sunday, November 26
Happy Thanksgiving!

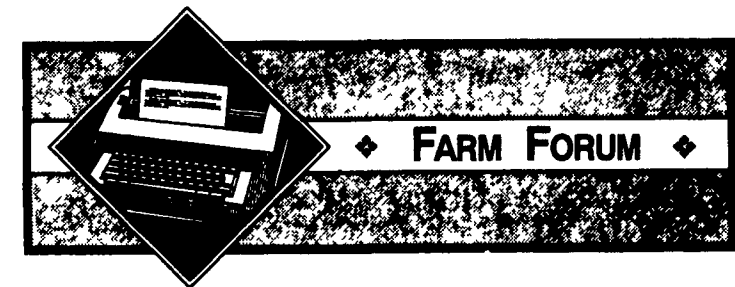
Monday, November 27
Lehigh Valley Horse Council meeting, Whitehall Mall Community Room, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 28
Vegetable School, Arena Restaurant, Bedford, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 29
Designing Modern Milking Center, National Conference, Hyatt Regency, Rochester, N.Y., thru Dec. 1.

Agway regional annual meeting, Sheraton Liverpool.

Penn State Income Tax Institute, Ramada Inn, Wilkes-Barre, thru Nov. 30.



Editor:

One of the things that I always enjoyed about my early ride to school in the morning was seeing the beautiful sunrise above the mountains. The sky was aglow with the colors of pink, orange, yellow, and purple, which illuminated the rippled clouds.

There was a certain spot along my route where at the top of a small hill I could look across the wide, rolling fields and have a perfect view of it.

Then one day I noticed that those fields were no longer fields. They had become construction sites for town houses that were to be built there.

As the months passed, the town houses gradually jugged upward until suddenly my beautiful sunrise was no longer visible. They had been built immediately off the road at the very spot on the hill where I had gazed at the sunrise, but now my view was completely blocked by them.



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Salute American Farmers

Nov. 17-23 is Farm-City Week.

This is the week we recognize the inter relation between farm and city.

As Secretary Brosius states, "Without farms, cities would have no food. Without cities and towns, farmers would have no markets and processing facilities for their products."

Today, one farmer produces enough food and fiber for 129 people. With \$3.73 billion in annual cash receipts, Pennsylvania agriculture generates an additional \$40 billion in related economic activity each year.

Farmers create jobs for 20 percent of Pennsylvania residents. Our food is inexpensive compared to food grown in other countries. Americans spend 11 percent of disposable income on food, less than amount spent on health care. We are able to achieve this through cooperation between farms and cities.

As we celebrate Farm-City Week, remember American agriculture is the envy of the world and we have a lot to be thankful for.

To Price Corn Silage

According to Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, there are many ways for determining the

value of corn silage.

One way is to look at the value of some other feeds that you might feed if you did not have corn silage.

Two such feeds might be ear corn and grass hay. One ton of corn silage dry matter has about the same feed value as a half ton of ear corn plus a half ton of grass hay.

If a half ton of ear corn is worth \$40 and a half ton of grass hay is worth \$40, then their combined worth is \$80. That would be the value of one ton of corn silage dry matter.

However, one ton of 70 percent moisture silage contains only 30 percent dry matter and is worth only 30 percent of that value or about \$24. This is a base to start from.

In addition to moisture, prices need to be adjusted for three things: 1. quality (grain content, length of chop, mold, nitrate levels, etc.); 2. transportation, if distance is a factor; and 3. harvesting costs, if you are buying it out of the field.

To Study

Computer Purchase

Buying a computer and its software may be a stressful and eye-opening experience, especially for

the first-time buyer, according to Alan Strock, extension farm management agent.

Becoming familiar with computer jargon takes time. Take time to understand the terminology. Next, identify the prime and secondary uses you foresee, such as accounting, word processing, electronic spreadsheet, or enterprise management.

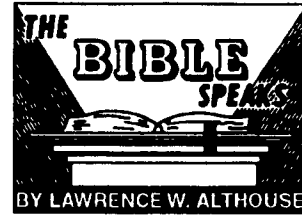
Next, select the software, regardless of brand or operating system, that will meet your needs.

Many vendors of software have demonstration disks that will allow you to run the program to see if it will meet your needs before you buy it. Talk to other farmers who are using computers for recommendations.

Finally, select the computer that will run the selected software and allow expanded uses.

Now is an excellent time to buy a computer as prices are continuing to decline for many models which are not quite "state of the art," but will be extremely functional, especially for the novice computer user.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "The effort we make to achieve our goals magnifies the joy of reaching them."



DISTURBERS OF THE PEACE
November 19, 1995

Disturbers Of The Peace

November 19, 1995

Background Scripture:

Acts 15:36 through 16:40

Devotional Reading:

Acts 15:36 through 16:5

I like peace and quiet as much, if not more, as the next person. Like most people, I tend to equate it with all that is good and desirable and, given the choice, I'd choose it every time.

But, although peace and quiet are generally to be desired, there are times when it is good for the peace to be disturbed. We tend to hibernate rather than grow in the midst of tranquility. So, sometimes it is only when our peace is disturbed that we recognize that there are needs to be filled, wrongs to be righted, changes to be made.

We often make the mistake of assuming that the church is most true to its calling when it avoids disturbing the peace of either its members or the community. Actually, if the church never challenges us, never disturbs our deep sense of self-satisfaction, can it really be the church?

1st Church Eden

I'm not suggesting that the church should think of ways to disturb either its members or the community at large. But, unless your congregation is composed of perfect Christians and your community is without any reproach, just presenting the claims of the gospel will disturb the peace from time to time. If we never disturb the private and public tranquility, I don't see how we can be faithful followers of Jesus Christ, who disturbed the peace almost everywhere he went.

This was also true of the apostles. Like Jesus, wherever they went they met both positive and negative responses. When Paul and Silas arrived in Macedonia, I'm sure they had no intention of stirring up opposition there. But,

as they went about the city, they were followed and nettled by a disturbed slave girl who was being exploited by her owners. Finally, "Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, 'I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her'" (16:18).

Great! Paul healed this poor girl! But her owners didn't think it was so great. Perhaps, up to that moment they had been quite tolerant of these two foreign missionaries. But now their preaching had touched them where they were most sensitive: their pocketbooks. So, we can understand why they dragged Paul and Silas to the magistrates and cried, "These men were Jews and they are disturbing our city" (Jews were forbidden to make converts of Romans). "They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice" (16:20,21).

Touching A Sore Spot

Just how much Paul and Silas had disturbed the peace is indicated by the reaction of the Romans: "The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison..."

That's still not an unusual reaction when today the gospel impinges upon someone's material wealth or profit. Nothing I know will bring a faster, more certain negative reaction. People may be all for morality and righteousness, so long as it doesn't adversely affect profit on the bottom line. Sometimes even, I'm ashamed to admit, churches.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ takes just a reverse attitude: it is all for profit so long as it doesn't affect God's bottom line. When that happens, we cannot help but be disturbers of the peace.

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