



OPINION WHY?

The agriculture industry—farmers, their organizations, and agribusinesses need to focus attention on the lack of knowledge about farming among our nation's young people. The *Poultry Post*, published by the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation, reports in the January issue that 35 percent of teenage girls and 18 percent of teenage boys expressed enough concern for animals that it was the major reason they thought it was a good idea to be a vegetarian.

The Gillette Company receives hundreds of threatening letters every year from students (some encouraged to write by their teachers) about their "Nazi" cruelty to animals in their laboratory. Many young female teachers are likely to teach some or all of the animal rights philosophy.

There is no end to the examples of the prevalence of the animal rights influence in the classroom. But there is little evidence that the agricultural side of the story is being presented.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has a product promotion matching grant program that one dairy group thinks it could use to develop a workbook on agriculture products for fourth grade students. This is commendable but still involves only a limited part of the agriculture industry. And the classroom is only one way young people learn.

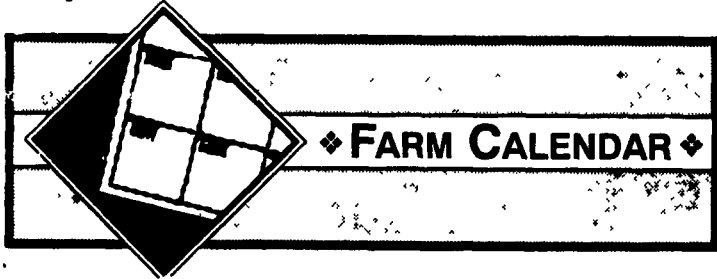
Not only should animal husbandry and technological advances in agriculture be taught in the classroom, the teachers in these classrooms need to be taught, too. In addition, sympathetic agricultural ideas need to invade the kids' educational programs on TV.

And who should get involved? Let's drop a few names. The Grange. Farm Bureau. The Council of Farm Organizations. Penn State's Ag Council. The Council of Cooperatives. The American Dairy Association and Dairy Council Mid East. The Middle Atlantic Milk Marketing Association. The FFA Foundation. The Association of County Agents. The Association of Agriculture Teachers. Every farm organization and business.

Everyone should participate in a project to focus on the humane methods now used to produce animal products and the environmental havoc that would occur if we didn't have farmers there to care for the land.

Agriculture has a very important and positive message to tell. But this good news of food is not getting through to our young people.

Why?



Saturday, January 13
Dauphin County Holstein annual meeting, Western Sizzlin Steakhouse, Harrisburg, 11:45 a.m.
Md. Organic Food and Farming Association annual meeting, Md. Dept. of Ag Headquarters, Annapolis, Md., 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Small Flock and Gamebird Seminar, Carroll County Ag Center, Westminster, 8 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

Sunday, January 14
Monday, January 15
Dairy Managing For Success Program, The Lighthouse Restaurant, Chambersburg, also Jan. 29.

Tuesday, January 16
Lime, Fertilizer, and Pesticide Conference, State College, thru Jan. 18.
Solanco Young Farmers meeting, Survival of the Small Farmer—Networking, Solanco High School.

On-Foot, On-Rail Beef Evaluation, Leesport Market and Peter Bros., also Jan. 18.
New Jersey Annual Vegetable Meeting, Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City, N.J., thru Jan. 18.
Dairy Managing For Success Program, Holiday Inn, Mid-

dlesex, also Jan. 23.
4-H Tractor Safety Program, Lebanon Valley Ag Center, consecutive Tuesday nights, 7 p.m.-8 p.m.
Dairy Forage Feeding Systems, Luzerne County Community College, Nanticoke, 9:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Turf Management Day, Lebanon Expo Center, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Dairy-MAP, Sadie's Restaurant, Beaver Falls, also Jan. 23.
Dairy-MAP, Donohoe Center, Greensburg, also Jan. 23.
Pond Weed Management Seminar, Harford County Administrative Building, Bel Air, Md., 7 p.m.-8 p.m.

Wednesday, January 17
Pa. Cooperatives Director Institute, Nittany Lion Inn, University Park, thru Jan. 19.
Clarion County Dairy Farm Finance Workshop, Clarion County Extension Office, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., also Jan. 24.
Dairy-MAP, Fair Office, Uniontown Fairgrounds, also Jan. 24.
Dairy-MAP, Jack's Mountain View Inn, Sarver-Freeport, also Jan. 24.
Franklin County Extension Dairy Day, Kauffman Community Center.



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

To Control Stress
The Blizzard of 1996 is now history.

With more snow being forecasted for this weekend, our nerves are starting to wear thin.

As people, we are creatures of habit. We like our daily routine without changes. We have developed our management programs that work and require little extra

N.Y. and Pa. Horticultural Producers Conference, Graham's Greenhouse, Bradford, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Kent/Queen Anne's Agronomy Day, American Legion, Chestertown, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, January 18
Two-day Dairy-MAP School, Lancaster County, also Jan. 25.
Dairy-MAP, Cambria County Extension office, Ebensburg, also Jan. 25.

Dairy-MAP, Washington County Extension, Washington, also Jan. 25.

Adams County Extension Banquet, Community Fire Hall, York Springs, 6:30 p.m.

York County Holstein Banquet, Shrewsbury Fire Hall, 7 p.m.
PA State Association of County Fairs, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, through Jan. 20.

Friday, January 19
Centre/Clinton Crops Day, Pleasant Gap, 9:30 a.m.

Lycoming Crops and Dairy Day, Pennsdale Fire Hall, 9:30 a.m.

Two-day Dairy-MAP School, Lancaster County, also Jan. 26.
McKean-Potter Crops Day, St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, Port Allegany, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Saturday, January 20
Beaver/Lawrence Holstein annual meeting, 11:30 a.m.

Bradford County annual meeting, Bonanza Steakhouse, Wysox, noon.

Maple Production School Video Conference, Bradford County Extension office, Towanda, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Alternative Income Conference, Church Hill Elementary School, 8:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m.
Holstein Club annual meeting, Bonanza Restaurant, Wysox, noon.

Sunday, January 21
Delaware Co. Cooperative Extension open house, Smedley Park, Springfield, PA. 3:30-6:30 p.m.

Monday, January 22
Adams County Corn Clinic, York Springs, 9:30 a.m.

Dairy MAP Management For Success, Schuylkill County Ag Center, Pottsville, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., also Jan. 29.

Tuesday, January 23
Franklin County Corn Clinic, Kauffman Community Center, 9:30 a.m.

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effort.

The real test of people is how we handle the unexpected, such as 30 inches of snow. Attitude determines how we cope. Since we cannot change the weather, we must work to control the results.

Some ideas on how to cope:

- Take time to enjoy the snow.
- Spend some time playing with the children.
- Get plenty of rest.
- Do preventative maintenance on equipment. The few extra minutes checking and replacing worn parts could save many hours of fixing breakdowns under less-than-ideal situations.
- Help neighbors and work together to help each other.

By keeping a good attitude, things go better and people will enjoy being around you.

To Watch Roofs

With this much snow coupled with drifts, roofs could begin to fail, especially if we receive rain or sleet.

The snow will act as sponge, absorb water, and increase its weight.

Often snow piles up very deep at certain spots on the roof. Do a check of your roofs, especially flat roofs or ones with very little slope.

Some shoveling of snow now could prevent a major problem later.

When shoveling roofs, be sure to take some safety precautions. Use ropes and make sure they are securely fastened to help prevent you from falling off.

To Check Ventilation Systems

Another area you will want to check is the components of your ventilation system.

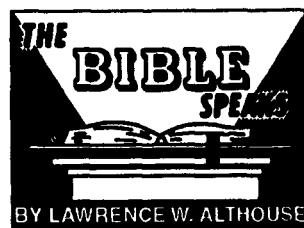
Check inlets to make sure snow has not blocked them closed. Next, check the fans to make sure they are not snowed in.

Finally, check your standby generator to make sure it is operating. Make sure you have adequate fuel to operate the generator for several days.

Also, check all vents to generators, heaters, furnaces, dryers, etc. to make sure they are not blocked. This will ensure proper operation and prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

If you are using space heaters, follow all safety precautions to prevent fires and carbon monoxide poisoning.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "What happens to a person is less significant than what happens within him."



FAILING GLORIOUSLY
January 14, 1996

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Background Scripture:

Isaiah 49:1-6

Devotional Reading:

Malachi 3:1-5

Longinus wrote, "In great attempts it is glorious even to fail."

I don't know who Longinus is, but I wish I had come across that quotation decades ago. Learning to deal with failure and disappointment is one of our hardest lessons and perhaps some of us never pass the course. Fortunately, God permits us to take the exam over and over again.

Failure is particularly hard to handle when we think we are doing something for God. When I came out of seminary, I naively expected that I would evangelize my parish the first year, all of Harrisburg the second year, and the rest of the state of Pennsylvania the year after that. (I'm overstating the case just a little!)

Well, it didn't go like that and there were certainly times when I could have easily joined Isaiah in complaining, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity..." (49:4a). There must be times in the lives of each of us when we feel that way.

THE LAST WORD

It is strange that we should be so discouraged by what appear to be poor results. After all, we follow Jesus who died on a cross in shame and defeat. Of course, you and I know that he was raised from the tomb and vindicated. So, the last word on Christ's ministry and mission was pronounced, not by the world, but by God. So it is with us, too.

The Servant comes to this realization, too: "...yet surely my right is with the Lord, and my recompense with my God." We are justified in our discipleship, not by the judgements of the world, but by

those which come from God. In his book, *The Keys of the Kingdom*, A. J. Cronin says, "One should remember that the defeated still have everything if they still have God." If we still have God we are never defeated and our work is not in vain!

I do not deny that earthly honor is nice to receive. But no matter how sweet those accolades are, they do not last. As the Servant says, "I am honored in the eyes of the Lord, and my God has become my strength..." (49:5b). There it is: if I can focus upon my honor in the eyes of the Lord, I cannot be defeated and my life cannot be wasted.

A BIGGER TASK!

God makes a surprising response to the discouraged Servant. Despondent in the results of his mission to date, the Servant's mission is expanded rather than reduced. Originally he was to revive Israel. But, says God, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth" (49:6).

In the face of the staggering tasks to which God calls us, it is vital for us to realize that "my God has become my strength." Whatever we need to do what God calls us to do is to be found in him alone. It is nice to have our efforts recognized. It is wonderful to have someone supporting us in our efforts. But only the strength that God gives us is sufficient for the tasks to which he calls us.

It may seem as if we are failing, but let us remember that "In great attempts it is glorious even to fail." So let us not duck the great challenges to which he calls us. And, if we fail, let us fail gloriously!

Lancaster Farming

Established 1955

Published Every Saturday

Ephrata Review Building
1 E. Main St.
Ephrata, PA 17522

—by—

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