



## OPINION

### Unruly Bread Lines

The blizzard of '96 destroyed the myth held by many consumers. Milk, bread, eggs, and meat do not grow on grocery store shelves.

Isn't it interesting that when people think they may not be able to get food, they go into what William Schreiber, general manager, Holly Milk, calls a "mob mentality"? And it is always the basic foods close to the farm they fight for.

A bread truck driver in south central Pennsylvania was hospitalized at the height of the empty shelf syndrome when panicked store customers mobbed him as he tried to unload his truck outside the store in preparation to fill the empty space in the store. If the short term reduction in our basic food supply causes such violence, what would a permanent reduction in our nation's food supply bring?

Actually, we foresee a growing permanent reduction to the supply of basic farm commodities such as milk, pork, and maybe even cereal grains. While no one really wants to face this reality, the economic pressures on the farmer has caused a reduction in basic food supplies available, especially those produced close to our eastern population centers. Pressure from the weather, housing and shopping center development, property taxation, nutrient management regulations, and the lack of competition among processors is causing farmers to give up. And many of these farms that are being abandoned are now growing houses or put into the ever-popular but unproductive "open space."

As basic commodities must be shipped from western states to our eastern markets, the opportunity increases for food supply shortages to be realized from transportation disruptions.

We think permanent shortages of basic foods are a realistic possibility. Forecasters say short milk supplies are likely in 1996. And the recent price-hit hog farmers have taken has noticeably reduced pork supplies. At the same time, exports of farm commodities are expanding.

The panic at the grocery store from the relatively small disruption in the food supply during the recent snow storm certainly indicates a much larger problem if the shortages become permanent.

Don't say it couldn't happen. It is already a very real problem in other countries where political and social programs have destroyed the farm economy.

Let's start now to take better care of our farmers by improving their paycheck for our food and for their good production practices. We have many good farmers who would like to continue their way of life if they could just make a living at it. To pay farmers well to continue to produce our abundant food supply seems like a much more pleasant prospect than to need to call out the national guard to police the unruly bread lines at the local grocery store when the shelves are empty.



### Now Is The Time By John Schwartz

Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent

#### To Learn About Nutrient Management

The proposed Nutrient Management Regulations have been published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on December 30, 1995.

There is a 90-day public comment period for people to make comments, suggestions, or objections regarding the proposed regulations. The regulations define concentrated animal units, contents of a nutrient management plan, manure application, manure management, storm water runoff control, manure storage, and record keeping requirements.

Also, the proposed regulations detail manure marketing procedures, well location, manure spreading, and financial assistance.

These are very important regulations for Pennsylvania agriculture. All farmers should understand the proposed regulations and make appropriate comments to the State Conservation Commission.

#### To Attend Meetings On Nutrient Management Regulations

The State Conservation Commission will be holding a series of informational meetings on the proposed regulations before the public hearings.

The informational meetings will be held Jan. 30 at Sommerset County Vo-Tech, Jan. 31 at Mercer County Cooperative Extension, Feb. 1 at Wysox Fire Hall, Feb. 8 at Brynwood Inn, Feb. 12 at Shippensburg Sr. High School, and Feb. 13 at Lancaster County Farm and Home Center.

All meetings are from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. There will be an additional meeting from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Lancaster site.

Mt. Joy Co-op's annual meeting, Country Table Restaurant, Mount Joy, 11:30 a.m.

Dairy Cattle Hoof Care barn meeting, Stanley and Janice Burkholder Farm, Chambersburg, 10 a.m.

Nutrient Management Information Meeting and Hearing, Leslie N. Firth Learning Center, Mercer, 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 1  
Lancaster County Cooperative Extension meeting, Farm and Home Center.

Lancaster (Raleigh) DHIA record meeting, White Horse Fire Hall, 12:30 p.m.

Jefferson/Clearfield Counties Annual Dairy/Crops Day, Holiday Inn, DuBois, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Nutrient Management Information Meeting and Hearing, Wysox Fire Hall, Wysox, 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

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There will be four public hearings in March for people to make public comments. Also, people may make written comments to the State Conservation Commission, Room 304, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg PA 17110.

For more details on the comment procedure, meetings, hearings and details of the regulations, contact Karl Brown, State Conservation Commission, at (717) 787-8821.

In addition to these meetings, this topic will be discussed at many meetings sponsored by cooperative extension, conservation districts, and other farm organizations.

Plan to attend, learn about the proposed regulations, and take an active part in this regulatory process.

#### To Know Wood Stove Safety

Most people enjoy the comfort and warmth of a wood fire in the fireplace or wood stove. However, safety when using the fireplace or

wood stove should not be overlooked, according to Robert Anderson, extension agronomy agent.

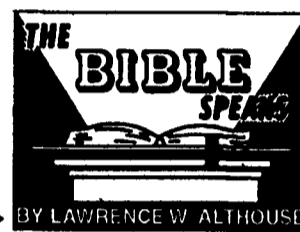
The burning of any wood, no matter how dry, will produce creosote which will build up in the chimney or flue pipe. The creosote buildup will ignite anytime the temperature reaches 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

A wood fire can produce temperatures of more than 1,300 degrees within minutes. To be safe, chimneys and stovepipes should be cleaned of all soot and creosote at least once a year to prevent the damage of a fire.

It is a good idea to check the chimney or stovepipe every time the fire is left to go out. If a buildup of creosote is found, cleaning is needed.

If you have a wood stove, it should be at least 36 inches away from any combustible surfaces to the side and 18 inches above the floor.

*Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "A leader envisions endless possibilities and acts upon them."*



TICKER TAPE AIN'T  
SPAGHETTI  
January 28, 1996

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Background Scripture:

Isaiah 52:13 through 53:12

Devotional Reading:

Revelation 3:14-21

Somewhere in Mexico there is a famous statue sculpted by Jesus Garcia. It has a most peculiar name: "In Spite Of." In the midst of sculpting the statue, Garcia lost his right hand. That should have halted forever his work on it, but Garcia determined that he would learn to sculpt with his left hand and finish the statue. He did learn to do so and some critics said he actually did better with his left hand than his right. So, in honor of this man's perseverance, they called that statue "In Spite Of." It should have been Garcia's defeat; instead, he made it a resounding victory.

I have asked myself whether, if I had been Garcia, I would have thrown in the towel if I had lost one of my hands. I like to think I would have persevered as he did, but I don't really know. Lots of life's greatest struggles are defeats only because we surrender halfway through. Bennett Cerf tells of a boy named Tommy Noonan who picked up a nice piece of change mowing neighbors' lawns after school. One day his mother chided him for not getting started right after school and he replied: "I'm waiting for them to start themselves. I get most of my work from people who are halfway through."

#### FOURTH SERVANT SONG

The fourth Servant Song of Isaiah (Isaiah 52:13 to 53:12) is the victory song of the servant. But until near the very end of it, it doesn't sound like a song of victory. In fact, it sounds like downright defeat. For, although God had promised, "Behold, my servant shall prosper, he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high," the Servant "was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief..." (52:13, 53:3). The

Servant of Isaiah had become the Suffering Servant.

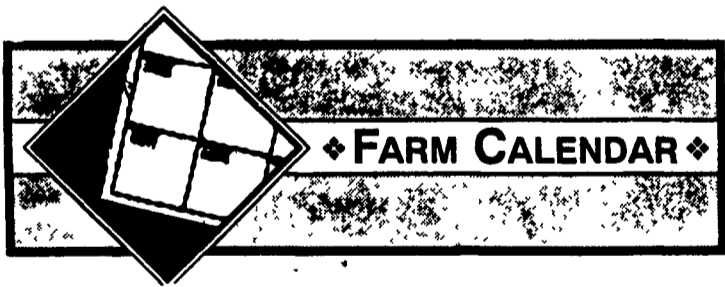
The early Christian church saw Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of this prophecy. Like the Servant of Isaiah, Jesus also "has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; ... he was wounded for our transgression, he was bruised for our iniquities..." (53:4, 5). Yet the suffering of Christ was not defeat, but victory: "upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed..." The victory of the Suffering Servant and Jesus Christ was not escape from suffering, but turning suffering into healing and wholeness for many.

The Servant does not seek suffering, but neither does he or she flinch from it if God's purpose may be realized. Victory is determined and pronounced, not by the world, but by God. "Therefore I will divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out his soul to death, and was numbered with the transgressors" (53:12).

#### WOUNDED FOR US

Jesus neither sought martyrdom nor did he run from it. For the sake of the love and will of God "he poured out his soul to death." The passion of Jesus was not about dying, but about pouring out one's soul for others. And his manner was not one of defiance, but of vicarious love. He did not go to the cross cursing his enemies or protesting his innocence. Instead, "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth" (53:7).

The Servant and Jesus—or Jesus the Servant, if you like—show us how to both live and die victoriously. Real victory is not winning in the world's eyes. As the late mayor of New York, Fiorello LaGuardia, once observed, "Ticker tape ain't spaghetti." It is a common human failing to spend our lives on ticker tape. But the real victory lies far beyond that.



#### Saturday, January 27

Agro Business Initiative Conference, Church Hill Elementary School, Church Hill, Md.

York County Fruit Growers' Association annual banquet, Olde York Valley Inn, York, 6 p.m.

#### Sunday, January 28

#### Monday, January 29

Beef Feeders' Educational Meeting, Midway Diner, Bethel, 5:30 p.m.

Adams County Dairy Day, Hoss's Steak and Sea House, Gettysburg, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Dairy Agribusiness Luncheon Meeting, Garden Gate Restaurant, Butler, noon-2 p.m.

11th annual Elk/Cameron Crops Day, Bavarian Hills Golf Course, St. Marys, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

#### Tuesday, January 30

Pa. Crop Conference, Embers Inn, Carlisle, 9:30 a.m.

Pa. Vegetable Conference and

Trade Show, Hershey, thru Feb. 2.

Solanco Young Farmers' meeting, pesticide re-certification, Solanco High School.

Cattle Feeder Day, rescheduled to Feb. 6.

PFGC annual meeting and award luncheon during Crops Conference.

State Conservation Commission Nutrient Management Information Meeting and Hearing, Somerset County Vo-Tech., Somerset, 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

#### Wednesday, January 31

Penn State Christmas Tree Management Short Course, Penn State Scanticon Conference Center and Hotel, State College, thru Feb. 2.

Soil Fertility School, Lebanon Valley Expo Center, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Also Feb. 7.

Northumberland County Winter Conference, Otterbein United Methodist Church Hall, Sunbury, 10 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

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