



OPINION

Winter-Machine Addicts

The problems for farmers caused by weather-induced circumstances have been reported extensively during the blizzard of '96. Many dairymen had to dump milk because rural roads and farm lanes were filled with drifting snow. Milk and feed trucks could not make their rounds either.

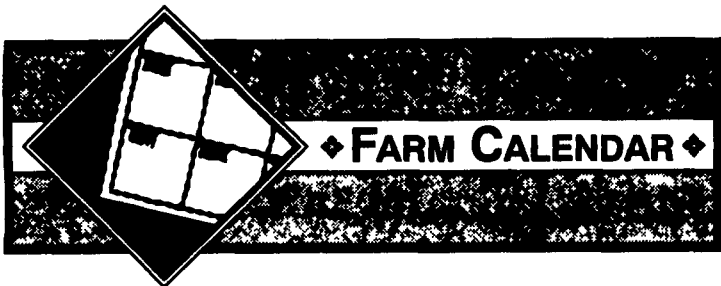
Floods also washed out fields and fences. Frozen water pipes, power outages, and stranded cars, trucks, and cattle all added to the increased workload of winter around the farm.

One nuisance of winter on the farm that often does not receive attention is the intrusion of snowmobiles on private farmlands. Intoxicated with speed and the seemingly boundless open space created by the deep cover of snow causes many otherwise law-abiding good neighbors to lose their decency.

Zooming around farm buildings, through front yards, over tender alfalfa plants and summer tree seedlings, these stupefied winter-machine addicts frighten livestock, endanger the farm family and destroy crops with their frantic sharp-turn snow donuts and field crisscrosses.

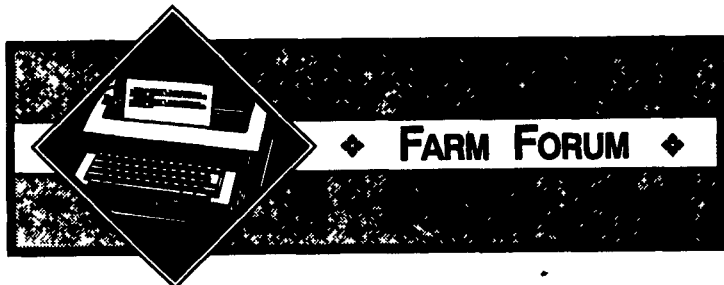
Not only are farmers faced with property and production loss or bodily harm to the farm family, the liability factor is always present. Suppose the snowmobile invader hits a concealed tree stump or drives his machine into the farm pond or manure pit and is hospitalized, or worse?

We think those who want to run snowmobiles should treat their farm hosts as they would want to be treated at home or at their place of employment. They should ask permission. And they should be careful to not damage property or cause any reduction in income from crops or livestock since this is the farmer's home and this is how the farmer makes a living.



- Saturday, February 3**
 Ephrata Area Young Farmers annual banquet, Mt. Airy Fire Hall, 6:45 p.m.
 Maryland Holstein Frederick County dance, Walkersville.
- Sunday, February 4**
Monday, February 5
 Adams County Crops/Nutrient Management Workshop, Adams County, Extension Office, Gettysburg, 10 a.m.
 Beef Production Seminar, Wesley Grange, 7 p.m. Also Feb. 12.
 Southeast Pa. Grazing Conference, Lancaster Host Expo Center, Lancaster, thru Feb. 6.
 Octorara Young Farmers' Association Pesticide Meeting, Ag Ed Room, 7:30 p.m.
 Tulpehocken Adult Young Farmers educational session for Feb., school library, 7:15 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 6**
 Blair County Crops Day.
 Beaver County Crops Day, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
 Pa. Young Farmers State Convention, Somerset Ramada Inn, thru Feb. 8.
 Cattle Feeder Day, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster.
 Maryland/Delaware Peach School, Wye Research and Education Center, Queenstown, MD, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
 Dairy-MAP Finance Module, Adams/York farmers at Cross Keys Inn, also Feb. 13.
 Beef Herd Management and Marketing In the '90s And Beyond, Part II, Holiday Inn, Belle Vernon.
 Southwest Pa. Hay Auction, Westmoreland Fairgrounds, 11 a.m. Also Feb. 20.
 Westmoreland Dairy Day, Alwine Civic Center, 10:30 a.m.-2:30

- Wednesday, February 7**
 Butler County Crops Day, Butler.
 Clarion County Farm Records Made Easy Workshop, Extension Office, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Virginia/Mid-Atlantic Direct Marketing Conference and Trade Show, Sharaton Inn, Fredericksburg, Va., thru Feb. 10.
 Franklin, Adams, and Cumberland (Turn to Page A30)



Editor:
 During the last several months a few Members of Congress and some farm organizations have devised some of the most irresponsible dairy legislation that we have ever witnessed. The barrage started out with Congressman Robert's and Gunderson's Freedom to Farm Act, then got changed to the "Deregulation of the Dairy Industry."
 Then various joint dairy reform packages were introduced. Following the introduction of draft #5 of the dairy reform package, the sponsors decided to change the name to the current title of Consensus Dairy Reform Package.
 The continued changing of the proposed dairy legislation reminds me of my younger days when we used to play musical chairs at Grange Meetings. Those games were fun. However, the games these people in Washington

Now Is The Time
 By John Schwartz
 Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Monitor Stored Grain

Weather conditions this year may cause an increase in the amount of mold that corn growers will find in stored corn, according to Robert Anderson, extension agronomy agent.

Some of these molds, especially aflatoxin, may cause problems when fed to livestock and poultry.

Warm weather and swings in temperatures from warm to cold will increase problems with stored corn. Grain in storage needs to be under constant monitoring to insure its quality.

Implementing an effective pest control program and properly moving air through the grain bin will help to reduce the incidence of mold.

To Keep Calves Growing

Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, reminds us that getting young calves off to a good start is very important for the health of the calf and for future profits.

As soon as the calf is born, a race takes place in the calf's digestive tract to see who can get to the calf's intestines first and be absorbed into the bloodstream — infectious bacteria and other organisms or antibodies that protect calves from these invading organisms.

Thus, it is very important to separate the calf from its dam as soon as it is born so it does not consume any infectious organisms.

are playing are going to have a devastating effect on the destiny of many of our dairy farmers.

The current proposed dairy package calls for the possibility of dairy farmers to pay for the processing cost to manufacture butter, powder and cheese from milk.

Part of the proposed bill grants certain administrative authority to the U.S.D.A. One of the reforms reads:

To establish purchase prices for milk used to produce cheese, nonfat dry milk, whole dry milk, and butter based on national product prices minus a cost of processing (the "make allowance").

Earlier in the bill they establish the make allowance on cheese of \$1.80 cwt and \$1.65 cwt on butter/powder using California yields.

To me the above language is a clear indication that dairy farmers could very well be charged the

(Turn to Page A31)

Also, dip its navel cord in tincture of iodine and to force feed the calf at least two quarts of high quality colostrum milk as soon as possible and another two quarts several hours later.

Place the calf in an isolated pen and preserve its body temperature by drying it off and giving it a dry, clean, well-ventilated, and draft-free place to lie down. Feed the calf 10 percent of its weight in milk or high quality milk replacer per day (about four quarts per day for a 90-pound calf).

Also, provide water and calf starter pellets. When temperatures drop to 30 degrees F., increase energy intake by 10 percent and continue to increase energy intake by an additional 10 percent for each additional 10 degree drop in temperature.

To Install ROPS
 Tractor overturns continue to be

THE BIBLE SPEAKS
 BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE
WHEN GOD SAYS "GO!"
 February 4, 1996

WHEN GOD SAYS "GO!"
 February 4, 1996

Background Scripture:
 Jonah 1 through 2
 Devotional Reading:
 Jonah 2:2-9

Looking at it one way, we might say that Jonah scored 50 out of a possible 100 in responding to God's call. "Arise, go to Nineveh," said God and Jonah did "arise" and "go." Unfortunately, he went in the wrong direction!

He didn't want to go to Nineveh and prophesy, so instead he fled to Joppa and booked passage on a ship sailing to Tarshish. Twice in one verse the writer of the book points out that Jonah was attempting to flee "the presence of the Lord." From the safety of our own perspective we can smirk at Jonah's naivete — to think that he could get away from God! — yet, don't we sometimes do the same thing when God calls us? God says "Arise and go!" and we do — in the wrong direction.

Jonah probably assumed that this something was strictly between himself and the Lord. But it wasn't. While the ship is sailing to Tarshish, God causes a great storm and the ship is in danger of being swamped and sunk. Terrified and finding nothing else to save them, they cast lots to determine which of them is responsible for the wrath of God. And the lot falls upon Jonah. "What is this you have done?" they exclaim. For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

GO/NO GO

Jonah discovered quickly that his disobedience also affected others, in this case the mariners on the ship. Later, he realized that the people of Nineveh were also affected. When God says "Go" and we say "No," others are sure to be affected besides ourselves. I have come to the conclusion that, whenever there is someone in need, it is not because God has failed to send someone to help, but because he calls us and we fail to respond.

It is interesting that, when the

one of the leading causes of farming-related deaths. It is estimated about two million tractors in use in North America still do not have a rollover protective structure (ROPS) and seatbelt.

Several major tractor manufacturers are offering and promoting low cost ROPS and seat belt retrofit kits for older tractors. Now would be a could time to visit your local equipment dealer and purchase and install ROPS and seat belt on all your tractors.

Most companies are selling the retrofit kits at cost and are not making any profits on them. By taking time now to purchase and install ROPS and seatbelt on your tractors could prevent a very serious injury or death to yourself, family member, or employee.

Let's work together to make farming a safer occupation!

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "A leader listens, not just hears."

storm first arose, the mariners did two things: they prayed and they threw the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. But, no matter how much they threw into the sea, they could not lighten it enough. The disobedience of Jonah was heavier than all their wares.

Jonah, for all of his faults, was a man of some conscience. When the mariners ask him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" he replies, "Take me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you; for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you." If Jonah had lived in our own time, he probably would have made excuses or tried to pass the blame to someone else. But he owned up to his responsibility. We and our world need a good dose of that willingness to accept responsibility for our own behavior.

GIVE JONAH CREDIT

We need also to give Jonah credit for realizing that he needed God to rescue him from the belly of the great fish. What's so smart about that you may ask. The fact is that lots of us, even when we have been brought low by our own folly, would rather blunder on than admit we need help. If you don't believe that: have you ever driven in a car with someone who was lost but unwilling to stop and ask for directions? There's a perversity in human nature that makes it so painful to say: "I was wrong!"

So Jonah asks for God's help. The roles have been reversed: the ask-ee is now the ask-er. God had asked something of Jonah and he fled. Now, Jonah is asking something of God. Suppose God were to respond as Jonah did! Suppose he were to respond to us as we respond to him?

When God says "Go!" what do you say?

Mr. and Mrs. Althouse will lead a group to the Holy Land, Oct. 9 to Nov. 2, 1996. For information, write him at 4412 Shenandoah Ave., Dallas, TX 75205. Space is limited.

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