



OPINION

Another Case Of Our Unfriendly EPA

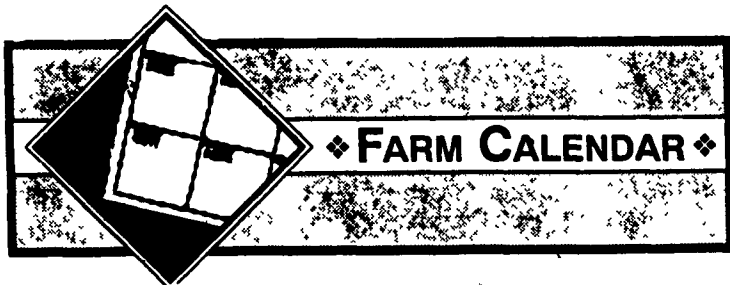
"Farmers have great fear for the safety of their products, livestock and the health of their families, because the federal government has reneged on its commitment," according to Keith W. Eckel, president of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promised not to hold any test burning of its incinerator in Clinton County until after certain tests were made and evaluated. Apparently EPA decided to go on without completion of the tests. Purpose of the incinerator is to decontaminate the soil at the Drake Chemical Site in Lock Haven, designated by the EPA for cleanup as a superfund site.

Farmers living near the incinerator are concerned that emissions from the incinerator might be worse than the horrible chemicals buried at the site. EPA assured farmers and other residents that they would make further tests to be certain the cleanup would not create health risks for local residents.

Those tests, begun last fall, are apparently completed. EPA scheduled a meeting Thursday, Feb. 1, with the farmers and state officials to discuss the test results. However, EPA abruptly canceled the meeting and scheduled test burns. Is the EPA trying to hide something? Or is this EPA's way of saying we don't want your input?

Two members of Governor Ridge's administration asked for the test burn to be halted until the test results are discussed with the local farmers. James M. Seif and Charles C. Brosius, secretaries of PA Environmental Protection and Agriculture Department, respectively, wrote a joint letter to EPA regional administrator, W. Michael McCabe.

State Senator J. Doyle Corman, 34th District, is leading the battle for the tests and sharing the results with the local farm community. We need to reestablish a working dialogue with EPA and the farmers with the test results, before the test burn should continue.



FARM CALENDAR

Saturday, February 10

Chester County 4-H Livestock Awards and Buyer Appreciation Banquet, Devereux Soleil Farms, 7 p.m.

Sunday, February 11

Pa. Gamebird Conference, Nittany Lion Inn, University Park, thru Feb. 13.

Monday, February 12

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

New York Farm Bureau's State Legislative Days, Albany, thru Feb. 13.

Penn West Farm Credit Forum and Trade Show, Sheraton, Warrendale, and on Feb. 13, Altoona Ramada Inn.

York County Pesticide recertification meeting, Red Lion Young Farmers, Red Lion High School, 8 p.m.

Nutrient Management Public Information meeting, Shippensburg Senior High School, Shippensburg, 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Nutrient Management Public Information meeting, Blue Ball Elementary School, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 13

Lancaster County Crops and Soils Day, Farm and Home Center, Northeast Regional Fruit Meeting, Ramada Inn, Churchville, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Ephrata Area Young Farmers, Family Time Restaurant, pesti-

cide update meeting, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Central Jersey Field Crops meeting, Monmouth, N.J., County Extension Office, Freehold, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Maryland Apple School, Western Maryland Research and Education Center, Keedysville, Md. Beef Herd Management and Marketing in the '90's and Beyond, Part II, Holiday Inn, Belle Vernon, Pa.

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FARM FORUM

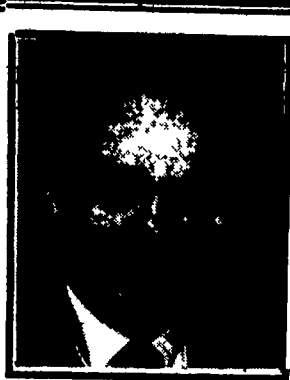
Editor:

I would just like to thank you for such a terrific newspaper at such a bargain price. Lancaster Farming contains items of interest to everyone from farmers to businessmen to housewives to children and costs about one-third the price of your average Sunday news, which for the most part is just a re-hash of last week's news, while at least 95% of the articles in L.F. are exclusive or exception-

ally informative. Keep up the good work.

Donald K. Love
A long-time reader
Somerset

P.S.—One suggestion, occasionally you put Joyce Bupp's column (On Being a Farm Wife and Other Hazards) on the page with recipes on the reverse side. I like to save both for separate "scrapbooks," otherwise I have nothing but Kudo's (or ditto's for Rush fans) for L.F.



Now Is The Time By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Learn About International Trade

International trade or exporting is becoming the new area of expertise farmers will need to develop.

Jim Sumner, USA Poultry and Egg Export Council, reports that exports have become the single most important factor driving the poultry industry's expansion in recent years.

He states that nearly every poultry plant in the U.S. is involved in exporting. It was not that long ago that the total number of exporting companies could be counted on your fingers.

Jeff Oates, U.S. Meat Export Federation, reported we are just beginning to tap the potential in the export arena. The reason for this growth include a growing world population, recent trade agreements with other countries, and rising incomes in developing countries.

Governor Ridge in his budget has asked for \$500,000 for agriculture promotion to increase domestic and foreign markets. However, to be successful in exporting, we need to learn about different cultures, produce high quality products, and be a dependable supplier.

Now is the time to learn about international trade and develop ways to become a participant directly or indirectly through cooperatives and joint ventures.

To Look At Farm Size

The national trend is for farms to get larger. Two economists at Ohio State recently completed a study looking at the size of dairy farms and how large they will need to be in the future to maintain the same living standard for the farm family.

The study, done by Dr. Gary Schnitzky and Dr. Jim Polson, calculated net income per cow from the Cornell University Dairy Farm Record Summaries. The study found that after adjusting for inflation, the real income per cow has had a downward trend of \$28 per cow per year.

Based on this study, farmers must increase the number of cows on their farm by approximately 60 percent every 10 years to maintain the same life-style.

The results from this study assumes that dairy farmers have increased per cow potential over time. Recommendations from the study include increasing the profitability of the cows by adjusting feeding programs, improving production through genetics, improve management, and adopting newer technology before getting larger.

In addition, the authors point out that the increased scope of business brings with it increasing specialization of middle management with upper management more removed from the physical labor of the farm.

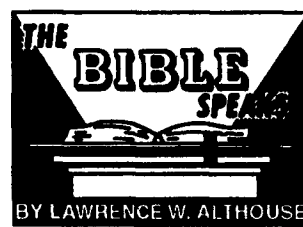
To Know U.S. Produces Safe Food

Recent testing by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has determined that our produce supply is safe, according to Dr. Timothy Elkner, extension horticultural agent.

The FDA report indicates that in 1994 just 0.3 percent of domestic fruit and 2.1 percent of domestic vegetables tested showed residues in violation of Environmental Protection Agency tolerance levels.

The study found that violation rates were higher for imported produce with 3.6 percent of fruit and 4.4 percent of vegetables containing higher levels of pesticide residues than permitted. The results of this fresh produce study show that U.S. farmers do strive to produce safe produce for domestic consumers. But we must continue to read and follow the label on every pesticide we use and work to even lower these percentages.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "A leader sees failure as a lesson, not a defeat, and marches on."



BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE
"THE SECOND WORD"
February 11, 1996

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Background Scripture:

Jonah 3 through 4

Devotional Reading:

Genesis 18:20-33

"Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time..."

Having responded to Jonah's prayer and rescued him, God speaks to him a second time. And Jonah quickly finds that God's second word to him is identical to his first: "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you" (3:2). God still called him to the same task as before.

God is no less persistent with us. He comes to us again and again and very often his message to us is the same because we have not heeded his call. Sometimes it has taken a second, third and sometimes fourth word from God until I pay attention to what he wants me to do.

I believe it was Emmett Fox who told about a religious teacher who proposed an "Advanced Course in Spiritual Growth." One prospective student asked him what was in the advanced course that was not in the basic course. "Nothing," replied the teacher. "In the advanced course you just practice the principles you learned in the basic course."

BASIC/ADVANCED

Christian discipleship is like that. The only difference between basic and advanced discipleship is to put into practice what we already know. So the Lord's second word to us is to live the principles to which he first called us. Jonah knew the facts: Nineveh was a wicked city that needed to be called to repentance. Now he needed to put those facts to work.

Some questions of Christian practice are quite complex. But there's a lot to Christian discipleship that is as clear as it can be. Our problem is often, not that we don't understand, but that we do understand and don't want to do what God asks.

Make no mistake about it: Jonah fully understood what God wanted and what might happen. The part of the job that he liked was the opportunity to tell the people of Nineveh: "Yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" (3:4). We'd probably all like that part. What he didn't like was the possibility that someone might heed his message, repent and escape the punishment.

"WHO KNOWS"

And that's what happened! The king of Nineveh was fast to catch on. He took Jonah's prophecy to heart and told his people to repent: "Who knows, God may yet repent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we perish not?" (3:9). As Jonah in the belly of the fish was able to acknowledge that he needed God's help, so, faced by disaster, the king of Nineveh was wise enough to know that it was time for repentance.

Jonah also knew and that was why he was so upset: "I pray thee, Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that thou art a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love..." (4:2). So, here's the picture: the people repent, God forgives, and Jonah fumes!

But, instead of flunking Jonah, God tries once more to reach him. "And the Lord God appointed a plant, and made it come up over Jonah, that is might be a shade over his head." Then he used a worm to destroy the plant and that really made Jonah angry. In the midst of his anger, God comes and wants to know: If Jonah could pity a plant, why could he not pity a whole city of repentant people?

And what of us? Would we rather rejoice or sulk over Nineveh?

The Althouses will lead a group to the Holy Land, Oct. 9 to Nov. 2, 1996. Space limited. For information, write them at 4412 Shenandoah Ave., Dallas, TX 75205.

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