



OPINION

Point To Your Head And Smile Knowingly

In his book *It Was on Fire When I Lay Down on It*, Robert Fulghum says the single most powerful statement to come out of brain research in the last 25 years is that we humans are as different from one another on the inside of our heads as we appear to be different from one another on the outside of our heads.

"Look around and see the infinite variety of human heads—skin, hair, age, ethnic characteristics, size, color, and shape," Fulghum said. "And know that on the inside such differences are even greater—what we know, how we learn, how we process information, what we remember and forget, our strategies for functioning and coping. Add to that the understanding that the 'world' out 'there' is as much a projection from inside our heads as it is a perception, and pretty soon you are up against the realization that it is a miracle that we communicate at all. It is almost unbelievable that we are dealing with the same reality. We operate on a kind of loose consensus about existence, at best.

"From a practical point of view, day by day, this kind of information makes me a little more patient with the people I live with. I am less inclined to protest, "Why don't you see it the way I do?" and more inclined to say, "You see it that way? Holy cow! How amazing!"

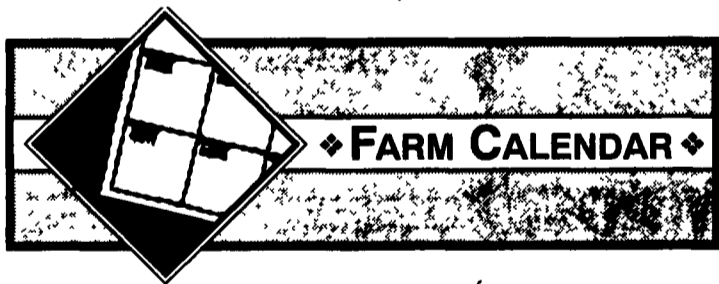
Farmers have added differences to overcome. In addition to not being exactly like anyone else on the planet, we have also polarized ourselves around different methods of farming and specie or commodity enterprises: high input vs low input; grazers vs drylot; dairy vs livestock; hay or grain vs row crop.

Now is the time to stop looking at our small individual differences and start to look at the large overall sameness we farmers share. All farmers can work together if they put their heads to it.

The dairy promotion programs have overcome some of their differences and are now not competing for consumer attention. In addition, the president of one of the larger farm organizations has stated that his major goal is to get all different kinds of farmers to communicate so we can approach our political and social challenges together.

Albert Einstein's brain was studied to see if it was special in some way. However, it wasn't his equipment but what he did with his brain that broke through the mysteries of science. In fact, someone asked Einstein to see his laboratory, and he smiled and pointed to his head.

When farmers in all segments of agriculture start communicating and working together for the good of everyone, not just our own little agricultural niche, we also will be able to point to our heads and smile knowingly.



FARM CALENDAR

Saturday, June 15

Northeast Piedmontese Field Day, Norway Farms, Fredericksburg, Ohio, 10:30 a.m.
Bucks-Montgomery dairy princess pageant, Quakertown Christian School, 7:30 p.m.
Beaver-Lawrence dairy princess pageant, Westfield Grange, Mt. Jackson, 8 p.m.
Sullivan County dairy princess pageant, Main Street, Dushore, 7:15 p.m.
Susquehanna County dairy princess pageant, United Methodist Church Hall, Montrose, 8 p.m.
Warren County dairy princess pageant, 4-H Center, Warren County Fairgrounds, 8 p.m.
York County dairy princess pageant, York Galleria Mall, York.

Sunday, June 16

Happy Father's Day!
Pa. Vocational Educators Conference, Hershey, thru June 19.

Monday, June 17

Tioga County dairy princess pageant, Community Building,

Mainsburg, 7 p.m.

PennAg's 1996 Annual Grain Meeting, Eden Resort Inn, Lancaster, dinner 7 p.m.

Wheat and Soybean Field Walk, Old Wick, N.J., 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Tuesday, June 18

Wednesday, June 19

Ohio Small Grains Field Day, OARDC's Northwestern Branch, Hoytville.

Farm Resources Management Plan Field Day, farm tours in Lehigh County, tour leaves Lehigh County Ag Center, 9:15 a.m., returns 4 p.m.

Thursday, June 20

American Guernsey Association Convention, Hunt Valley Inn, Timonium, thru June 24.

Crop Production and Nutrient Management meeting, Southeast Regional Research Farm, Landisville, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Friday, June 21

Lancaster County's Food, Farm and Fun Fest, Artworks Expo Center, Ephrata, thru June 22.



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Salute

The Egg Industry

May 31, 1996 marked a very important day for the Pennsylvania egg industry.

The Pennsylvania Poultry Federation and the Pennsylvania secretaries of agriculture and health signed a memorandum of understanding officially establishing the Pennsylvania Egg Quality Assurance Program (PEQAP).

This marks a joint effort between industry and government to establish a food safety program for egg production. Based on research and pilot program between industry, Pennsylvania and United States departments of agriculture, University of Pennsylvania and Penn State, a management program has been developed that reduces bacteria contamination of eggs.

The industry is responsible for implementing this voluntary program with egg producers while the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture will monitor industry compliance. A new logo and educational programs have been developed to inform consumers of the program.

This is an excellent model how industry, government, and universities can work together to solve a major industry problem.

To Ground

Electric Fences

When utilizing electric fencing, you cannot have too many ground rods, according to Chester Hughes, extension livestock agent.

Sometimes one ground rod will work, but three are better.

When an animal touches the fence, the electricity must travel

through the animal into the soil and through the soil to a ground rod. The current then travels from the ground rod to the fence charger, where the circuit is completed. Only then does the animal feel the shock. Therefore, the more ground rods, the more electricity gets back to the fence charger.

That is why the best ground system consists of three galvanized ground rods at least six feet deep and spaced 10 feet apart. For best results, install your ground rods where soil moisture is constant. Always use clamps to attach the ground wire to the ground rods. Hughes reminds us that your electric fence is only as good as its ground system.

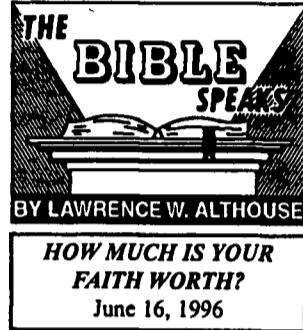
To Clean
Sprayers Thoroughly
The newer herbicides may cause

injury to other crops even at very low concentrations. This could be especially true for corn herbicides accidentally applied to soybeans.

For example, water alone will not remove hormone-type herbicides like 2,4-D, Banvel, Clarity, etc. The Banvel and Clarity labels recommend the tank be rinsed with water, flushed out, and filled with an ammonia and water solution and left stand for several hours. If proper cleaning procedures are not followed, herbicide adhering to the walls of the sprayer will be released and applied to the crop, thus causing crop injury.

Always follow herbicide label instructions when cleaning sprayers to prevent crop damage.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "The desire to excel is what changes ordinary people into extraordinary individuals."



HOW MUCH IS YOUR
FAITH WORTH?
June 16, 1996

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Background Scripture:

James 2:14-26; 5:7-20

Devotional Reading:

Genesis 22:1-8

I can't think of a text more appropriate for our time than James 2, especially 2:15, 16, where James asks, "If a fellow man or woman has no clothes to wear and nothing to eat, and one of you say, 'Good luck to you. I hope you keep warm and find enough to eat,' and yet give them nothing to meet their physical needs, what on earth is the good of that?" (J.B. Phillips).

It is a hard-hitting question; yet, I cannot help smiling because it is so strikingly sarcastic. Can you think of anything more ridiculous than responding to a person in need with nothing but good wishes? I am both amused and chagrined because I realize that the ridiculous person to whom James is referring here is sometimes myself. I sometimes respond to wrenching human need with little more than good wishes.

So do many of us who claim to follow Jesus as Christ and Lord.

When confronted by human need, we are likely to want to know first if they are doing anything for themselves and second whether being in need has become self-righteous we may demand that they first get a job — any job — before we will consider helping them. We may even want to know something about their morals before we consider giving them aid.

INESCAPABLE LOGIC

There's something to be said for that. It has an inescapable logic. Some people are too lazy to help themselves. Some people do make being in need a life's vocation. Some people will continue to take from us as long as we continue to give. We don't want to encourage that!

But, the gospel is not really about inescapable logic. The scribes and the Pharisees were logical. The Sadducees and priests were very rational. There was also a lot of common sense on the part of the Zealots who wanted to overthrow Roman rule by force. And we can perfectly understand

others who held back from following Jesus because there was far too much emphasis upon love and not enough upon law.

Some people today still take comfort in Paul's dictum that "we hold that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the law" (Romans 3:28). Saved by their faith, they place little value in works. Sometimes it is assumed that Paul and James were at loggerheads over this issue: Paul holding solely to faith and James similarly championing works. What they overlook is that by "faith," Paul meant *trust*, while James meant *belief*. Both Paul and James would agree, I am sure, that no one is saved by their beliefs — only those beliefs in which they trust to the extent that they are willing to act on them.

SOMETHING YOU DO

So, the theology of Paul is nowhere for us to hide. In Romans, Paul also says "For he will render to every man according to his works..." and "For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law..." (2:13).

Faith, then, is not something you merely believe — although that is a starting point — but a belief in which you trust and that moves you to do something appropriate about that belief. Faith is something that feeds the hungry, clothes the naked, comforts the afflicted, visits the prisoners, and heals brokenness wherever it is found.

Leslie Weatherhead tells a story of a boy carrying a basket of eggs on a London street. Tripping over the curb, he dropped the basket, smashing the eggs. A few people gathered round the sobbing boy. "What a pity!" one said. "Poor little chap!" exclaimed another. Then, one man stepped forward, put his hand in his pocket and said. "I care a half-a-crown." Turning to the man next to him, he asked: "How much do you care?" and the man responded, "I care a shilling." "In a little time," wrote Weatherhead, "they translated feeling into action."

So, how much is your faith worth?

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