



OPINION

If working in agriculture qualified farmers for certain Olympic events what type of competitions can you envision? Perhaps hay bale throwing, tractor road racing or machinery lifting come to mind. We might all list fence hurdling, animal herding, or even riflery or archery as potential sports in which farmers can make our country proud.

With 39 people losing their lives in Pennsylvania in 1995, Deborah Webb, Extension agronomy agent in Union County suggests we look at agricultural Olympics in a different light. Why not break a world record for the least amount of farm accidents in the United States? Farmers could condition their minds and bodies for this event by doing hundreds of repetitions such as replace safety shields, replace safety shields, replace safety shields.

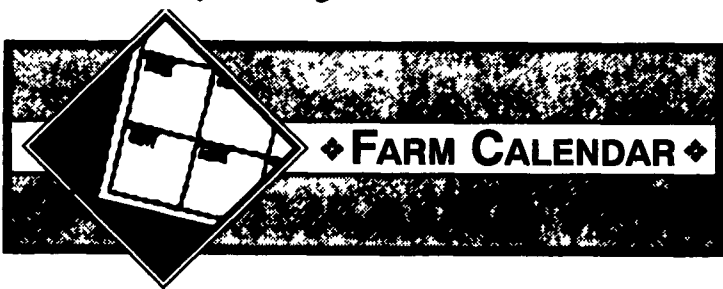
When farmers participate in marathon work sessions during planting and harvesting seasons they would prepare for the contest knowing their physical limitations, planning their safety strategy, conserving their energy and making their move at the right time. No Olympian, no farmer wants to "hit the wall" where they are physically and mentally numb and either make serious mistakes or cannot continue.

We do not send our children into the sports arena unprotected and untrained. Farm children need to train to live and play on the farm by exercising caution and practicing safe habits until they know the routines in their sleep!

Farm parents could act as coaches and spotters as their older children take on more responsibilities. Children develop new "gymnastic" skills while driving a tractor, operating machinery, thinking and reacting to changing situations and topography — all at the same time. Parents need to develop that split second reaction time in their children and not let them try the risky moves until the children are mentally and physically ready for the challenge.

The best part of all the training for the Olympics is the moment you become a champion. Yet Olympic gold medals can be lost or won in a single moment. There are no guarantees. The most an athlete can do after a lost opportunity is regroup and hope for better circumstances in the next competition. A farm accident can also happen in a moment. What can a farmer or child do if in that moment they are hurt or killed? The opportunity to work in the farm arena would not come around again. Train and practice to be a SAFETY champion — think, go slow, make careful decisions. Are the two ears of corn stuck in the unloader worth your arm? Are the two minutes saved by stepping over the PTO worth the loss of your arm, your life? Part of an athlete's consolation is knowing they gave everything they had to their event. Farmers who make safety their main goal will also know that they have given their all to protect themselves and their family from serious injury.

Some accidents will happen but with awareness, planning and training, the accidents will be less frequent and less severe. Let us all be a fan of farm safety and help to break the world record for Pennsylvania together.



Saturday, August 3
 Clinton County Fair, thru Aug. 10.
 Greene County Fair, thru Aug. 10.
 Lancaster County Conservation Expo, in conjunction with the Shirktown Threshing Festival, Robert Shirk Farm, Churchtown.
 Pa. Sheep Producers Field Day, Ag Arena, Penn State, 10 a.m.
 Pa. Performance Ram Test Field Day, Ag Arena, Penn State, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
 Pa. Performance Tested Ram and Invitational Ewe Sale, Ag Arena, Penn State, 3 p.m.
 Adams County 4-H Fair, South Mountain Fairgrounds, Arendtsville.
 Horse and Pony Roundup, Twin Brooks. 8 a.m.

Sunday, August 4
 Bedford County Fair, thru Aug. 10.
 Schuylkill County Fair, thru Aug. 10.
 West End Fair-Union County, thru Aug. 10.
 Adams County Farm Bureau annual summer picnic, South Mountain Fairgrounds, 1 p.m.
Monday, August 5
 Butler Farm Show, thru Aug. 10.
 Cochranon Community Fair, thru Aug. 10.
 Dawson Grange Community Fair, thru Aug. 10.
 Tioga County Fair, thru Aug. 10.
 Warren County Fair, thru Aug. 10.
Tuesday, August 6
 State 4-H Achievement Days, Penn State, thru Aug. 8.



To Handle Milk Properly

Milk is a very nutritious food, not only for us, but also for spoilage organisms.

Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, reminds us to help preserve the goodness of milk by remembering the three Cs — clean, cool, and covered.

Milk needs to be cooled down very quickly after milking and held at 35 to 38 degrees F. until it is picked up by the tank truck. For milk to cool down quickly, the compressor must be working efficiently.

In hot weather the efficiency of compressors decrease. To help the cooling process, Shirk offers the following suggestions:

- Be sure compressors have a good air supply to replace the hot air given off by the compressor.
- Use precoolers to lower the temperature of milk and reduce the workload on the compressor.
- Install a larger compressor. This may be necessary if you increase milking rates and the flow rate to the tank.

To Identify Corn Rootworm Beetle

Corn rootworm beetles are beginning to feed on corn silks and tassels.

The adult western corn rootworm beetle is 1/4 inch long or about half the size of the common lightning bug and are shaped somewhat like the lightning bug. When adults first emerge from the ground, the beetles are tan or green in color.

Within a short period of time, the western rootworm beetles develop three dark stripes on their wings. Many of them will look dark brown or black in color rather than striped. The adults are very active and fly when disturbed.

The other rootworm beetle of concern is the northern. The northern rootworm beetle is green in

Ephrata Area Young Farmers Annual Educational Bus trip to New York state, thru Aug. 8.
 Elk County Fair, thru Aug. 10.
 1996 Empire Farm Days, Seneca Falls, N.Y., thru Aug. 8.
 York County Holstein picnic at David and Norma Lucabaugh's.
 Harrold Fair, thru Aug. 10.
 Grazing management meeting, Colleen Epler Ruths Farm, between Danville and Northumberland, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, August 7
 Ohio Processing Tomato and Vegetable Crops Day, OARDC's Vegetable Crops Branch, Fremont.
 Ohio Sugar Beet Twilight Tour, OARDC's Vegetable Crops Branch, Fremont.

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color. If you do not find the adult beetle, you may see symptoms of the larvae or worm stage of the insect and the damage it did to the corn.

The damage from the larvae is often seen as a "gooseneck plant." This "goose necking" is caused when the larvae feeds on the roots. As a result of the root feeding or pruning, the plant falls over when any wind blows. When the plant tries to grow up toward the sun, a "gooseneck" is formed. This root feeding is the real damage done by the insect, but it is not noticeable until it is too late to do anything about it.

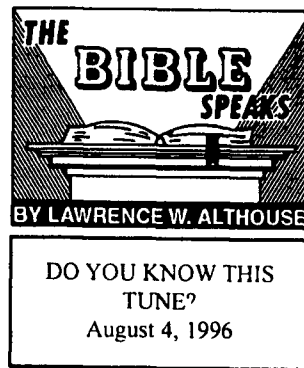
To Scout Corn Fields For Root Worm Adults
 Corn growers should be

checking their corn fields from now through mid-August for adult rootworm beetles. You only need to check fields that will remain in corn next year.

Rootworms are only a problem if the field is planted in corn in succeeding years.

You need to determine how many fields have adult beetles, which species they are, and how many beetles there are per plant. When the number of adult western beetles is one or more per plant or two or more adult northern beetles per plant and the field will be planted in corn next year, a soil insecticide should be applied to that field at planting time next year.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Possibilities: The only things that are truly limitless."



DO YOU KNOW THIS TUNE?
 August 4, 1996

Background Scripture: Psalms 40
 Devotional Reading: Psalms 36:5-12

Yesterday, my wife and I went to a church outside Dallas where a ministerial friend of ours was holding his last service before retiring. He made it an informal service, most of it composed of poetry and songs that he had written across the years to express his Christian faith and commitment. It was a compelling testimony and very effective in communicating the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The service made me realize that we don't give enough time and space to personal testimony in our congregational and community life. Often the best way to convey the gospel is a matter of telling His story through our stories. I realize that many of us are shy of talking about God in our own lives, but we ought to encourage and help people to at least share with others what God means in their own lives. We are not all called to preach and teach, but we are all called to witness to what God has done for and with us.

In the 40th Psalm, the Psalmist has experienced help from God — probably healing from a serious illness — and he has shared this wonderful experience with others: "I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; . . . I have spoken of thy faithfulness, and thy salvation" (40:9,10).

TELLING OTHERS

The Psalmist is not expounding on the scriptures or propounding a theology. He is simply telling others what he experienced. "I waited for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry . . ." (40:1,2a). He waited and trusted in God and his waiting and trusting were justified when God healed him. What did he discover for himself and others as well? "Blessed is the man who makes the Lord his trust . . ." (40:4).

There are millions of us who have experienced pretty much what the Psalmist experienced,

who have put our trust in God and then have found, after much patience, that the Lord has saved us. As a preacher I have had lots of opportunity to speak of what God has done for me in my sermons and lessons — and I have, although, in reflection, not nearly as often as I might. There have been far more of God's "wondrous deeds" than I have spoken of even in my sermons, lessons and writings.

Many years ago — 45 if I count correctly — I wrote a hymn that expressed in some measure what God had done for me. It never found its way into any hymn books, but it was popular in some youth camps and in one of my congregations and apparently was found helpful by a number of people. Now I regret that I didn't more often put my testimony to music, so that I could say with the Psalmist: "He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God" (40:3).

A PECULIAR TURN

If you read Psalm 40 you will note that it takes a peculiar turn. It starts with a ringing testimony to God's faithfulness, but then ends with a plea for more help. "Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me!" he cries, "O Lord, make haste to help me!" (40:13). Whereas the help he received previously had probably been healing of a serious physical disease, this time he speaks of evils "without number" that have encompassed him and complains that "my iniquities have overtaken me" (40:12). There are also detractors who torment him.

Despite the exuberant note on which the psalmist began, he ends it with these anxious words: "Thou art my help and my deliverer, do not tarry, O my God!" (40:17b).

So, is he a man of faith or a man of anxiety? Both, it seems to me. Like many of us, he has personally witnessed the manifest steadfast love of God, but he also faced new trials and tribulations. Just as we do.

Does his "new song" of both salvation and anxiety sound familiar to you? It should, for we could sing right along with him.

Lancaster Farming

Established 1955

Published Every Saturday

Ephrata Review Building

1 E. Main St.

Ephrata, PA 17522

- by -

Lancaster Farming, Inc.

A Steinman Enterprise

Robert G. Campbell General Manager
 Everett R. Newswanger Managing Editor

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