



OPINION

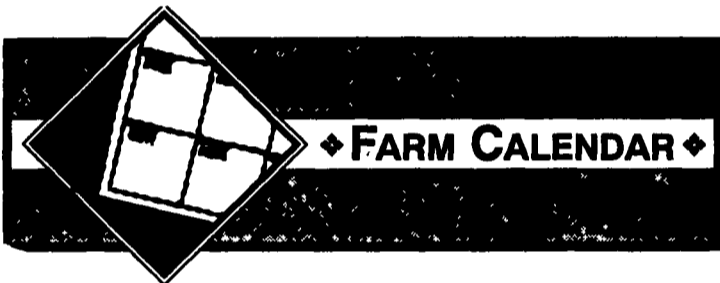
Plan To Use Pesticides Properly

Look! The calendar says February. Those who don't know the heart of farmers would say it is early to be thinking about spring farm work. But farmers are already "itchy" for the ground to thaw and the first blades of grass to appear.

So now is also the time to think about potential off-target movement or drift when you apply pesticides. This can create risk for nearby people and wildlife, damage non-target crops, and potentially pollute surface and ground water resources. According to the American Crop Protection Association, an organization of ag chemical companies, farmers and ranchers should be aware of the principal factors that can affect drift, including droplet size and application pattern, equipment adjustments, and weather conditions during application. Another key factor is sound judgment. Simply planning for the possibility of off-target movement of pesticides is a key step in reducing spray drift.

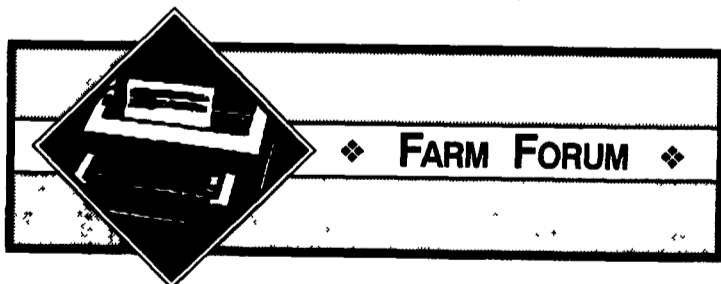
Being sensitive to the unique environment of your farm is a key component of the planning needed prior to and during pesticide application. Consider leaving an unsprayed strip or buffer zone around water supplies, sinkholes, abandoned wells, wetlands, downwind neighbors or sensitive crops. If you must spray these areas, be sure to do so when conditions are favorable.

We believe farmers can serve both the environment and their calling to feed the world by planning to use pesticides properly in their upcoming spring applications.



- Saturday, February 8**
- Sunday, February 9**
- Pa. Game Bird Conference, Penn State, thru Feb. 11.
- 4-H Day with the Lady Lions, The Bryce Jordan Center, University Park, 2 p.m.
- Monday, February 10**
- Soybean Workshop, Lanter Lodge, Myerstown, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Farm Records Made Easy Workshop, Session 2, York County extension office, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Poultry Management and Health Seminar, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, noon.
- Southern Maryland Agricultural Breakfast, Jaycee's Community Center, Waldorf, Maryland, 8 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
- Frederick Co. Walk-A-Bout, Paul Coblenz and Sons, 10 a.m.-Noon.
- Tuesday, February 11**
- Soybean Workshop, Bucks/Montgomery Counties, Neshaminy Manor Center, Doylestown, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- New York State Vegetable Conference and Trade Show, Points Hotel Sheraton, Liverpool, N.Y.
- Silage: Field to Feedbunk, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, thru Feb. 13.
- Pa. Allied and Industrial Nursery Conference, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, thru Feb. 12.
- Commercial Tree Fruit Growers' Meeting, Brynwood Inn and Banquet Center, Lewisburg, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Somerset County Breeders' Institute, Somerset County Vo-Tech School, Somerset, 10 a.m.
- Lancaster County Crops and Soils Day program, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 8:30 a.m.

- Wednesday, February 12**
- Ash Wednesday
- Soybean Workshop, Chester County.
- Southeast Fruit Meeting, Pineview Acres, Pottsville.
- Regional Vegetable Growers' Meeting (Walnut Bottom Firehouse)(Leinbach's Auction), Shippensburg.
- Pa. Pork Producers' Junior Speaking Contest, Lebanon Ag Center.
- Keystone Pork Expo, Lebanon Valley Expo Center, Lebanon Fairgrounds.
- York/Lancaster Fruit Growers' meeting, Rutter's Family Restaurant, York, 8:30 (Turn to Page A30)



Editor,
Government's treatment of the American dairy farmer is a travesty of justice. The government and our elected officials treat the farmer as an indentured servant. They expect the farmer, through his or her toil and efforts with the dairy cows, to provide cheap food for the American consumer while the processors reap all the profits. Our government, starting with the President, should look in Webster's dictionary. "Indenture" follows the word "Indenture" and the one definition given is "an income sufficient for a livelihood." This is all the farmer is asking, when in fact he deserves more.

The government knows what's going on while most of the American consumers do not. Although some consumers say they would pay more for dairy products, this does not correlate with the farmer getting more money for his raw product. The farmer is not looking for a handout. It is the government who is looking for the free ride. They expect the farmers to feed the American population and not get paid a fair price for their product. I believe the President or any elected official and the American consumer understands the time, effort, and expense it takes to maintain a simple domestic pet.

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Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Make

Cows Comfortable

According to Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, cow comfort helps pave the way for high milk production.

Comfort starts with providing cows with adequate shelter. It does not need to be warm. It does need to protect cows from inclement weather and from cold drafts.

It needs to provide cows with fresh air and a clean, dry place to lie down. They need to feel secure and can get up and down with ease and without the risk of injury.

Heifers that have never been tied will have a hard time adjusting to being tied and learning how to use stalls properly. Acclimate them to stalls well before calving time to minimize stress at calving.

The last thing you want to do is throw a heifer off feed at this crucial time in her life or subject her to injury because she did not know how to lie down or get up in a stall without a struggle.

To Make Cow Stalls Comfortable

Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, reports that to improve cow comfort, many farmers are putting soft rubber mats or mattresses filled with chopped rubber in their stalls.

This provides cows with a softer bed. It also offers them more traction so they can get up with less struggle and with less risk of injury.

A thin layer of bedding should also be used with the rubber mats and mattresses. It helps to absorb moisture and reduces the risk of hock injuries and mastitis.

Placing a bedding retainer bar at the back ledge of the stall and

maintaining a thick layer of bedding in the stall can accomplish the same thing.

To Select Corn Hybrids

Most corn growers will be under pressure to make their corn hybrid selections for the upcoming cropping season during the next several weeks. Overall, the amount of seed that will be available should be adequate. However, some of the newer releases and the better selling hybrids may be a little short in supply.

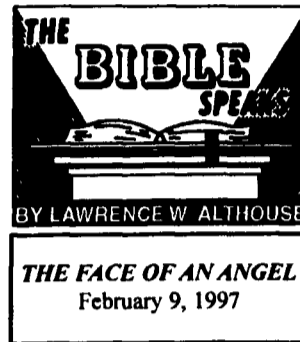
Dr. Greg Roth, Penn State extension agronomist, has made several suggestions to help farmers select the best varieties available for use on their farm. He suggests spending time looking at performance studies of varieties sold in

your area.

Penn State and many other universities conduct performance studies each year and publish the results. (The results were included in the Corn Talk section in the Jan. 25 edition of this newspaper.) Not all varieties are in the study each year, including many of the good varieties.

Dr. Roth cautions against using on-farm, nonreplicated strip trials as the only information in making a selection. If strip plot data is available from several locations and has some of the varieties used at university test sites, the data is more valuable in making an informed decision. It is a good idea to look at data for at least three years.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Do more than listen. Understand."



THE FACE OF AN ANGEL

February 9, 1997

Background Scripture:

Acts 6:1 through 8:3

Devotional Reading:

Matthew 5:43-48

"The Hellenists murmured against the Hebrew . . ." And I am glad that they did!

Because, up to this point, the earliest Christians were sounding a little too good to be true. Acts 6:1-6, however, clearly establish them as human beings as well as Christians.

The "Hellenists" were probably Jewish followers of Jesus who spoke Greek and participated in Greek culture. The "Hebrews" were probably Aramaic-speaking Jewish followers of Jesus who were resistant to Greek customs. Both groups were part of the Christian community in Jerusalem. The first factions in the church — but not the last.

The Greek-speaking Christians felt that their own widows were not getting their fair share of the distribution. That means that those who did the distribution were Aramaic-speaking Christians. So "the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews . . ."

That's the way trouble usually starts in congregations today. Someone feels short-changed in some way and begins to "murmur." Note that Acts doesn't indicate who is at fault here, or if anyone is at fault. Maybe the Hebrews were short-changing the Hellenist widows, or maybe it only *seemed* that way. Maybe it was true, but unintentional. Whatever the facts, Acts concentrates on what is done to resolve this conflict. They compromise, choosing some Hellenist deacons to serve with the Hebrews.

ONE WHO SERVES

It is interesting that these men are chosen to "serve tables" so that the apostles can "devote ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word" (6:4). Because, no sooner are they chosen and commissioned, than one of them, Stephen, gets into trouble, not through serving tables, but in preaching and teaching in one of Jerusalem's synagogues. The apostles seem to have a good solution — some will pray and preach, others will serve tables — but it doesn't quite work

out that way. Those who serve tables may also have the opportunity to preach. Jesus himself said, "For which is the greater, one who sits at table, or one who serves? But I am among you as one who serves" (Lk. 22:27).

As a deacon, instead of an apostle, Stephen may have seemed to have been of lower rank in the Christian community. But of all these disciples, none shines brighter — literally or figuratively — than Stephen. He may have been recruited to wait on tables, but he was also a powerful witness for Christ. He is described as being "full of grace and power" and it is said of his detractors that "they could not withstand the wisdom and Spirit with which he spoke."

SECRET INSTIGATION

And how did his detractors react? As troublemakers usually react: "Then they secretly instigated men, who said, 'We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God'" (6:11). When you run out of reason, go behind someone's back and slander them — a popular tactic then and still today.

But, Stephen, is a shining example. Those who dragged him before the Sanhedrin almost literally saw him "shine." And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel" (6:15). Not his words alone, but his demeanor reminded them of Jesus Christ. And, when they had condemned him to death, Stephen still continued to shine: "But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God" (7:55). The light they saw in him was the reflected light of God in Christ.

In Stephen's shoes, I probably would have looked no further than the faces of my accusers and reflected the anger and bitterness I saw there. But Stephen "gazed into heaven" and reflected, not the darkness of the crowd, but the eternal light of Jesus Christ. And thus he was enabled to pray: "Lord Jesus receive my spirit . . . Lord, do not hold this sin against them" (7:59,60).

By the power of Jesus Christ, a human face — mine and yours — can shine like the face of an angel.

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