



OPINION

Leaders Now And In The Future

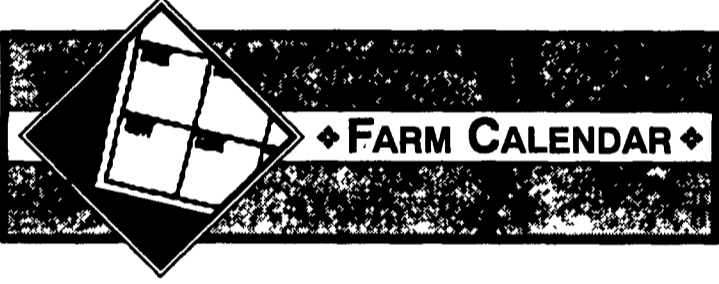
The annual national FFA week that runs from today through February 22, again gives recognition to the good work this organization does for our farm and rural youth. FFA empowers students in 7,263 chapters located throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands to develop and fulfill a vision for themselves, and their communities, and their nation. FFA works hand in hand with agricultural education, but its impact reaches far beyond preparing employees for the food, fiber and natural resource systems. Students develop the premier leadership, personal growth and career success skills they need to win in agriculture or any other industry, and in life.

Because agriculture offers 200 different careers in business, science, and technology, students with ag education have tremendous opportunities. Many non-farm youth get their introduction to agriculture in the local FFA education and project work programs. Even if these students don't pursue a career in agriculture, they benefit from the public speaking, skills, self-confidence, and leadership talents they develop in FFA.

This year's theme is "FFA—Leaders with a Vision." Appropriately, this theme emphasizes how FFA enables students to develop leadership skills, prepares them to set goals and visions, and empowers them to achieve success. These students are the leaders of tomorrow, and, yes, leaders even today. They will carry the agricultural industry and the nation into the next millennium.

We encourage the 452,885 FFA members to be all they can be. And we commend the many FFA teachers who form the backbone of the FFA program.

We believe FFA casts a bright light on the future of agriculture. Keep up the good work.



Sunday, February 16

National Mastitis Council, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Albuquerque, New Mexico, thru Feb. 19.

Monday, February 17

Presidents' Day
Weed School, Chester County Government Service Center. Also Feb. 18 a.m.; Lehigh County Ag Center. Also Feb. 18 evenings.

Adams County Fruit Growers' Meeting, Biglerville High School.

Bradford County Dairy Day, SRU Middle School, East Smithfield, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Lehigh Valley Weed Management School, Lehigh County Agricultural Center, Allentown, 7 p.m.-10 p.m.

Penn State Corn Planter and Drill Clinic Satellite Conference, Penn State Ag Arena, 12:30 p.m.

Farmers' Meeting on Poison Control and Pesticide Training, Maytown Fire Hall, Maytown, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 18

Regional Vegetable Growers' Meeting (Schuylkill, Lebanon, Berks Co.), Pine View Acres, Pottsville, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

New York State Farmers' Direct Marketing Conference and Trade Show, Owego Treadway Inn, Owego, NY, Feb. 18-20.

Planter Clinic, Ag Arena, Penn State. Also offered via satellite.

Solanco Young Farmers meeting, Greenhouse Housing, Solanco High School, 7 p.m.

Farm PLANS PLanning Agricul-

ture Nets Success Workshop, All American Restaurant. Also Feb. 22.

Chester County Weed Management School, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Chester County, 9 a.m.-12 noon, Feb. 18 and 19.

Maryland Agricultural Pesticide Conference, Delmar Community Center.

Computer Workshop, Tulpehocken Adult Young Farmer Assn.

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Editor,

Early last month, Gov. Parris Glendening formally introduced a group of proposals known as "Smart Growth" initiatives. One of those proposals, the Rural Legacy Program, calls for using Program Open Space money and general obligation bonds in targeted areas over the next five years.

Maryland Farm Bureau has been one of the organizations working to refine this proposal since its inception last year. Nonetheless, our organization feels it is important to clarify our position on some points of the



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Tighten Up Biosecurity

With the recent outbreaks of several serious diseases, it reminds us of the importance of biosecurity.

Biosecurity is the methods you employ to keep disease organisms away from your animals. These tiny microbes travel from place to place in manure, dust, and feathers. They also travel by air and on people, vehicles, animals, and birds.

Some items to consider are:

- All employees and family members should wear clean clothes everyday.
- Lock all buildings housing animals.
- Do not allow anyone to enter your barns without your permission. Make sure they wear clean clothes, hat and boots.
- Clean and disinfect boots before entering and leaving buildings.
- Change water in foot baths and add disinfectant at least daily.
- Do not visit other farms.
- Do not loan or borrow equipment from another farm unless it is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
- Keep a log of all people visiting your farm.

You have a large investment in your animals. The cost of quarantines and depopulation is very expensive and often very emotional. A little precaution now could save a lot of heartache later.

Remember, the goal of biosecurity is to keep germs away from your animals and your animals away from germs.

To Acquire Pesticide Credits

In order to maintain your pesti-

proposal.

Maryland Farm Bureau agrees that the use of general obligation bonds and targeted areas for preserving open space and agricultural land in the Rural Legacy Program proposal has some validity. However, we also believe it is critical to increase funding for the Maryland Agricultural Preservation program, a program noted as one of the best in the nation.

Maryland Ag Land Preservation's track record, together with the personnel and structure has already established, make it the best candidate to efficiently use

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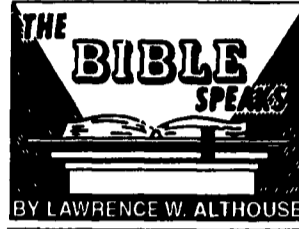
cide license, you need to secure update credits every year.

We are now in the heart of the winter meeting season. Many of these meetings offer pesticide credits. To help you to find out when and where meetings with pesticide credits are being held in Region 6, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has set up an experimental 24-hour, toll-free telephone number. If you need credits, call 1-800 PENN-IPM or 1-800-736-6476.

If you have not earned your pesticide credits, now is the time to do it. Most of the credits will be offered over the next six weeks. Do not wait to April 1 and find out there are no more meetings.

To Try PDA Pesticide Number

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has set up a toll-free number with meeting dates for pesticide credits. You will need a touchtone phone to use the system.



THE IMPACT OF
WHAT'S-HIS-NAME
February 16, 1997

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Background Scripture:

Acts 18:1-4; 18-19, 24-26; Romans 16:3-5a

Devotional Reading:

1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

I've never known of a church named after Priscilla and Aquila, but there ought to be. It would be a source of inspiration and example for all those of us whose names are not likely to be remembered in the annals of the history of the Christian Church.

For all that we most certainly owe the great apostles and saints, we also owe a staggering debt to lots of what's-his-name Christians across the centuries. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is as dependent upon the unknowns of the Christian way as it is the bright and shining stars.

Priscilla (sometimes called Prisca) and Aquila are two of the former. But they are hardly anonymous, for their names appear — however briefly — in four different books of the New Testament.

We first come upon this couple in Act 18. Arriving in Corinth, Paul meets this couple and finds that they are tentmakers, as he is. They invite him to stay with them while he is in Corinth. We don't know how long he stayed, but it was evidently a long time, during which he worked with them as tentmakers and also "argued in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded Jews and Greeks" (18:4).

DIFFERENT SLANT

So, the relationship began with a simple act of hospitality on their part. Indirectly, they helped Paul in his mission in Corinth. But, when Paul at last left Corinth, Priscilla and Aquila go with him as far as Ephesus. We don't know why. In fact, up to this point we don't even know that they have become converted to Christ. But, in Acts 18:24, we find that they are not only converts, but, when Apollos comes there and begins to preach about Christ, they "took him and expounded to him the way of God more accurately"

The older rotary dial type phone will not work.

When you call 1-800-736-6476, the phone will answer and welcome you to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) voice mail system. Select 1 for the Pesticide System. As the system is expanded, there will be other possible selections. Next you will enter 6 for PDA Region 6. This is the only region on the system at the present time. Region 6 includes the following counties: Adams, Franklin, Cumberland, Dauphin, Juniata, Lebanon, Perry, York, and Lancaster.

You will then be asked to enter the code for the category you need credits. The categories are listed on the back of your pesticide license. You will then hear all the meetings scheduled listed by county, town, date and contact person. Meetings are listed alphabetically by county.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Do more than think. Ponder."

(18:26).

We don't know what "more accurately" means, but obviously their association with Paul had given them a slant on Christian discipleship that was missing in Apollo's preaching. And that is not the end of their influence as fellow Christians with Paul. In the end of his letter to the Church at Rome, Paul says, "Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I but also all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks; greet also the church in their house" (Ro. 16:3-5). (Note: does this mean they are now in Rome? No one knows the answer to this riddle.)

So, through this oblique reference in Romans we learn that they "risked their necks" for Paul and the Gentile Christian congregations in Asia (today's Turkey) are thankful for what they've done.

A HOUSE CHURCH

Paul refers to Priscilla and Aquila again at the close of his first letter to the Corinthians: "The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord" (1Cor. 16:19). In 2 Timothy they are mentioned yet one more time: "Greet Prisca and Aquila..." (4:19). As they had extended their hospitality to Paul in Corinth, so in Ephesus they had made their home available to the Christian community there.

There is no way to know just how much these people accomplished for Christ, but I think that we may safely assume they played a valuable role in the spread of the gospel. They were hospitable to Paul, they were companions with him on his journey to Ephesus, they shared with Apollos what Paul had taught them, they risked their necks for the sake of the gospel, and they gathered a Christian community in their own home. They gave what they had to the Lord and it was enough.

And that's all He asks of us, too.

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