

# Lancaster Farming

## OPINION

### Growing Better, Together

Whether producing leaner cuts of meat, protecting the environment or providing consumer education, American agriculture is more responsive than ever to the desires of the consumer. National Agriculture Week, March 16-22, 1997, will celebrate this consumer focus with the theme "Growing Better Everyday ... Together."

"Today more Americans are emphasizing a healthy lifestyle and are concerned about protecting the environment," says Ron Vavrina, chairman of the Agriculture Council of America, Ag Day coordinator. "American agriculture is focused on meeting those consumer desires in a myriad of ways."

As America has become more health conscious, farmers and ranchers are producing meat lower in fat and cholesterol. For example, today's hogs are bred to be 50 percent leaner than those of 20 years ago. In fact, a barbecued pork loin sandwich has just 8 fat grams compared with 22 fat grams in a tuna salad sandwich. In the same way, leaner cuts of beef, with 27% less fat than 20 years ago, are standard offerings in today's retail meat case.

Of course, fruits and vegetables are always associated with a healthy lifestyle and for good reason. Research and advancements in biotechnology are now in the marketplace in the form of tastier fruits and vegetables that stay fresh longer and are not damaged by insects.

Among those consumers most associated with healthy eating, we find tofu to be a standard part of their diet. Tofu is a soybean product that has been shown to reduce the risk of some cancer and heart disease.

The concern for the environment that is so strong throughout America is equally reflected in the agricultural sector. Just as urban families recycle glass, newspapers and aluminum cans, farmers are recycling chemical containers, feed bags and food by-products.

More and more, city waste is finding its way to the farms as useful products instead of ending up in landfills. For example, agricultural researchers are testing the benefits of spreading pelleted waste paper on farm ground to act as an artificial mulch to reduce wind and water erosion.

What's more, numerous agricultural associations and organizations have created programs and seminars to deal with environmental needs in areas such as air quality, water quality and soil erosion.

Today consumer desires are coming together with agriculture's desire to satisfy them. Certainly American agriculture is "Growing Better Everyday ... Together."



**Now Is  
The Time**  
By John Schwartz  
Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent

#### To Tighten Up Biosecurity

Avian Influenza (A.I.) virus is still circulating, around poultry farms.

For those who can remember 1983, there are a lot of similarities between the winter of 1997 and 1983. Mild, foggy weather with the first case of A.I. in late winter.

Positive blood samples have been found in both commercial and backyard flocks. Based on this history, every poultry farmer should increase and tighten up his biosecurity.

According to Dr. David Kradel, Pennsylvania Poultry Federation, this is a virus that is easy to control through a good biosecurity program. If everyone is practicing good biosecurity, there is no reason for this virus to spread in commercial poultry flocks.

Let's stop this virus in its tracks before it causes large losses.

The recent cases of AI are reason for serious concern. The future will be determined by the level of biosecurity each farmer institutes.

Do not take chances. For more information on biosecurity, contact your service person or the Lancaster County Cooperative Extension office at (717) 394-6851.

#### To Understand Early Milker Detachment

According to Glenn Shirk, Lan-

Lancaster County Honey Producers' Meeting, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 7 p.m.

Open House Greenhouse Calf Barn, Bruce and Brenda Hemsarh's, Millville, 10 a.m.-noon.

Mushroom Review Program, Penn State Scanticon Conference Center, 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Central Susquehanna Direct Farm Marketing Seminar, Quality Inn, South Williamsport, 9:45 a.m.-4 p.m.

#### Thursday, March 20 Spring Begins!

Lebanon County Pesticide Update Training, Lebanon County Ag Center, 2 p.m.-4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Dairy Grazing Management Workshop, Schuylkill Co. Ag Center.

Northeast Coop Council Annual Meeting and Coop Leaders' Forum, The Desmond, Albany, N.Y., March 20-21.

Cornell Swine School and Trade Show, Morrison Hall and Livestock Pavilion, also March 21.

Adams County Conservation District Celebration Banquet, York Springs Community Fire Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Basic Landscaping for Homeowners, Carroll County Extension

(Turn to Page A21)

caster County dairy extension agent, one of the newer trends in milking cows is early detachment of milker units.

There can be less stress on the teat end, less liner slippage, fewer teat impacts, less transfer of infectious organisms into the teat, reduced infection rates, greater parlor flow of cows, and improved labor efficiency.

The goal still is to get the cows milked out rapidly, gently, and fairly completely. The results can be variable from farm to farm and from cow to cow.

To ensure the greatest success from this technique, do a good job preparing the udder and stimulating milk letdown. Also, align the units properly for uniform, rapid, and complete milkout and SCC levels and infection rates should be fairly low.

To accomplish early detachment, some farmers are adjusting their automatic take-off settings from 0.7-pound flow and a 13-second delay to a 2-pound flow rate and a 3-second delay.

#### To Evaluate Topdressing Winter Grains

Robert Anderson, Lancaster County agronomy agent, reminds us that winter grain crops which are starting to grow may be in need of additional nitrogen fertilizer.

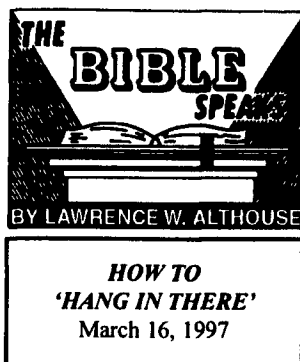
When additional nitrogen is needed, best response is obtained when applied prior to growth stage 6.

Stage 6 is when the first node becomes visible. The rate of nitrogen to apply is governed by several factors, including yield potential and the field's fertilizer and manure history.

When annual applications of livestock or poultry manure are applied to the field or a legume crop was grown last year in the field, little or no benefit can be expected by adding additional nitrogen.

Winter barley will lodge badly if high rates of nitrogen are applied or if the soil contains high amounts of residual nitrogen.

*Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Attitudes are contagious. Is yours worth catching?"*



#### Background Scripture:

2 Thessalonians 1

Devotional Reading:

1 Timothy 1:1-8

Being a follower of Jesus Christ in Thessalonika was not for sissies or the faint-hearted. Many of the local citizens regarded these Christians as heretics and heaped abuse, both verbal and physical, upon them. The lamp of the gospel did not go out there, but if flickered violently.

Yet, despite all this conflict, Paul could write and commend the Thessalonians "because your faith is growing, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing" (1:3). Paul and his associates gave thanks to God for the steadfastness of the Thessalonian Christians in the face of "all your persecutions and the afflictions which you are enduring" (1:4).

So far, the church at Thessalonika was hanging in there, as we say today. But how long could they continue to hold on and still grow in faith and love? At the point he writes this letter, there is no end in sight to the suffering they are enduring. Paul can't send them an army or police detachment to protect them. He can't call on the government to protect his Thessalonian friends. There seems to be nothing he can do to help them.

#### MAKE YOU WORTHY

But Paul knows there is something that can be done and he does it: he prays "that our God may make you worthy of his call and may fulfill every good resolve and work of faith by his power, so that the name of the Lord Jesus may be glorified in you ..." (1:11).

The word "worthy" here could be a stumbling block, for in the rest of his epistles Paul tells us we cannot be worthy of God's grace. But I think that the worthiness he is praying for the Thessalonians is not to be equal to the grace of God, but up to the challenge that confronts them.

Actually, these words of Paul

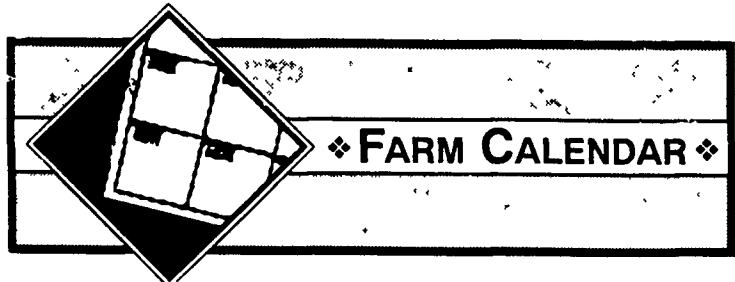
can be helpful to us when we seem uncertain how to pray for someone. We're currently praying for a friend who was laid off from his position and has been searching for a new job for too many months. When we pray for him, we do not tell God what to do about our friend, but we ask that he may be equal to the challenge that confronts him and fulfill the potential God has placed within him.

#### GLORIFIED IN US

When, like the Christians at Thessalonika, we are confronted by affliction, it is natural that we ask God to let this cup pass from us. But at its highest level, our prayer must be to help us to be equal to the challenge "so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ" (1:12). Instead of asking for the easiest and fastest way out of our affliction, let us ask that whatever God sends the name of Jesus may be glorified in us.

That's a very tall order, I know. In my life God has permitted me to escape some of my affliction, while others I have had to see through to the very end. Given a choice, of course, I would prefer the former option. But the latter is sometimes inescapable and it is in these that we have the greatest opportunity to be his faithful disciples — to witness to the world what can happen when we let him shine through us. There is no better way to witness for Jesus Christ than to let him shine through us when we walk in a dark place that we cannot avoid.

So, what is the prescription for 'hanging in there' when we are faced with a rock and a hard place? First, pray that God will help you to be up to the challenge — and you will be. Second, ask him to let Christ shine through your handling of that challenge. More than that we cannot or need not ask.



**Saturday, March 15**  
Penn State Master Gardener Symposium, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 8:45 a.m.-3:15 p.m.  
Cumberland County Holstein Association Annual Meeting, Bonanza Restaurant, Carlisle, 11 a.m.  
Northeast Regional Christmas Tree Growers' Meeting and Trade Show, Mountain Laurel Resort and Conference Center, White Haven, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**Sunday, March 16**  
Pa. 4-H Week, thru Jan. 22.

**Monday, March 17**  
St. Patrick's Day  
Managing Feed Costs Workshops, Frederick County Extension Office, Maryland, 10 a.m.-noon.  
Mercer County Sheep and Wool Growers Meeting, Mercer County Extension Center, Mercer, 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 18**  
South Central Pa. Cattlemen's Association Annual Banquet, East Berlin Fire Hall, 7 p.m.

Teenage Tractor Safety, Lehigh County Ag Center, Allentown, 7:30 p.m.  
Delaware DHIA Annual Meeting, Felton Fire Hall, 6 p.m.  
Crawford County Ag Day, Allegheny College, Meadville, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Integrated Pest Management Conference, Penn State-Wilkes Barre Campus, Lehman, 8:30 a.m.-4:14 p.m.  
Bradford County Agronomy Day, Wysox Fire Hall, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Dairy AgriBusiness Meeting, Mountain View Inn, Greensburg, 7:30 p.m. and Butler County Extension Office, March 19, 7:30 p.m.  
"Quality Milk Workshop Meeting, Wayne County Cooperative Extension Meeting Room, Courthouse, Honesdale, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 19**  
Regional Vegetable Growers' Meeting (Elk, Cameron, Clearfield, Jefferson, and Potter counties), Coudersport.

**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  
Copyright 1997 by Lancaster Farming