



OPINION

Secretary Brosius Set The Standard

As Charles Brosius winds down his term as Pennsylvania's agricultural secretary, we want to commend him for his efforts on behalf of farmers in state government. We have had many great ag secretaries in the past and this is not to take away from anything they have accomplished. But Charles Brosius is one of the most respected, intelligent, and able administration officials we have ever had the pleasure to know or work with. While other departments in state government seem to lack the work ethic farmers so espouse, Manager Brosius had PDA working toward the expressed goals of making government user friendly and creating an atmosphere in Pennsylvania where farmers could farm, and agribusiness could do business.

Secretary Brosius paid little attention to what the party politics were in his staff members. His only concern was that they be knowledgeable, experienced, and competent in their work. That's why a number of very key people in PDA today are from the opposite party. And he did not hire more people than he needed just to give people political payoffs. This shed such a good light on Pennsylvania's agricultural community. And on the governor who selected him in the first place.

An accomplished business man in real life, Brosius brought this business acumen to state government. His work to secure export opportunities for agribusiness in Pennsylvania is noteworthy. When dealing with foreign governments or trade delegations, the personal touch is what really gives these visitors the confidence that they "have a friend in Pennsylvania" and an honest opportunity to do business here. Brosius gave our state government that personal face so needed in these dealings.

We could fill a whole page of accomplishments that lesser men could not have done in eight years. Brosius accomplished so much in just two years.

In all the talk and counter talk in the last several weeks on this issue, maybe the best summary statement came from Italo Cappabianca (D-Erie), the Democratic chairman of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee in a letter to Gov. Ridge.

"Those of us who have come to know and work with Secretary Brosius have found him to be one of the more forthright, honorable, and qualified members of your administration," Cappabianca wrote. "He has represented our No. 1 industry with distinction, leading the Department of agriculture in a progressive and non-partisan way."

We thank you Secretary Brosius for your efforts on behalf of the ag community in state government. You have set the standard by which all future ag secretaries will be judged. Especially the next one.



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Evaluate Fields For Black Cutworms

Robert Anderson, Lancaster County extension agronomy agent, reminds us that black cutworms are a very common insect of corn.

This insect is migratory, moving into Pennsylvania during late March through early June. When it arrives it prefers winter annual weeds such as chickweed, shepherd's purse, and several members of the mustard family as a feeding and breeding area.

Corn fields with a high risk of black cutworm damage are fields with heavy populations of these weeds. The adults deposit their eggs on the weeds and the larvae that hatch feed on the weeds until the weeds are destroyed by tillage or herbicides. At that time they move to corn plants if they are available and continue to feed on them.

Black cutworms can almost be entirely eliminated as a pest by destroying the problem weeds a minimum of 10 days before planting. The weeds must be completely desiccated or brown, leaving no feed source for that period of time. Otherwise, scout the field at two- to three-day intervals from emergence until corn is 12 inches tall and spray with an insecticide when black cutworm is found.

liquidation of many family dairy farms, leaving the remaining in weak financial positions. Often, a farm's major creditor is the very cooperative that is destroying them. As a result those cooperatives have now become so bold that they have revealed their plans.

The cooperatives will use the profits generated by the difference between the official and real price of cheese to acquire the remaining milk production facilities (dairy farms). Co-ops will own the farms, feed mills, livestock auction houses and plants. Once they have a vertical monopoly they will reap huge profits. They will manipulate the supply of milk and raise

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To Control Seed Corn Maggot

Seed corn maggot is a pest that feeds on decaying organic matter such as manure, plowed-down crop residue, and other similar materials, according to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County extension agronomy agent.

The adult flies are attracted to fields with decaying organic matter to lay their eggs. The larvae that hatches feed on the organic matter plus any germinating seeds. The problem is often made worse during cool, wet weather when germination and growth of the corn seedling is slow.

To control the seed corn maggot in fields with high organic residue, use a seed treatment containing diazinon or a soil insecticide at planting. The seed treatment is a much cheaper treatment if the field is not a risk for other insect pests controlled by the soil insecticide.

To Control Armyworm

Armyworms overwinter in Pennsylvania as partially grown larvae

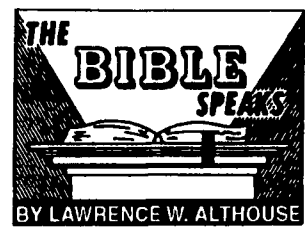
under plant trash and in clumps of grass and as pupae in the soil, said Robert Anderson, Lancaster County extension agronomy agent.

The adult moth emerges from early May to early June, laying eggs on the leaves of grasses including winter small grains. This insect is a threat when corn is planted in fields which had winter small grains as cover crops or harvested as silage or planted in old hay fields or pastures.

This is especially true if the crop is planted no-till. Sometimes the armyworm will migrate from a small grain field to an adjoining corn field and cause problems.

When planting corn into fields with a high potential for armyworm, consider using a broad-spectrum soil insecticide. These will also control white grubs, wireworms, black cutworms, sod webworm, seed corn maggot, and stalk borer.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "In life, what sometimes appears to be the end is really a new beginning."



BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE
FOLLOW THE LEADER
April 20, 1997

Background Scripture: Revelation 2:18-29
Devotional Reading: Romans 2:1-11

When I was young — and knew everything — I denounced a lot of things about which I knew little or nothing. Brought up a Protestant I "knew" that holy water, confession and praying to the saints was not only wrong, but dangerous. Nurtured by a denomination that was socially quite conservative — at least then — I also was told that dancing, playing cards, and movies were works of the Devil.

I can be excused, perhaps, because I was so young and impressionable. I basically was accepting what someone else told me as the Gospel truth. Today, although I still don't use holy water, practice confession or pray to the saints, I no longer condemn these practices for I have learned that they can be very meaningful to some who do. I sometimes dance, play cards and go to the movies, because I have personally learned that these things by themselves are not evil. Much of that depends upon me.

So, I have a hard time with the Revelation of John in the letter to the church at Thyratira: "I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess . . ." (2:20). I confess that I do not know of any church that is praiseworthy for works, love, service, faith and patience, but is too tolerant. Most of my experience in the church has witnessed too little, rather than too much tolerance.

BEGUILING MY SERVANTS

But maybe the problem here is with the word "tolerate." Is the writer commending tolerance or is he condemning moral insensitivity? There is a difference and, if we read further in this chapter, we find that the concern with this Jezebel is a real one: she "is teaching and beguiling my servants to practice immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols" (2:20). This is not a matter of prejudice against someone because her ways are different

or they do not understand her and therefore are intolerant. What we have here is an indifference to evil consequences to what she is teaching.

How easily someone can lead us down the path to Hell! How quickly we follow the leader whose certainty overcomes our own reasoning! We are so gullible and we jump at the chance for someone to think for us. All someone has to say is "I got this from God . . ." and we are ready to follow them without question, particularly if, like Jezebel, they are sure of themselves and/or charismatic.

The "faith" to which we are called is not to put our belief in a leader who claims to know the mind of God. The trust to which we are called is to be given to God alone, not his intermediaries. We can think for ourselves and God expects us to do so.

WHAT WORKS DESERVE

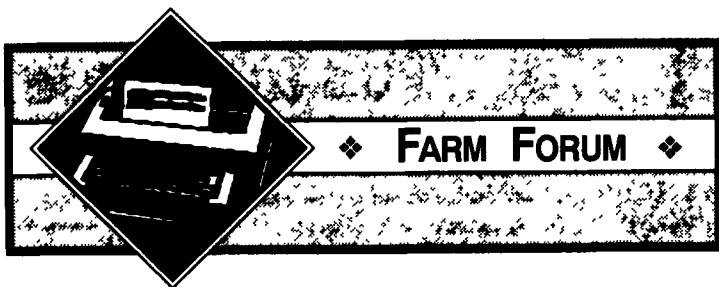
The key to the rightness or wrongness of anything is not in the arguments made for or against it, but in the bottom line: "By their fruits you shall know them" — whether you end up with "grapes" and "figs" or "thorns" and "thistles" (Matthew 7:16). The activities of this "Jezebel" were harmful, not because they were different, but because they were ending up with "thorns" and "thistles."

The Lord does not judge us superficially. "And all the churches shall know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you as your works deserve" (2:23). Who says "works don't count?" Works and faith go hand in hand.

There is only one leader into whose hands we can ever deposit our lives, our minds and our consciences. If we're going to follow the leader, let's make certain who is really leading.

(In October, Rev. & Mrs. Althouse will lead a 14-day tour to Turkey to trace the footsteps of Paul and John. For information, write: 4412 Shenandoah Ave., Dallas, TX 75205.)

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Editor,

As America's family dairy farmers face a Holocaust-like liquidation, a few facts need to be aired.

1) Kraft and the major cooperatives manipulated the Nation Cheese Exchange, setting the official price at \$1.325/lb. while they are actually receiving \$1.489/lb.

2) Land O' Lakes has signed a contract with Alfa-Laval to supply the cooperative with 200 complete 1000 cow dairies per year for the next five years.

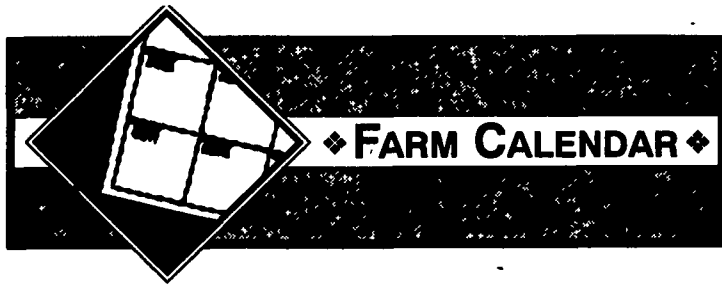
3) The CEO of Foremost Farms, Don Storhoff, has admitted that by increasing cheese production the major cooperatives caused the autumn milk price crash. Such practices are continuing to keep prices depressed, and bankrupting their members.

4) Dairylea has acquired Empire Livestock and the Erwin Feed Mill.

5) Of the Wisconsin dairies that are liquidating at the rate of 4/day,

some of the largest are being bought, intact, by persons unknown, and the former owners are being hired to run them.

The major cooperatives and processors have for years worked together to depress the farm price of milk. This has resulted in the



Saturday, April 19
Cumberland Co. Calf Sale
Thompson/Walton Farms, Carlisle, 7 p.m.
Pa. Spring Sale, Pine Grove.
Farm Product Marketing Center,
Vanango Co. Extension Office,
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Performace Tested Bull Sale, East-

ern Ohio Resource Development Center.
Lancaster County Therapeutic Riding Program Benefit Auction, Al Starr Community Building, Willow Street, 10 a.m.

Sunday, April 20
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