



## OPINION

### A Responsible World View

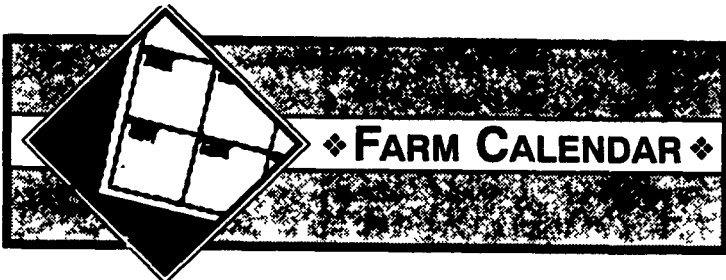
The brakes have been set on the population train, essentially by rising affluence and education. According to Dennis Avery, Center for Global Food Issues, the world's population is now set to peak at 8.5 billion people about 2035, with a slow, gradual decline thereafter.

But the environmental movement has failed to create sizeable numbers of vegetarians. In fact, meat and milk consumption is spreading faster than ever. Thus, to feed that many affluent people, we will need to triple the output of the world's farms. The Center for Global Food Issues recommends we do this through high-yield conservation by:

1. Tripling the yields on existing farmland through additional investments in research, technology, and conservation systems;
2. Tripling the water use efficiency in agriculture (which uses 70 percent of the water we consume) by replacing wasteful flood irrigation with new systems, better water pricing, and water-conserving farming systems like conservation tillage;
3. Planting 5 percent of the wild forest area to high-yield tree plantations that will allow us to harvest ten times the forest products in 2050 with no logging pressure on the 95 percent of the wild forests, and
4. Declaring free trade in farm and forest products so that the best lands can produce the highest yields and leave the most land for nature. (This will especially help the tropical forests in densely-populated Asia.

We must resolve the dilemma between human opportunity and wildlife conservation in the only way possible—by having both.

We are encouraged that environmentalists and conservationists are starting to recognize that the world must get more food from its existing farmlands in the decades just ahead—most importantly to preserve wildlands from a major expansion of low-yield farming. While different interests put emphasis on various research approaches, all are beginning to agree that higher yields are critically important to conservation, especially when you take a responsible world view.



### FARM CALENDAR

**Saturday, May 31**  
**Sunday, June 1**  
**Monday, June 2**  
**Tuesday, June 3**  
 Fruit Growers Twilight Meeting, McGinley Orchard, Winfield, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.  
**Wednesday, June 4**  
**Thursday, June 5**  
 Southeast Regional Fruit Meeting, Dunn's Fruit Farm, New Ringgold, 6:30 p.m.  
 Pasture Walk and Conservation Tour, Samuel K. King Farm, Gordonville, 10 a.m.-noon DST.  
 Trees and Utilities Conference, Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus.  
 Nutrient Management Background Workshop, Computer Demonstration, Penn State University, University Park, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
**Friday, June 6**  
**Saturday, June 7**  
 Special Dairy Issue  
 Ride and Drive at Reinecke Fuchs Farm, noon.  
 Bucks-Montgomery Cooperative Wool Pool, Delaware Valley College, Doylestown.  
 Pa. Equine Council Allegheny Trail Ride, thru June 8.  
 Centre/Clinton County Day Camp,

Clinton County Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
 Cambria County Farm Safety Day, Fairgrounds, Ebensburg, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
 SASDA Annual Meeting, Historic Inn, Annapolis, Md., thru June 11.  
**Sunday, June 8**  
 Thorncroft Spring Horse Trials, Beginner-Open Novice, FMI, Thorncroft, Malvern.  
 Specialty Mushroom Workshop, Nittany Lion Inn, Penn State, thru June 9.  
**Monday, June 9**  
 Mushroom Short Course, Nittany Lion Inn, Penn State, thru June 11.  
**Tuesday, June 10**  
 Curriculum & Discipline Equals Responsible Children Workshop, Lebanon County Extension.  
 Ephrata Area Young Farmers Current Research Projects, Mary Schantz Farm 606 Springville Rd., Ephrata.  
 FFA Activities Weeks, State College, thru June 12.  
 Family Dairy Days, Oregon Dairy Farm Market, Oregon Pike, 3 p.m.-7 p.m., thru June 12.  
**Wednesday, June 11**  
 Pa. Rural Health Conference, Nittany Lion Inn, State College, thru June 13.  
 Cumberland Cooperative Sheep To Wool Growers Wool Pool, Carlisle Fairgrounds, 7



### Now Is The Time By John Schwartz

Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent

#### To Control Weeds In Alfalfa

Robert Anderson, Lancaster County extension agronomy agent, states now that the first cutting of alfalfa is in the barn, it is time to think about insuring a good second cutting.

Weeds and insects often decrease the economic and feeding value of the hay crop. The control of pests is essential when they will lower the value of the crop.

Weeds are difficult to control at this time of the year. When summer annual grasses and broadleaf weeds have germinated before the regrowth of alfalfa starts, the herbicide Gramoxone may be used. If grass weeds become a problem after the alfalfa starts to regrow, another herbicide you may use is Poast.

If desirable perennial grasses are present, Poast will also kill them. A careful check of alfalfa fields between cuttings will help to determine if a herbicide is needed.

When weeds do not exist or the number of weeds is low, money may be saved by not spraying.

#### To Control Leafhoppers

The major insect pest of alfalfa from now until the end of the season is the potato leafhopper, according to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County extension agronomy agent.

This insect does not over winter in Pennsylvania. It moves up from the south on storm fronts.

There have been very few storm fronts moving through the area which were capable of bringing the leafhopper. This, along with the very cool weather, may delay the beginning of the leafhopper season this year.

Leafhoppers are very detrimental to alfalfa. As they feed on the alfalfa plant, they inject a toxin which plugs the vascular system of the plant.

Symptoms are a brassy yellow color of plants and stunted growth. New seedlings are the most susceptible to damage. Mature plants

a.m.-noon.  
**Thursday, June 12**  
 Farm Walk, Glen Oak Farm, Jay Heim, Glenmoore, 7 p.m.  
 Cooperative New Business Workshop, Harvest Drive Restaurant.  
 Lancaster County Holstein Field Day, Ed Harnish Farm, Five Points, 7 p.m.  
**Friday, June 13**  
 Franklin Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Lighthouse Restaurant, Chambersburg, 7 p.m.  
**Saturday, June 14**  
 Lancaster Safe Kids-Farm Safety Day Camp, Solanco Fairgrounds, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.  
 Mercer County Farm & Home

(Turn to Page A11)

which have heavy feeding by leafhoppers as regrowth starts are also susceptible to damage. If the regrowth of the alfalfa is under 3 inches, an average of 0.2 or more leafhoppers per sweep of an insect net will result in an economic loss and the field should be sprayed.

Spraying is justified when alfalfa is 3 to 6 inches tall, with an average of 0.5 leafhoppers per sweep; 6 to 8 inches high, an average of 1.0 leafhoppers per sweep; and 8 to 15 inches high, an average of 2 leafhoppers per sweep.

Regular monitoring of fields with an insect net is essential if sprays are to be applied when needed.

#### To Follow Potato Late

#### Blight Information

During the 1997 growing season, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) will coordinate the Pennsylvania Potato Late Blight Hotline. This service will be

part of the 1-800-PENN-IPM telephone information system.

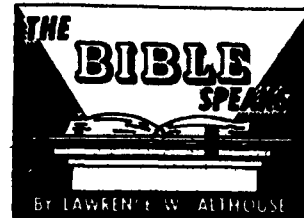
By calling this toll-free number, farmers will hear a changing, recorded message about weather conditions and late blight detection in order to help make disease management decisions.

To help potato growers avoid crop loss because of late blight, PDA's Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in Harrisburg will provide free testing of symptomatic plants for farmers whose crop may be infected with late blight.

To obtain directions for collecting and submitting samples, contact PDA Plant Pathologist Nancy Richwine at (717) 787-5609.

Early detection, accurate diagnosis, and access to timely disease and weather information play a key role in successful disease management.

*Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Pride is a personal commitment. It is an attitude which separates excellence from mediocrity."*



### WILL THE GIFTED PLEASE STAND! June 1, 1997

Background Scripture:  
I Timothy 4:6-16  
Devotional Reading:  
Psalm 37:1-11

What would happen if, on any given Sunday morning during worship in your church, someone—the Pastor, Lay Leader or anyone else—were to say to the congregation: "Will all those among us who are gifted by God please stand up?"

What would happen in your church? Would anyone stand up? Would the whole congregation eventually get to their feet? Or would there be a scattering of people here and there throughout the congregation who would stand up somewhat slowly and hesitantly?

You see, I think his challenge would throw a lot of people because most of us don't think of ourselves as being "gifted by God." Oh sure, the preacher may be gifted with sermons, prayers or pastoral care. And there may be one or two soloists in the choir whom we recognize as gifted. But most of us assume there is a big dividing line between "the gifted" and the rest of us. We think we are ordinary people and the truth is that, anyone who is made by God is divinely gifted and certainly not ordinary.

#### 'BEHIND THE DOOR'

This is not a matter of humility. It seems as though we think too little of ourselves to see us as "gifted." But there's more to it than that, for the fact is that, when we think of ourselves as having been "behind the door" when the gifts were handed out by God, we demean Him as Creator not just ourselves. We ignore the gifts he has given to each of us as though our legacy from God is something of sub-value.

I suspect that we fail to recognize the gifts that God places within us and our lives because, by thinking of ourselves as "ordinary," we excuse ourselves from anything but a very ordinary level of living. We persuade ourselves that we don't do more for God because we don't have that much ability to begin with. Somewhere, I came across this anonymous quotation:

*It's not what you'd do with a million, if riches should e'er be your lot.*

*But what are you doing at present, with the dollar and a quarter you've got?*

The anonymous author of that verse is talking about money, but what he's saying can be applied to those other nonmaterial gifts which God gives to each of us. Those potentials that we often fail to tap and never exhaust. The writer of I Timothy was speaking, not of money, but of Timothy's God-given gifts, when he counsels him: "Do not neglect the gift you have..." (4:14).

God gives each of us various gifts that can be used to witness for Christ and help others. Perhaps we can't write or speak in public and our singing voice cracks and slides off-key, but maybe your gift is that of helping others with their daily tasks, being a bearer of light wherever you go, listening to people and empathizing with them, patiently helping those who need tender care, loving those who seem unlovable—and so on and on. Or maybe you have been given the highest gift of all—love. More precious than any sermon, any solo, or performance of any kind is the gift of love.

All of us can serve God in the way that the writer of I Timothy counsels him: "... set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith and purity..." (4:11). I have been greatly inspired by sermons, deeply moved by spiritual music, and lifted up by discerning prayer. But more important than all of these in my life have been the examples of unsung Christian people who by their speech, conduct, love, faith and purity have made Christian discipleship utterly believable.

Will those gifted by God please stand!

*(The Althouses will walk in the footsteps of Paul and John of Revelation, leading a tour to Turkey next Oct. 17-Nov. 2. For information: "Turkish Delight," 4412 Shenandoah Ave., Dallas, TX 75205 (214) 521-2522.*

**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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