



## OPINION

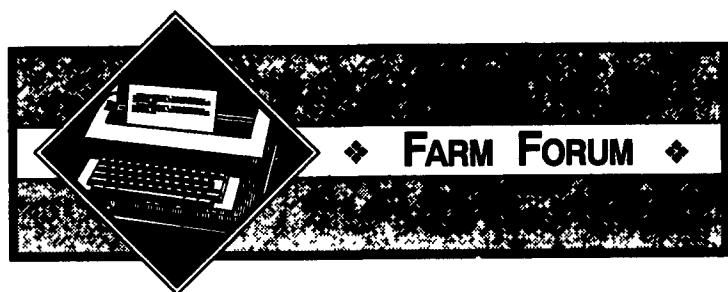
### FFA Makes Many Contributions

Once again the time has come to celebrate national FFA week. This year as a special project the National FFA Foundation has undertaken the coordination of a special Partners for a Safer Community. As a national pilot test of the program's youth safety educational materials, the group launched a two-day training of six community teams from Georgia, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin.

This is a national collaborative effort to promote agricultural youth safety and health through education, community development and youth leadership. To help accomplish this goal, Partners for a Safer Community compiled the instructional package — including adult and student guides, sample educational resources, a resource guide and a CD-ROM — for teaching youth safety to secondary and elementary school students.

For the next four months, participants will conduct local safety programs and will provide evaluation feedback. Program staff will use the pilot test results to strengthen the materials for training workshops in the fall of 1997 and for national distribution of the package of 4,000 communities by the end of 1998.

This is just another way FFA brings good things to our youth and our communities. Like everything else, they can't do it alone. The list of sponsors for this project is long and covers many areas of agriculture and education. But it just gives us one more good reason to say thank you to all the many youth and adults in FFA that contribute to the well-being of our country.



#### FARM FORUM

#### Editor:

It's hard to believe, but it's time now for me to give up my title as Crawford County Dairy Princess. It has been a wonderful year for me and I hope that the next girl to carry this title will have as great of a year as I did.

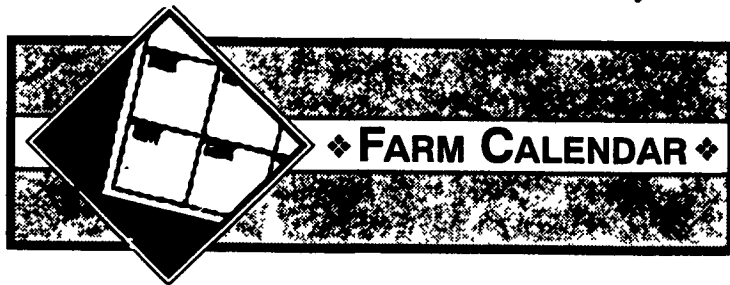
I have had so many wonderful experiences this year as dairy princess. I have met and worked with a lot of really great people. It has been a very busy, and sometimes exhausting, year though. I have spent my reign promoting the dairy industry for dairy farmers in Crawford County and across all of Pennsylvania. I have done my best to make this a successful year for dairy farmers by doing more than 340 promotions in 340 days, and I still have more promotions scheduled on both the county and state level!

I will consider my reign this year a success if I was able to communicate to the public the importance of agriculture, and especially the dairy industry, in Pennsylvania. Dairy farmers are having a difficult time making a living right now because milk prices are low. We all need to support the dairy farmers of Pennsylvania by buying and consuming real dairy products. If we work together to put dairy products on the table at every meal milk prices will rise, and we will have a healthier America.

The judges this year will have a hard job ahead of them as they have to pick a new dairy princess and alternate from the five girls running in Crawford County this year. I would like to wish all the girls competing at this year's Crawford County Dairy Princess Pageant good luck. Crawford

County will be blessed with a great dairy princess, alternate, and dairy maids this year.

Please come out and support the contestants on June 21 for the annual Dairy Princess Pageant. The contest will be held at the Cochran Community Church on Route 285 outside of Cochran town at 8:00 p.m. There is \$1.50 admission for those more than 12 years old with an all-you-can-eat ice cream social following. Hope to see you there!



#### FARM CALENDAR

##### Saturday, June 14

Lancaster Safe Kids-Farm Safety Day Camp, Solanco Fairgrounds, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Mercer County Farm & Home Safety Day, Mercer Extension Center, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Maryland Wool Pool, Harrington, Del., 8 a.m.-noon.

Strawberry Festival, Allegheny Church, Alleghenyville, 4 p.m.-8 p.m.

Lawn care meeting, York Extension, 10 a.m.

East Central Pa. 2-Cylinder Club Deere Tractor and Equipment Collectors' Show, Oley Fairgrounds, thru June 15.

Beaver-Lawrence Dairy Princess Pageant, Big Knob Grange, New Brighton, 8 p.m.

Lancaster County Dairy Princess Pageant, Farm and Home Cen-



### Now Is The Time By John Schwartz

Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent

#### To Teach Safety

Dr. Timothy Elkner, Lancaster County extension horticultural agent, reminds us that safety training is most effective when done in small amounts.

Rather than long, drawn-out monthly safety meetings, consider weekly, short sessions to keep your employees updated on safety concerns. Weekly meetings allow you to address concerns that are related to what employees will be doing that week.

Since your employees could then practice some of the safety procedures discussed, they are more likely to remember them and develop them as habits.

A good safety program needs leadership from a manager or farm owner. It is often best if the information comes from the employees themselves. This helps the employees to be thinking about safety on their own.

Thus, it is important to take some time and review safety at your operation every week. Remember, family members working on the farm are employees and also need weekly safety instruction.

#### To Involve Employees In Safety Education

Your safety program should have as much employee participation as possible, according to Dr.

Merideth Weiderspahn  
Crawford County  
Dairy Princess  
Pennsylvania 1st  
Alternate Dairy Princess

ter, Lancaster, 7 p.m.

Clearfield County Dairy Princess Pageant, Quality Farm and Fleet, Clearfield, 7:30 p.m.

##### Sunday, June 15

#### Happy Father's Day!

Thorncroft Combined Tests, Beginners-Open Novice Combined Test & Dressage, Thorncroft Equestrian Center, Malvern.

##### Monday, June 16

4-H Ambassador Conference, Penn State, thru June 18.

National Ayrshire Breeders Association, Willow Valley Restort, thru June 21.

Tioga County Dairy Princess Pageant, Mainesburg Community Center, Mainesburg, 7:30 p.m.

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Timothy Elkner, Lancaster County extension horticultural agent.

This could include having an employee actually make a presentation. Employees may be more convincing to other workers since they are peers. In addition, the person who made the presentation probably learned a lot themselves as they prepared for their talk.

Employees who are in line to make future presentations could be looking for areas in the operation where accidents are likely to occur or where safety precautions could be improved. Having employees identify and talk about safety issues should make them more aware of potential hazards.

For family members working on the farm, consider dedicating one meal a week where you or a family member discuss a safety topic.

#### To Monitor

#### Aphids On Tobacco

Robert Anderson, Lancaster County extension agronomy

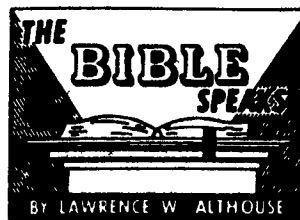
agent, reminds us that in most years aphids usually start to appear on tobacco in mid to late June with the major numbers appearing about the fourth of July.

Aphids can build up very rapidly under ideal weather conditions. Heavy infestations of aphids decrease both yield and quality of the tobacco crop.

To monitor aphids on tobacco, begin looking for them in late June or very early July. When you find 20 percent of the plants with aphids, it is time to begin spraying.

Most labeled products do an excellent job of controlling aphids when spraying starts before a large build up occurs and continues as needed throughout the growing season. When using any pesticide, read the label and always follow the directions for its use and all safety precautions.

*Feather Prof's Footnote: "The key to happiness is having dreams. The key to success is making dreams come true."*



#### HAVE YOU READ THE RULES?

June 15, 1997

#### Background Scripture:

2 Timothy 2:1-13

#### Devotional Reading:

2 Timothy 2:14-26

As a boy, I always enjoyed board games: "Go to the Head of the Class," "Clue," "Chinese Checkers" and "Monopoly," to name just a few. But, much as I enjoyed playing the games, I didn't like having to read all the rules that went with them. Of course, you've got to know the rules to play the game. As 2 Timothy puts it, "An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules" (2:5).

It's like that with life, too. It is very important that we familiarize ourselves with the rules of life. How often I used to complain that something or other that I experienced was "not fair!" One day, however, someone stopped me in mid-complaint and asked, "Where did you get the idea that life has to be fair?"

#### NOT FAIR!

Actually, if I had read the rules, I would have known that fairness is not one of the promises God gives us along with the gift of life. Where is that written? Many places, but especially in the Bible. Granted, I don't recall any passage in which it is specifically stated, "Life is not fair!" But you can't read very far in the scriptures without getting that message. Actually, that's what the cross of Christ is all about — life's injustice. If life is to be fair, it is not something that we will find along the way, but something that we ourselves must bring into being.

Another one of the rules that is often overlooked by Christians is that some suffering is to be expected for all humans and Christians are not exempt. From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible clearly states that suffering is part of the human condition. Christianity is not about avoiding suffering, but in dealing with it victoriously.

The writer of 2 Timothy says: "Take your share of suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus" (2:3). The implication here is that Christians might even have to suffer more than others. As hardship

goes with soldiering, so it goes with Christian disciplinship. As an apostle for Jesus Christ, Paul experienced more, not less suffering. It is for the gospel, he writes, "for which I am suffering and wearing fetters like a criminal" (2:9).

#### WORST-CASE SCENARIO

What we need to keep in perspective here is that suffering is not the worst thing that can befall us. Being defeated by suffering is the worst thing. Permitting suffering to dissipate or ruin our faith is our greatest danger. Failing to look to Christ in our hour of suffering is the most crucial mistake we can make.

For our strength is not in hiding behind the door when the suffering is passed out, but in experiencing the grace of God. "You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is Christ Jesus" (2:1). That grace — that undeserved love from God — is stronger than any suffering we can endure. Perhaps quoting from an ancient hymn, the writer of 2 Timothy, reminds us:

*If we have died with him, we shall also live with him.*

*If we endure, we shall also reign with him.*

As Christ was victorious over all suffering, so can we experience that same kind of victory. We may be fettered — actually or figuratively — "But the word of God is not fettered"! (2:9). No prison, no restraints, no limitations can fetter the gospel of Christ — or us! We're like the little boy whose teacher became exasperated because he was always standing up when he was supposed to be sitting. Pushing him down in his seat, she said, "Now stay there!" To which he replied: "Outside I may be sitting down, but inside I'm still standing!"

And that's in the rules, too!

*(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.)*

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