



OPINION

God Forbid That We Should Ever Forget

In pursuit of freedom, they came to this distant, unknown land. Seeking the right to worship freely, they left family and friends, jobs, and the security that comes with living in a familiar setting. They faced a harsh new environment, wary natives, were unprepared and unfamiliar with how to make a living on these primitive, forested shores.

Indeed, many of them starved to death.

Then, they learned to farm.

Oh, it was surely primitive by today's standards, crude tools, fish for fertilizer, cutting trees and burning to clear land. Back-breaking labor, which many of them had perhaps not before known.

But after they learned to farm, they ate. They put away for the winter. And they survived.

Once fed, they prospered, grew, fanned out to settle this America.

They built settlements, raised families. Elected leaders and established a government.

Because they were fed, our founding fathers could pursue this experiment in freedom. Even then, the rich soils and productivity of American farms freed a good portion of the citizenry to pursue the finer points of civilization. Doctors, teachers, craftspeople, printers, shopkeepers, preachers.

They organized, rebelled against oppression, formed an army. Threw off the yoke of foreign rule. Led by bands of farmers, who laid down their plows and took up rifles, this fledgling, upstart nation of renegades rebelled against one of the world's mightiest powers. And won.

Because they were fed, they could defend this precious freedom.

Seeking land they could call their own to farm, the more adventurous among the populous headed West. Civilization followed as farmers split the virgin prairie soil with plows and fattened cows and sheep for food and fiber on its lush grasses.

Because there was abundance of food, railroads followed. Rutted wagon paths widened into roadways. Ports grew. Immigrants from around the world fled oppression and hunger in their native lands to embrace this land of peace — and plentiful food.

With full bellies, inventive minds were free to dream and dare. To power with waterwheels and belt drives. To dig canals, to mine useful minerals, to raise up institutions of medicine and of learning. To invent the likes of electricity and steam engines and gasoline motors.

A fed country is a country with freedom to grow, to imagine, to try, to dream. A hungry country expends its limited energy stalking its next meal, generally amid political, social and economic chaos.

Because we were fed, American ingenuity has prospered. Curious minds have been freed to develop rocket science and nuclear power, cures for polio and controls for insects which spread killer diseases, lasers, microwaves, instant communication and computerization.

America is certainly not perfect. Still, others continue to arrive at our steps, yearning for freedom from oppression, from dictators, from war and from the wrenching hunger still prevalent in too many parts of the world, hunger which skeletonizes aging bodies and bloats the bellies of starving infants.

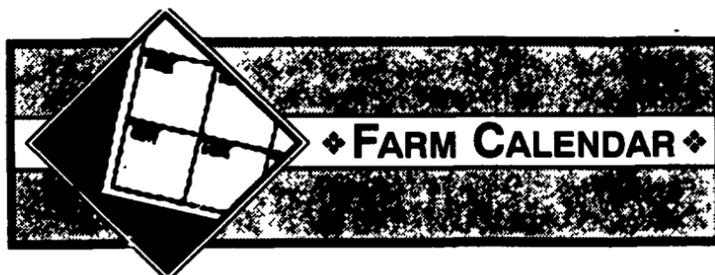
Yet, after more than 200 years of abundance, we increasingly seem to take for granted that we are free because we are fed. We have become a citizenry too far removed from the source of plenty. Generations distant from tilling the soil need to know more about the production of food for our national full bellies. It might simply magically materialize somewhere in the dark recesses of supermarket warehouses.

As we celebrate our national birthday on July 4, may we remember that we have come this far because we have not had to scabble, hand to hand for every daily bite. America's rich agriculture resources and productivity have powered our prosperity.

We are free because we are fed.

God forbid we ever forget or neglect that blessing.

— Joyce Bupp, On Being A Farm Wife — And Other Hazards. Lancaster Farming, June 29, 1991.



Saturday, July 5
Sullivan County Rodeo and Demolition Derby, Sullivan County Fairgrounds, thru July 6.

Sunday, July 6
Clarion County Fair, New Bethlehem, thru July 12.

Monday, July 7
Pa. Holstein Association Junior Judging Schools, Bedford County, noon, thru July 8.

1997 NCWGA Region 5 Sheep Show and Sale, Derry Agricultural Fair, Derry, thru July 12.

Tuesday, July 8
Pasture Walk and Conservation Tour, Roman Stoltzfus, Springwood Farm, Kinzers, 10 a.m.-noon DST.

Ephrata Area Young Farmers meeting, Landscaping, Nevin Horning's Farm, Lititz.

Field Day, Donohoe Center/Bus



Now Is The Time
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Test Water Supply
Leon Ressler, Lancaster County agriculture environmental extension agent, reminds people who receive their water supply from a private well that monitoring the well water quality is your responsibility.

The only way you can be certain your water is safe to drink is to have it tested periodically. While it would be cost prohibitive to test for every possible contaminate, several screening tests can give you a pretty good idea about the quality of the well water.

A test for coliform bacteria should be run annually. The acceptable tests results are zero colonies in the sample. Make sure the lab running the tests is certified for microbiology tests by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Another test that should be run routinely is for nitrates. Other tests including hardness, iron, and total dissolved solids, may be run on your water supply if you suspect you have problems with these contaminants.

If you have problems with corrosion of your plumbing, a pH test may be helpful in finding a solution.

To Store Large Bales Correctly

Storing hay in large round bales has become very popular, according to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County agronomy extension agent.

Many producers leave the larger bales of hay outside until they are ready to feed them. However, outside storage can result in a loss of feed between 15 and 20 percent over time.

Ohio State has found that losses can be reduced by keeping the bale's top half covered and allowing moisture to escape from the bottom. Farmers have used slatted

Tour, 10 a.m.
Perry County Holstein Club picnic, Ickesburg.

Wednesday, July 9
Bucks County Holstein Club Junior Judging School, noon, thru July 10.

Northeast Sheep and Wool Growers Association Wool Pool, Wyoming County Fairgrounds, Meshoppen, thru July 10.

Soybean Inoculant Farm Field Discussion, David Bitler Farm, Fleetwood, 10 a.m.-noon.

NYS Farmers' Direct Marketing Association, twilight meeting on merchandizing, Abbott Farms, Baldwinsville, N.Y., 7 p.m.

Thursday, July 10
Stockman's Spectacular, Jackson Branch, Jackson.
Landisville Weed Day, Research Farm, 10 a.m.

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pallets, old tires or poles to allow air to get to the bottom of bales.

In a six-month study, bales which had a top cover and were supported on slatted pallets had losses between 4 and 7 percent. Bales which were covered but set on the ground had losses 7 and 15 percent. Rectangular bales stored in a barn usually have a 4 percent loss.

To Check Tobacco For Aphids

Robert Anderson, Lancaster County agronomy extension agronomy agent, reminds us that aphids usually start to show up on tobacco in mid to late June with the major numbers appearing about the fourth of July.

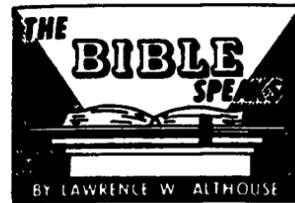
If Orthene was used in the

transplant water, it does a good job of controlling the early aphids, but by early July that control has diminished to near zero.

Aphids can build up very rapidly under ideal conditions. Heavy infestations of aphids can decrease both yield and quality. To monitor aphids on tobacco, begin looking for them around the fourth of July.

When you find 20 percent of the plants with aphids, it is time to being spraying. Most labeled products do an excellent job of controlling aphids when spraying starts before a large buildup occurs and continues as needed throughout the growing season.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Success is a journey, not a destination."



WHAT'S IN A NAME?
July 6, 1997

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Background Scripture:

Hebrews 1:1-5; 3:1-6

Devotional Reading:

Hebrews 1:6-14

"What's in a name?" asks Shakespeare in *Romeo and Juliet*. "That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

Names are important as signs in helping us to identify people and things, but we err when we assume that the name is equal to the reality we are naming. When someone speaks your name, have they fully defined what you are? If someone calls you by your vocational title — clerk, carpenter, lawyer — is that the sum total of your destiny? Of course not. These names are helpful, but we must never assume they are the last word.

I determined long ago that any language I used to speak of God would be at best inadequate. This is true also of Jesus Christ. We call him by many titles and these all help us relate to him. At the same time, we must remember that human titles — even the word *GOD* — are but human symbols of a divine reality that quite transcends human vocabulary.

THE NAMES

Look at how many different titles we use for this Jesus of Nazareth. We call him the *Christ/Messiah* — the "anointed one." The name *Jesus/Yeshua* means "God saves."

Emmanuel/Immanuel means "God is with us." Jesus usually spoke of himself as *Son of Man* (which can be interpreted to mean "a man"). Contemporaries called him the *Nazarene* or *Rabbi* ("My Great One"), while those closest to him addressed him as *Master* or *Lord*. Writers of the New Testament called him the *Son of God* and the *Logos* or "The Word." Today we still use titles such as *Redeemer, Saviour, King, The Good Shepherd, The Bread of Life* and many others.

All of these are helpful but none is definitive. I am glad we can use a variety of terms that give our experience of him a depth and richness. The same is true of the term *Son of God*. It tells us a lot about who and what Jesus is, but like any analogy it has its limitations. Down through the ages people have argued and fought over

the precise terms by which Jesus of Nazareth was, became or is God's Son. And to make things even more difficult to nail down, Jesus sometimes called his followers "sons of God."

What does it mean for us to call Jesus the Son of God? The beginning of the Letter to the Hebrews is very helpful: "In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world" (1:1,2).

THE WORD

God spoke and still speaks to us in many ways — through history, nature, beauty, law, reason, art, other people — and all of these can be valid channels of revelation. But, the writer of Hebrews tells us that his most complete revelation to us comes in the person of Jesus Christ. In the one person God revealed to humanity that we can apprehend and comprehend of his own nature. That is why we speak of Jesus as *The Word*.

Very often when they meet me for the first time people say that I look like and sound like my father. That does not mean we are physically identical, but that there is in me a resemblance of my father. So it is, says Hebrews, with Jesus Christ who "reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature" (1:3). When we encounter Jesus we come as close to God as it is possible for us to come and we understand as much of him as we can.

In chapter 3 the writer of Hebrews compares and contrasts Jesus with Moses. What was exemplary in Moses is even more so in Jesus. Moses was "faithful" to God, but Jesus's faithfulness is that of a son to a father. Faithfulness is the key. Jesus was faithful and he calls us to faithfulness. Actually, faithfulness is much more important than the names and titles we use for either God or his Son. Without faithfulness the names are useless.

(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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