



OPINION

Ag Progress Days Are For Everyone Who Eats

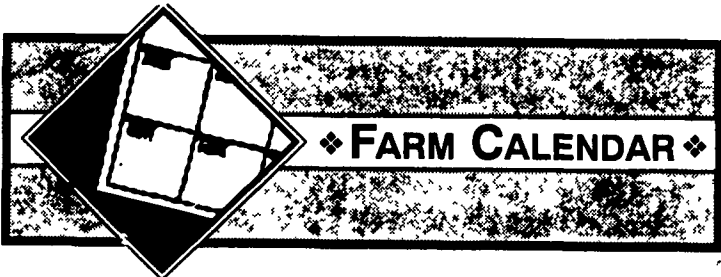
If you produce food or eat it, you will find something of interest at Ag Progress Days to be held this week at Penn State's Russell E. Larson research farm. From the hands-on experience of driving various models and makes of tractors to petting an insect, you will have fun at Ag Progress Days.

But the most important reason to attend is to be a part of the future of agriculture. Some farmers choose to go the "route of less." They want to use fewer chemicals and minimum tillage. They want to graze their livestock. Ag Progress Days features research projects and practical exhibits to help this kind of farmer.

Other farmers thrive on the "high-tech route." Computers in the milking parlor, the farm office, or on tractors and combines captures the attention of this breed of farmer. Ag Progress Days has many programs and equipment features of interest.

How often do you get to ask the most knowledgeable ag college professor available about your interest in his or her subject? This also is possible at Ag Progress Days.

So load up the family in the pick-up truck, or get several neighbors together and make the trip to Ag Progress Days. You will see your friends there too.



- Saturday, August 9**
 Pa. Holstein South-Central Championship Show, Shippenburg Fairgrounds, 9:30 a.m.
 Cambria County 4-H Horse Show, Cambria County Saddle Club.
 Chester Co. 4-H Horse Show, 4-H Center, Honeybrook.
 Washington Co. Ag Fair, Washington, thru Aug. 16.
 Kids' Day On The Farm and Old-Time Plow Boys Plowing Show, Pa. German Heritage Center, Kutztown, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., also Aug. 10.
- Sunday, August 10**
 Bullsken Township Fair, Wooddale, thru Aug. 16.
 Huntingdon County Fair, Huntingdon, thru Aug. 16.
- Monday, August 11**
 PSU College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Society Golf Tournament, State College, late a.m., barbecue at 6 p.m.
 Eastern Agriculture Society Conference and Short Course, Clayton Hall, University of Delaware, thru Aug. 15.
 Eastern Shore District Holstein Show, Queen Anne's 4-H Park, Centerville, 10 a.m.
 Chester Co. 4-H Goat Show, Ronmo 4-H Center, Honeybrook.
 Dayton Fair Aug. 11-16.
 Kutztown Fair Aug. 11-16.
 Lawrence Co. Fair Aug. 11-16.
 Montour-Delong Community Fair, Washingtonville Aug. 11-16.
- Tuesday, August 12**
 Ag Progress Days, Rockspring, thru Aug. 14.
 EAYFA Meeting, Farm Safety, Luke Ray Zimmerman's Farm, Ephrata.
 Pa. Hay Show At Ag Progress Days, Rockspring.
 Northeast District Jersey Show, Tioga County Fairgrounds, Whitneyville, 10 a.m.
 Chester County 4-H. Breeding Sheep and Market Lamb Show,

- Romano 4-H Center, Honeybrook.
Wednesday, August 13
 Chester County 4-H Market Hog Roundup, Romano 4-H Center, Honey Brook.
 Adv. Conserv. Leadership School, Penn State Campus, thru Aug. 26.
 PEC Horse Breed and Safety Program, Ag Progress Days, Rockspring.
 Octorara Young Farmers Ag Progress Days Tour, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
 Pa. Performance Tested Boar Sale, State College, 6 p.m.
 Middletown Grange Fair, Wrightstown, thru Aug. 17.
 Drought Informational Meeting, Frederick County, Md. extension office, 7:30 p.m.
 Cantaloupe Variety Demonstrations, Weiser Orchards and Greenhouse, York Springs, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, August 14**
 Mifflin County Holstein Sale, (Turn to Page A35)



Editor:
 I have been comparing prices and statistics from our market administrator report, from last year to now, and I see why our price is still so low.
 In the four classes of milk that they divide our production, the percent always changes depending how much the price in the class increases.
 That is why we are getting less money this year, than last.
 Last year in June the UNIFORM PRICE (U.P.) \$15.18 today it is \$12.74, this shows me that they are using all the classes of milk to their advantage.



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Manage Alfalfa Fields
 Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent, reports that he has seen many alfalfa fields looking extremely bad. The dry weather did not allow the alfalfa to grow very tall. However, the biggest problem is the potato leafhopper which is feeding heavily on alfalfa. When the leafhopper feeds it injects a toxin into the alfalfa plant that plugs the plant's vascular system. This stops the flow of water and nutrients within the plant. Fields where the leafhopper have been controlled are short but green in color. Once an alfalfa field shows signs of leafhopper feeding it must be mowed to get the plant functioning again. Fields that are showing yellowing or "leafhopper burn" need to be mowed and then sprayed with an insecticide. If the field has begun to bloom, it will not add height, it will only lose feeding value. These fields should be harvested immediately. If the alfalfa is too short to bale, it should be clipped and the stubble sprayed for leafhoppers.

To Harvest Silage to Optimize Quantity and Quality

Even with recent rains, this summer's drought may have lasted too long to expect great things of corn and other crops, according to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent. The decision to harvest silage should reflect 1. the potential the field has for recovery, 2. the moisture content of the crop and 3. any yield losses which could be expected due to the loss of lower leaves. As we get later into the growing season, the likelihood of yield increases due to late season rains diminishes rapidly.

As it says in this report "A sudden drop in dairy product sales and a sharp buildup in stocks dropped cheese and butter prices dramatically in April. In late May, butter prices regained most of their earlier loss, but cheese has yet to show much recovery. Once the current excess stocks are worked off and production declines seasonally, prices are expected to raise substantially and, perhaps, QUICKLY.

Don't you guys get it yet????? They want us to make more milk for them so they can play with the milk we produce and

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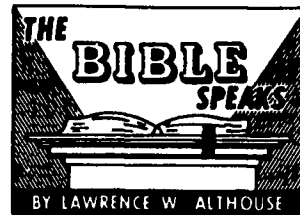
Corn and other plants quickly loses its ability to maintain leaves. Drought stress causes a high rate of abortion of kernels further limiting plants ability to recover from drought. Consider harvesting drought crops as soon as the moisture content of the whole plant is in the range of good storage.

To Be Aware of Silo Gases

A dry season, like we are having, increase the danger of silo gas. This deadly gas from fermenting forage can make filling silos particularly dangerous during dry weather, according to Penn State safety specialist, Dr. Dennis Murphy. Silo gas or nitrogen dioxide can cause severe irritation to the nose and throat and may lead to an inflammation of the lungs. It can cause unconsciousness or

death especially in the first 12 to 72 hours after filling the silo. Silo gas is heavier than air. It tends to accumulate just above the silage in the silo. It has a strong bleach like odor and appears as a low lying yellow, red or dark brown gas. The gas may flow down the chute and collect in the feed room or other areas near the base of the silo. To prevent silo gas poisoning, provide good ventilation in and around the silo when silage is fermenting. Keep the door between the barn and feed room and silo closed. Keep children out of the area.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote
 "There is little difference in people, but that little difference makes a big difference. That little difference is attitude. The big difference is whether it is positive or negative."



A MUTUAL-STIRRING SOCIETY
 August 10, 1997

Background Scripture:

Hebrews 10:19-39

Devotional Reading:

1 Corinthians 1:1-10

Is your church a *mutual-stirring society*?

Since retiring from the staff of the First United Methodist Church in Dallas, TX where I served the last 13 years of my ministry, I have taken the opportunity to attend a variety of churches and denominations. All too often, my wife and I did not find very *stirring* experiences. Some of these services seem to be planned so that no one runs the risk of being stirred to do anything — including coming back the following Sunday.

Among the 20 definitions of the word *stir* in my dictionary I found: "to rouse from inactivity, quiet contentment, indifference, etc.;" "to incite, instigate or prompt;" "to affect strongly; excite;" "to be emotionally moved or strongly affected;" and even "a jog, poke or thrust."

I know that sometimes being *stirred* — or not — is in the eye of the beholder and being *stirred* is not all there is to a service of worship. Still, it seems to me that a worship service that does not stir us in some way is not likely to motivate us to live as followers of Jesus Christ.

LOVE AND GOOD WORKS

The writer of Hebrews thinks so: "let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works..." (10:24). As followers of Jesus we have a responsibility, not only to live fruitful, loving lives, but also to motivate others to do the same.

There have been many times when I have walked into a beautiful cathedral and been inspired by what I found there. But that is a very limited experience and spiritually not all that the Church is meant to be. Our experience of God, whether in a cathedral, shrine, outdoor setting or the privacy of our own room, is meant to be helpful to others as well as ourselves. We are intended by God to be a fellowship in which we inspire each other to live more faithfully as disciples of Christ. In other words: a *mutual-stirring society*.

Research indicates that, on the average, women are better able to survive the loss of a mate than

men. The reason? Women tend to have more supportive relationships than men. Twenty years ago when we did our research for a book on breast cancer (*You CAN Save Your Breast*, Valere & Larry Althouse, W.W. Norton), we found that studies indicated that breast cancer victims who joined the support groups recuperated faster from surgery and radiation and with fewer and less severe complications. Alcoholics Anonymous has demonstrated admirable success as a healing support group for alcoholics. As one who has conducted grief support groups, I have observed very often that the bereaved are often helped most by those who have experienced grief themselves. In life, all of us are wounded healers.

SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUP

The church is called to be a vital support group for all of us who are committed to living as disciples of Jesus. So, it is to be measured not solely by what we can get out of it, but also by what we can put into it. We need to find support there to help us in our daily living and we need to give support to our fellow disciples. The writer of Hebrews warns against "neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another" (10:25). Neglecting to meet together as a church deprives us and others of support that is so vital to our lives. Often the greatest gift we can offer someone else is encouragement.

G. Ernest Thomas tells of a preacher in a village in Scotland who went to the home of one of his members. This member had recently declared to his friends that he did not have to go to church on the Sabbath because he could find God just as well in his garden or in the fields. The minister and parishioner sat in silence before a fireplace. After a while, the preacher arose and, taking the tongs from the fireplace, lifted a single coal from the embers and placed it alone on the hearth. Soon the coal burned into a black ash while the fire continued to burn brightly. Then he went quietly back to his chair. In time the parishioner said, "I know what you mean, I cannot live alone. Next Sunday I'll be at my place in the church."

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Lancaster Farming, Inc.

A Steinman Enterprise

Robert G. Campbell General Manager

Everett R. Newawanger Managing Editor

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