



OPINION

No New Regulations Until True Facts Known

The Environmental Protection Agency publicly acknowledges that agriculture is not a major emitter of fine particulate air pollution, but faulty documentation that overestimates agriculture's contribution could target farmers for unnecessary regulation. That's the story told to the Senate Agriculture Committee in Washington, DC, last week.

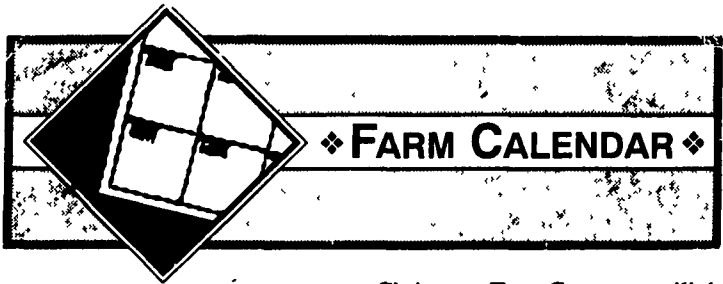
And we agree. America's farmers have undertaken conservation activities that enhance air quality. Such practices as conservation tillage and planting cover crops, trees, and vegetation reduce wind erosion of the soil, which in turn provides cleaner air.

We believe farmers are cleaning the air and should get credit for being the conservationists they are.

New rules to tighten air quality standards have many farmers concerned because EPA lacks actual measurements of what agriculture emits in the form of fine particulates. One study estimates as much as 34.3 percent of primary fine particulate matter can be attributed to agriculture and forestry. Another suggest an amount as low as five percent.

There is very limited research by independent studies, so little information is known about the standard's cost to agriculture and consumers. And more importantly, the positive side of modern agricultural activity and how it contributes to overall air quality gets little if any consideration.

Until all this information is known and considered, farmers should not need to face any more new regulations.



Saturday, August 23

Susquehanna County 4-H Beef, Lamb, and Swine Sale, Cattle Arena, Harford Fairgrounds, Harford, 1 p.m.

Md. State Fair, Timonium Fairgrounds, thru Sept. 1.

South Central 4-H/FFA District Dairy Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.

Sunday, August 24

Indiana County Fair, Indiana, thru Aug. 30.

West End Fair, Gilbert, thru Aug. 30.

York County Farmers Union picnic, Frank and Doris Goodlanders Farm, Lewisberry, 1 p.m.

Monday, August 25

Tuesday, August 26

Pasture Walk and Conservation Tour, Mike S. Zook, Honey Brook, 10 a.m.-noon DST.

Centre County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Centre Hall, 11 a.m.

Big Knob Grange Fair, Rochester, thru Aug. 30.

Allentown Fair, Allentown, thru Sept. 1.

Greene-Oreber-Sterling Fair, Newfoundland, thru Sept. 1.

Wattsburg/Erie County Fair, Wattsburg, thru Aug. 31.

Buckwheat Field Day, N.Y. State Ag Experiment Station, Geneva, N.Y., 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Wednesday, August 27

Turfgrass Research Field Day, Turfgrass Research Facility, Columbus.

South Mountain Community Fair, Arendtsville, thru Aug. 31.

Wyoming County Fair, Tunkhannock, thru Sept. 1.

Stoneboro Fair, Stoneboro, thru Sept. 1.

Sullivan County Fair, Forksville, thru Sept. 1.

Christmas Tree Growers twilight meeting, Bill Finks Farm, Bedford County, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 28

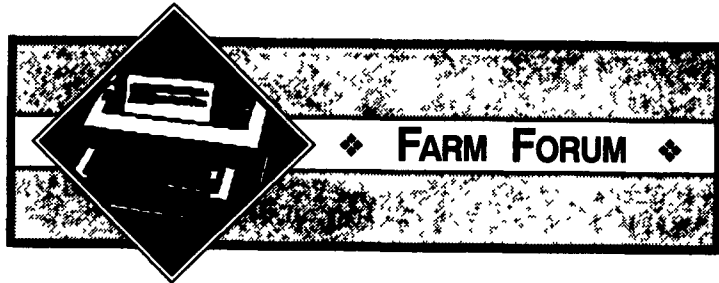
Swine Day, Swine Center, Don Scott Field, Columbus.

York County Beekeepers, Penn State Extension, 7 p.m.

Deer Damage Management Workshop, Edrich Nursery, Baltimore County, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Friday, August 29

Adams County Holstein Show, (Turn to Page A44)



Editor,

In this age of "merger mania" in agricultural organizations, one begins to wonder, when is enough enough?

Next week the PADHIA state board will consider becoming a member of Cooperative Resources International. CRI is made up of mainly AI groups and one DHIA and is based in Wisconsin. As a long time proud member of PADHIA I have many questions and concerns about this merger, a few of which I will list.

1. Who has control of the finances?
2. Who sets the competitive boundaries?
3. Who hires and fires the CEO?
4. Who establishes employee benefit packages?
5. Who determines if PADHIA

will continue to operate a processing center or a milk testing lab?

Dairy farmers are currently undergoing a lot of financial stress and quite often the logic for these organizational changes are sold to members as being more efficient and more cost effective. This may not always be the case. One thing is certain, once a change like this one is made, there is no going back to the status quo.

Now is the time for the members of PADHIA to contact their state directors and ask questions and express their opinions.

Do it today.

J. Robert Kindig
Conestoga

Editor,

While cleaning up the pile of papers and magazines by my desk,

(Turn to Page A39)



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Ensilage Drought Stressed Corn

Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County Extension Dairy Agent, states drought stressed corn of proper moisture content can have good feed value. It may actually have slightly less fiber and the fiber may be more digestible than that of "normal" silage. Drought stressed fields can supply some much needed forage in years when forage supplies are tight. So, if you need more forage and your neighboring grain producers have some fields that will not shell out well, you may help them out by chopping their fields. When corn growth is stunted, nitrates can accumulate in the bottom portion of the plant. Concentrations in the bottom 12 inches may be 10 times that of the rest of the plant. To reduce the risk of nitrate toxicity, chop the crop at least 12 inches high and let it ferment three weeks before feeding.

To Harvest Corn Silage

To harvest the best quality silage we need to focus on moisture content, length of cut, cutting height, nutrient changes and fermentation, according to Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County Extension Dairy Agent. The moisture content of the corn plant may change rapidly. Do not let it catch you off guard. It may be hard to gauge the moisture content of the crop by the appearance of the plant or by the movement of the milk line in the kernels.

The only accurate way is chop a few representative stalks and test

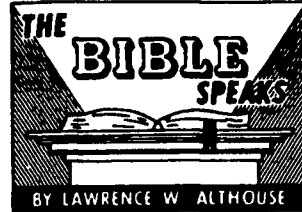
them for moisture content. A good guide to aim for is about 65 per cent moisture - slightly less for upright silos and slightly more for bunkers. The drier the silage the harder it is to pack, the greater the risk of poor fermentation and the lower the digestibility will be. In hot, dry weather, the number of lactobacillus bacteria (the ones needed for good fermentation) can decrease. So, to help endure good fermentation, it may be beneficial to use good lactobacillus type preservative.

To Plant Alfalfa

Alfalfa seeding time is near. Research has found that the optimum number of plants to produce the highest yield over the life of the stand was 19 plants per square foot in the seeding year, according to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent. In Pennsylvania, to

achieve this plant population it is recommended to plant 18 to 20 pounds per acre when fungicide and insect treatment is not used or 15 to 17 pounds with a fungicide and insect treatment. Variety selection is also a key factor in maximizing alfalfa yields. Selection of a high yielding variety which is disease resistant or tolerant is essential. The Pennsylvania Alfalfa Variety Trials for last growing season are available at your county cooperative extension office. This report ranks the alfalfa varieties which were on test for fall dormancy, bacteria wilt, fusarium wilt, phytophthora root rot, aphid resistance and verticillium wilt. In addition, it gives yields over a one to four year period.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind."



ARE YOU 'HALFWAY THROUGH?'
August 24, 1997

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Background Scripture:

Hebrews 12:1-11

Devotional Reading:

2 Corinthians 4:7-17

Bennett Cerf, in *The Sound of Laughter*, tells of a youth by the name of Tommy Noonan who was having considerable success one summer mowing the lawns of people in the neighborhood. One afternoon, his mother thought he was taking his good old time about getting started, but Tommy replied: "I'm waiting for them to start themselves. I get most of my work from people who are halfway through."

I'm tempted to add, "So does God!" A lot of the work God is called upon to do is what we've transferred to him when the going gets tough for us, although I suspect that often we're considerably ahead of 'halfway through.'

I'm told that about 100 steps below the summit of Mt. Washington is a marker dedicated to a woman climber who, lost in a storm, lay down and died. She had no idea that a shelter hut was just 100 steps away. On a clear day the dimensions of the tragedy are starkly discernible. She died, not because she didn't realize how close she was to the end of her struggle. What she needed was not more strength, but the perseverance to go on when her strength seemed to fail her. Perhaps this woman's story can serve as a reminder to all of us that often we are much closer to our goal than we realize and we need to continue on, even though we cannot see the finish line. As the writer of Hebrews tells us, "let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us..." (12:1)

THE LONELY RUNNER

Many years ago there was a fine motion picture entitled, *The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Runner*. It is true that often we feel that we are all alone in running the race of life, but the writer of Hebrews reminds us that "we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses." The patriarchs and people of faith he has enumerated in Hebrews 11 are those who watch us run and they cheer us on, reminding us that as they persev-

ered, so must we.

When running a race, my high school track and field coach always admonished us, "Don't look back!" Looking back may give us accurate information about what's behind us, but it is likely to cost us the race. He told us that looking back could hurt us in three ways: (1) we could easily break our stride, (2) we could stumble and even fall, (3) we might become disheartened and fail to do our best.

He was talking about running a race, but much of what he told us applies to life. Looking back is often the beginning of the end of our best efforts. Instead, we need to keep looking ahead toward the goal. Along the course there are obstacles as well as a goal. Obstacles are the things we see when we take our eyes off the goal. In any endeavor we must choose between being obstacle-oriented or goal-oriented.

THE PACESETTER

But some will say that the goal is always beyond our sight. So Hebrews says that we need to look "to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith..." (11:2). Maybe we can't see the goal but we can focus our attention upon Jesus who has run the very same course before us. Hebrews calls him "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith." Keeping the analogy of the race, another term comes to mind: Jesus the pacesetter. If we focus on how he ran the race and try to run it in the same manner, we can leave the goal to God.

In 1916, the great Irish Republican leader, Eammon de Valera, was arrested by the British while he was delivering a patriotic speech to his constituency. Sentenced to death, de Valera was sent to ill-reputed Wakefield Prison to wait for his execution. But, later the order was stayed and he escaped from prison. About a year later he returned to the very spot where he had been arrested and gathering his constituency about him, he began with these words: "Now, as I was saying when I was so rudely interrupted..."

Like him, we may be interrupted but that doesn't put us out of the race.

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