



OPINION

Any Good Horse Doctor

We smile at the ignorance of our forefathers. Before vaccinations and pasteurization were developed, you let blood for a cure. In a book published in 1957, entitled "History of Veterinary Medicine in Lancaster County," we find that centuries ago there were no trained veterinarians. The neighbor who was "handy" with animals became the designated animal doctor.

Along with the first settlers came horses and oxen; horses were preferred. The first animals brought in for food were pigs. The land was ideal for pigs to scrounge and to root through the areas not yet cleared. Chickens came next, followed by sheep and cows.

The favorite breed of cows in those pioneer years was the large brindle and white cow with long, smooth horns. By today's standards it would probably resemble an Ayrshire.

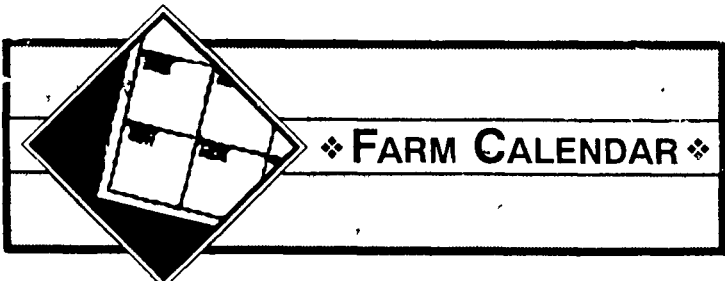
The "horse doctor" was the first to gain some reknown, as he would usually locate in the cities and cater to the riding and carriage horses. This person was of little value to the farmer living in the outreaches of the county.

Dr. John Breneman (1813-1877) of Mt. Joy rode horseback to surrounding farms to administer to the needs of horses and cows. Dr. Henry Fred Breneman (1843-1912) learned under the tutelage of his father and wrote in his notes about a disease called "Locked-Joy."

"Locked-Joy: bleed largely, then apply chloroform until he opens his mouth, and give him 2 drams of acifidity every 6 hours and a dose of physic. This will relief if there is any cure for him."

The ignorance of our ancestors was hard to understand until last week when Knight-Ridder (national) News Service reported that scientists have now concluded that middleaged men who donate an occasional pint of blood to rid the body of excess iron are less likely to suffer a heart attack or stroke, undergo heart surgery, or require heart medication.

Any good "horse doctor" in the 1800's could have told you that letting blood will make you well.



Saturday, September 6
Susquehanna County Holstein Sale Fairgrounds, Harford, noon.
Berks County 4-H Fair, Benefit Auction and Chicken Barbecue, 4-H Center, fair 9 a.m.-3 p.m., auction 2 p.m.

Sunday, September 7
Conservation Society of York County 75th Anniversary, Indian Steps Museum, Airville, 2 p.m.
Woodland Demonstration Tour, PP&L Montour Preserve, Washingtonville, 1:30 p.m.

Monday, September 8
Green Township Community Fair, thru Sept. 13.
Managing Price Risk Using Dairy Futures, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster.

Tuesday, September 9
Pasture Walk and Conservation Tour, Levi J. Fisher, Quarryville, 10 a.m.-noon DST.
Albion Area Fair, Albion, thru Sept. 13.
Denver Community Fair, Denver, thru Sept. 13.
Sinking Valley Fair, Skelp, thru Sept. 13.
Ephrata Area Young Farmers mentoring meeting, Ephrata High School, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 10
Berlin Brothersvalley Community Fair, Berlin, thru Sept. 13.

Thursday, September 11
American Gold Cup and Fall Festival at Devon, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., thru Sept. 14.

Friday, September 12
The Great Frederick Fair Ag-Stravaganza, thru Sept. 20.
Hinkelfest, Farmer's Pride Airport, thru Sept. 14.
Mushroom Festival, Kennett Square, thru Sept. 14.
Northeast Lamb Pool, Troy Sales Barn, Troy, grading noon, sale 3 p.m.

Saturday, September 13
Schaefferstown Harvest Fair, Alexander Schaeffer Farm Museum, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Cambria County District Horse Show, Bedford.
Pasture Management Field Day, John Rodgers' Plum Bottom Dairy Farm, Belleville, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sunday, September 14
Beaver Community Fair, Beaver Springs, thru Sept. 20.
Gratz Fair, Gratz, thru Sept. 20.

Monday, September 15
Cambria County horse leader meeting, extension office, 7 p.m.
Carroll County Master Gardener course, extension office, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., thru Sept. 19.

Tuesday, September 16
Farm Science Review, Molly Caren Agricultural Center, London, thru Sept. 18.
Cooperatives Mean Business Workshop, the Clarion Holiday Inn, Clarion, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Harmony Grange Fair, Westover, thru Sept. 20.

Wednesday, September 17
Solanco Fair, Quarryville, thru Sept. 19.



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Keep Cows Comfortable

As hot as it has been, it is hard to think about chilling cows. However, we are entering the season when temperatures may fluctuate greatly and rapidly, according to Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County Extension Dairy Agent

Many barns are equipped with a lot of fans to move a lot of air. That works great when temperatures are high. But, it may cause problems if we fail to turn some of the fans off when temperatures drop. If we are not careful, we may chill cows and predispose them to respiratory problems. Remember, cows benefit from lots of fresh air. They also like cooler temperatures. They do not like cold drafts. So, do not turn off too many fans or close up the barn too tightly. We need to exchange some air to keep it fresh and cows healthy.

To Test Feeds

As we come into the harvest season, Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County Extension Dairy Agent, reminds us to focus on forage quality and the dairy herds nutritional needs. We have had an unusual growing season. Growing conditions varied a lot this year. The quality of our feeds might vary more than usual. To do the best job feeding the herd and making the best use of your harvested crops, be sure to have your crops tested. Then work closely with your nutritionist to be sure the rations are properly balanced. Also, be sure to observe the herd closely and make adjustments as necessary to fine tune your rations.

To Form Ag Security Areas

Agriculture in many parts of the Commonwealth is under urban pressure from expanding metropolitan areas. People are moving to the country with no understanding or experience with agriculture. These people believe they are living in a residential area instead of

Thursday, September 18
Food Safety Is Everybody's Business Seminiar, St. Joseph's University Professional Conference Center, Philadelphia, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
North East Community Fair, North East, thru Sept. 20.
Oley Valley Community Fair, Oley, thru Sept. 20.
Pa. Yorkshire Summer Show and Sale, Lebanon, thru Sept. 20.

Friday, September 19
Antique Tractor, Gas Engine and Farm Equipment Show, West End Fairgrounds, Gilbert, 9 a.m.-dusk, thru Sept. 21.

Saturday, September 20
Bloomsburg Fair, Bloomsburg, thru Sept. 27.

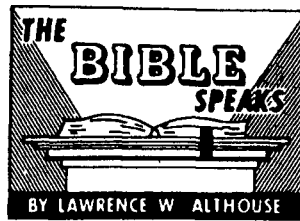
an agricultural industrial area. As a result, we are seeing more ordinances being introduced to inhibit farming operations and prohibit expansion of the farm business. To address this issue, the legislature passed the agricultural area security law in 1981.

By forming agricultural security areas, farmers are notifying people agriculture is the primary activity. The law requires every municipality or political subdivision with an agricultural security area to encourage the continuity, development and viability of agriculture within such area by not enacting local laws or ordinances which would unreasonably restrict farm structures or practices includ-

ing nuisances. Also, state agencies must modify their administrative regulations and procedures to encourage the maintenance of viable farming in agricultural security areas. There are no penalties or added restrictions to farms in agricultural security areas.

Now is the time to learn more about agricultural security areas and consider becoming a part of one. More information is available at your county Penn State Cooperative Extension office. Agricultural security areas could be very important in allowing farms to expand and stay competitive.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "Make all your friends feel there is something special in them."



A MESSIAH UNAWARE
September 7, 1997

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Background Scripture:
Isaiah 44:21 through 45:8
Devotional Reading:
Jeremiah 37:1-9

It may come as a surprise to many Christians to learn that in the Bible the word "messiah" is not limited to Jesus Christ.

Meaning literally the "anointed," this term appears in the Old Testament 39 times and is usually applied to the current king of Israel of Judah. It relates to the ancient practice of anointing someone who was set apart for a very special role as king or priest. It was only in New Testament times that the "messiah" was seen as someone whom God would send to vindicate Israel. Christians appropriated this title for Jesus, the "anointed" translated into Greek as *Christ's* and in English *Christ*. So Jesus Christ means *Jesus the anointed one*.

Now for the biggest surprise of all: there is even one place in the Bible, the Old Testament to be exact, where the title of messiah is given to a non-Jew, Isaiah writes: "Thus says the Lord to his anointed (Messiah), to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and ungird the loins of kings . . ." (Isaiah 45:1).

So who was this Cyrus? Actually, the Cyrus to whom Isaiah is referring is Cyrus II, 6th century BC founder and ruler of the Persian Empire, the largest empire the world had known. Although he conquered many lands and people in putting together his empire, he was known for his clemency to the peoples he conquered. In the Old Testament he is remembered primarily because he permitted the captive people of Israel to return to Jerusalem.

A REASONABLE TYRANT

Therefore, we can probably call him a reasonable tyrant or even a humane conqueror! He killed a lot of people with his invasions, but after the fighting was over, he generally treated his captives reasonably well. But that is a big jump from "humane conqueror" to God's "messiah." In Isaiah 44:28, the prophet reports that God says of Cyrus, "He is my shepherd and shall fulfill my purpose." Then, just a few verses later, Isaiah called Cyrus God's "anointed" or

messiah; in Greek Christos, in English the Christ.

God speaks to Cyrus at some length in Isaiah 45:1-8. He tells Cyrus that it is he, the only true God, who is enabling him to experience phenomenal military and political success in putting together his vast empire. The purpose is twofold: (1) "for the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen" and (2) "that men may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other" (45:6).

So God has "anointed" Cyrus, not to honor the Persian king, but for the sake of his own purposes. God is working in the world through Cyrus. Through him there will be a change in the plight of Israel — an opportunity to return to Jerusalem and rebuild it, God fulfilling the covenant he made with Abraham and his descendants. All this God will accomplish through Cyrus.

WHY CYRUS?

Did Cyrus know that he was God's "anointed?" We cannot be certain, but it is very unlikely that Cyrus knew that God had chosen him. In fact, Cyrus probably didn't even hear God speaking to him as we find in Isaiah 45:1-8. So Cyrus, Emperor of the Persians, was God's "messiah" even though he didn't know it, just as in Moses' day God had used the pharaohs to unconsciously accomplish his purpose.

But why Cyrus? I believe God anointed Cyrus to do his will because he was in a position to accomplish what God wanted. God chose him, not because he was necessarily a virtuous man, but because he was in a position of power. I also believe God anointed him because, whether or not Cyrus knowingly heard his voice, God knew that the Persian king was open to his influence. There must have been in Cyrus' personality some opening through which God could work.

All of this serves to remind us that God does not sit back and watch history unfold; his is part of it, working often through servants who are unaware that they are serving him. He is the Lord of history. And, as the saying goes, "He can strike a mighty blow with a crooked stick." The "crooked stick" doesn't have to be aware!

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