



OPINION

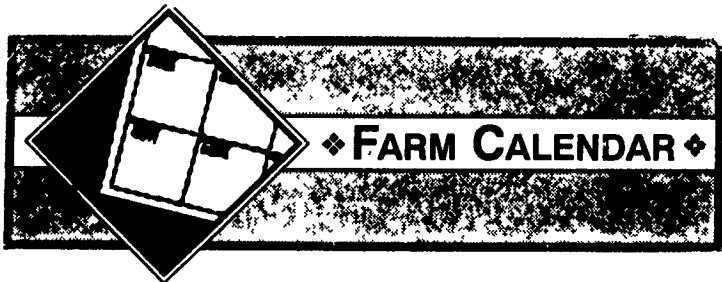
When Children Want To Act Big

We had just completed Farm Safety Week, and farmers again were reminded that they need to take safety precautions around their barns, fields, homes, and roadways to guard against farm-related accidents. This time of year is especially critical as the fall harvest season brings the big machines into play on many farms.

The National Safety Council reports that agriculture is one of the most hazardous occupations in the country. So we must emphasize awareness and if possible, correction of any hazards that may exist around your farm.

In Pennsylvania a total of 44 farm fatalities occurred in 1996. Tractor-related accidents accounted for 24 of those deaths. In a recent press release, State Agriculture Secretary Samuel Hayes, Jr., noted that the use of safety devices is well worth the time and effort to prevent death or serious injury.

We agree. Practice safety, especially with children. Your little people may want a ride or may want to drive the tractor. And even if they are mature enough mentally, they simply don't have the physical strength to hang on to the steering wheel. Do your family a favor and say, "No" when your children want to act big around farm machinery.



Saturday, October 4
40th Anniversary Open House
Pasture Management Meeting,
Demonstration Farm, Mercer.
National Apple Harvest Festival,
Arendtsville, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.,
thru Oct. 5 and Oct. 11-12.

Sunday, October 5
National 4-H Week, thru Oct. 11.
Pa. Association of Conservation
Districts annual meeting, Mt.
Laurel Resort, White Haven,
thru Oct. 8.

Berks Shire Hunt Show, Walnut
Hill Farm, Oley, 9 a.m.
Pa. Make It Yourself With Wool,
Farm Show Complex,
Harrisburg.

East Central Pa. Two-Cylinder
Club Inc. 3d Annual Antique
Tractor and Implement Collec-
tors Show, St. Peter's Church,
Shimersville, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Pa. Make It Yourself With Wool,
Farm Show Complex,
Harrisburg.

Monday, October 6
Hollidaysburg Community Fair,
Hollidaysburg, thru Oct. 9.
Manheim Farm Show, Manheim,
thru Oct. 10.

Berks County Farm Bureau Annu-
al Meeting, Ag Center, Lees-
port, 7 p.m.

4-H Achievement Night, Dauphin
County Agriculture and Natural
Resources Center, 6:30 p.m.
ADADC Dist. 6 meeting, Club
211, Midedletown, N.Y., 7:30
p.m.

Tuesday, October 7
(Cancelled) Pasture Walk and
Conservation Tour, Samuel K.
Glick, Leola, 10 a.m.-Noon.
(Cancelled).

Bradford County Extension Start-
ing a Home Day Care, Part 1,
Extension Office, Towanda, 7
p.m.

Wednesday, October 8
Unionville Community Fair,
Unionville, thru Oct. 11.
Bradford County Extension
Parenting the School Age

Child, Northeast Bradford
Elementary School, Large
Group Instruction Room, 6:30
p.m.-8 p.m.

Bradford County Extension
Parenting the Teenager, North-
east Bradford Elementary
School, Large Group Instruc-
tion Room, 8-9:30 p.m.

Berks County Beef Roundup,
Leesport Market and Auction,
show 9 a.m., sale 3 p.m.

Thursday, October 9
Pa. Statewide Urban Forestry Con-
ference, Days Inn Hotel Con-
ference Center, State College, 8
a.m.-5 p.m.

52nd Annual Pa. National Horse
Show, Farm Show Complex,
Harrisburg, thru Oct. 18.

Compost Tour of Compost Pro-
duction and On-Site Farm and
Greenhouse Use, Arbor Mea-
dow Farms, Horsham, 4
p.m.-6:30 p.m.

York County 4-H Achievement
Night, York County 4-H Cen-
ter, Bair, 7:15 p.m.

ADADC Dist. 2 annual meeting,
Deer Hill Restaurant, Lowville,
N.Y., 7:30 p.m.

ADADC Dist. 17 annual meeting,
Gibson Grange, Gillette, 8 p.m.
ADADC Dist. 10 annual meeting,
Brisben Baptist Church, Bris-
ben, N.Y., 8 p.m.

Friday, October 10
Rohrbach's Annual Pumpkin Fall
Festival, Catawissa. Also Oct.
11.

Saturday, October 11
Choice Plus Club Calf Sale, Mer-
cer Co. 4-H Park, 7:30 p.m.
Annual Octoraro Creek Nature
Walk, Black Rock Area, Octora-
ro Creek, meet at Ken Shoe-
maker's house, Kirkwood, 9
a.m. Return 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, October 12
Monday, October 13
Dillsburg Community Fair, Dills-
burg, thru Oct. 17.

Tuesday, October 14
Pasture Walk and Conservation



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Salute 4-H

October 5 to 11 marks Na-
tional 4-H Week. This year's
theme, "4-H...More Than You
Ever Imagined!", reflects the vari-
ety of 4-H programming and the
diversity of the lives and back-
grounds of 4-H youth throughout
our country.

This year we are implementing
a special program, Hearts and
Hands in Action. This program
will emphasize community ser-
vice projects. 4-H members will
be developing Service Learning Pro-
jects. These projects will have
learning, citizenship and personal
and social development objectives.

Members will look at their ar-
eas of interests and develop vari-
ous service projects. These could
include food and fitness classes for
children, a farm day for pre-
schoolers, a community garden or
tutor young children in reading,
math or science. 4-H offers many
exciting educational, citizenship
and leadership opportunities. For
more information on this exciting
youth program, contact your
county cooperative extension of-
fice.

To Check Yield Monitors

Yield monitors need certain
pre-harvest maintenance. If you
are using a yield monitor on your
combine for the first time, make
sure you take time to calibrate the
monitor. This calibration should
be done using a wide range of
conditions, including yield levels
and moisture levels. The wider the
range of conditions, the more ac-
curate the monitor will perform.
For all monitors, check the grain
flow and moisture sensors for
cleanliness and dirt build up.
Check the stainless steel plates on
the grain flow sensor for wear.

Tour, Alvin J. Stoltzfus, Para-
dise, 10 a.m.-noon DST.
Solanco Young Farmers meeting,
silage corn management.

Wednesday, October 15
ADADC Dist. 16 meeting, Troy
Fire Hall, Troy, 8 p.m.

Thursday, October 16
National Poultry Health and Pro-
cessing meeting, Sheraton Fon-
tainebleau Hotel, Ocean City,
Md., thru Oct. 17.

Lancaster County 4-H Recogni-
tion Night, Beut Creek Country
Club, 6:30 p.m.
ADADC Dist. 12 annual meeting,
Sennett Federated Church, Sen-
nett, N.Y., 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 17
Mid-Atlantic Regional Romney
Show, NYS Sheep and Wool
Festival, Dutchess County Fair-
grounds, Rhinebeck, N.Y., 7
p.m.
Uniontown Poultry and Farm Pro-
ducts Show, Uniontown, thru
Oct. 19.

Check all cables for physical dam-
age. Check yield monitor data
cards and replace batteries. Re-
move last year's data from the
memory of the yield monitor.
Check any GPS receiver for
proper operation and signal
strength.

To Participate in FSA Elections

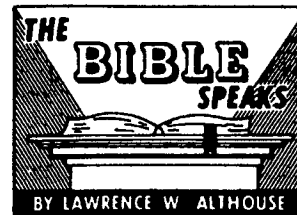
October 27 is the last day to
file nominations for your Farm
Service Agency (FSA) County
Committee elections. On Novem-
ber 21 ballots will be mailed to
eligible voters and the ballots
must be returned to your county
FSA office by December 1.

All farm owners, operators,
tenants and sharecroppers includ-
ing spouses, of legal age may
vote if they are eligible to take
part in any FSA program. It is

important for all eligible farmers
to participate in this process. FSA
county committees make deci-
sions on commodity price support
loans and payments; establish al-
lotments, yields and marketing
quotas; eligibility for farm loans
and conservation programs; incen-
tive, indemnity and disaster pay-
ments for some commodities and
other disaster assistance.

In order to make the county
committee system work, it must
represent all parts of local agricul-
ture. Now is the time to contact
your FSA office to register to
vote and file a nomination form if
you would like to serve on the
county committee.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote:
"Spend so much time improving
yourself that you have no time
left to criticize others."



ARE YOU A DISPLACED
PERSON?
October 5, 1997

Background Scripture:

Daniel 1

Devotional Reading:

Psalms 40:1-11

In a day in which life is so full
of soaring complexities, ambiguities
and uncertainties, for those of
us who can remember what at
least seemed like simpler, more
comprehensible and manageable
times, looking back to life then
may make us feel like displaced
persons today.

Despite the fact that most of
these were the Depression years in
our nation, I remember the days
when everything else seemed
easier and more virtuous. Whether
they really were "easier and more
virtuous" is a matter of some dis-
pute. Nevertheless, I sometimes
feel that although my body is firm-
ly planted in the 1990s, my insides
are tuned to life four or five
decades previous.

I can therefore imagine how it
must have felt to be a Jewish exile
in Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon.
Many of these people were deter-
mined to remain faithful to their
God and live as devout Jews. But,
despite their high resolve, it was a
different world in which they
found themselves and living as
devout Jews was extremely
difficult.

In many ways, it was a better
life, at least economically speak-
ing. Babylon was prosperous as
Judah had never been. The
Babylonian culture was rich, varied
and often luxurious. But,
despite the material advantages,
the spiritual atmosphere was not
supportive of their faith.

IGNORING OUR CHOICE

Their dilemma is somewhat
similar to what we face today.
While life in these United States
may not so much oppose or perse-
cute followers of Christ, neither
does our culture make it easy to
truly follow him. The values of
our society are obviously very dif-
ferent from those in the New Tes-
tament. Although our coins
declare, "In God We Trust," our
daily living, economics and politi-
cal life testify that we really
believe much more in other things.
Many of us survive or even prosper
by making compromises. We
get along by going along and if we
can spread a thin veneer of Christ-

ian catchwords over our society it
keeps us from realizing that real
Christianity would compel us to
make a choice.

It is difficult for us to under-
stand why observing the dietary
laws of Judaism was so important
to the exiles. It is enough for us to
realize that the dietary laws were
a major support to their Judaism.
The Judean community was gone,
the temple in ruins and Jerusalem
far away, but the dietary laws
were one pillar that could sustain
them. We have to respect their
choice even as we want others to
respect ours.

So, when Daniel and his friends
were put into Nebuchadnezzar's
training program, in order to pre-
serve their Jewish identity they
decided to refuse to eat the high-
level cuisine the king had ordered
for them. They wanted to remain
on a Kosher diet and thereby wit-
ness to their loyalty to the Lord.
So, Daniel asked Ashpenaz, who
had been assigned responsibility
for the program, to permit him and
his friends to abstain from the
king's cuisine.

TRY IT!

We can appreciate Ashpenaz's
hesitation, but Daniel saved the
day by proposing, "Test your ser-
vants for ten days; let us be given
vegetables to eat and water to
drink. Then let our appearance and
the appearance of the youths who
eat the king's rich food be
observed by you, and according to
what you see deal with your ser-
vants" (1:12,13). Ashpenaz agreed
to put it to a test.

Who was it said that the prob-
lem is not that Christianity has
been tried and found wanting, but
that it has never been sufficiently
tried. If Christianity is what we
say it is, then we should never
hesitate to put it to the test. We
should never shrink from demon-
strating that the gospel of Jesus
Christ is the best way for us to
live. Maybe the reason we spend
so much time arguing religion is
that it is easier than practicing it.

The fact is, life is deeper, richer
and more victorious when we live
by the example of Jesus Christ.
And even when we are "displaced
persons" in a strange land, we can
live that life and demonstrate the
truth of the gospel.

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Lancaster Farming, Inc.

A Steinman Enterprise

Robert G. Campbell General Manager

Everett R. Newawanger Managing Editor

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