



OPINION

4-H: The Program Of Opportunity

For many years we have believed and acted on the premise that youth are motivated to participate in programs which encourage them to be involved in the decision-making process. Now growing evidence substantiates this belief.

The early pioneers in youth development were intuitive enough to include community service as an integral part of the 4-H program. Hence, "I pledge my hands to larger service, for my club, my community, my country, and my world."

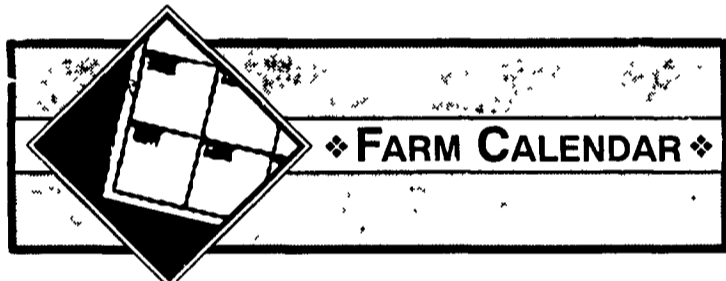
Another principle of equal importance is the emphasis 4-H places on experiential learning, the "learn by doing" found in the 4-H slogan. Over the years those involved in 4-H youth development have found the experiential learning process to be the most effective teaching method for increasing both understanding and application of new knowledge, skills and attitudes.

This week we again celebrate National 4-H week. The 4-H program continues to move with the times by addressing the changing issues and diverse backgrounds of today's youth. Today, fifty-two percent of 4-H youth live in towns and cities. Twenty-six percent are minorities. 4-H is flexible and localized, allowing it to respond to the needs of local youth.

4-H is successful because it focuses on youth needs and their issues and utilizes volunteer support. More than half a million caring adults mentor young people in the 4-H program.

To the 1,487,610 youth who are members of 70,176 4-H clubs across America, we say, "Make the best use of your opportunities in your 4-H program. To the adult leaders we say, "Keep up the good work." The value of the time invested in the 4-H program can only be measured by the many adults in leadership positions who credit their maturing process to the the 4-H program.

Truly, 4-H is the program of opportunity.



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Practice Nutrient Management

On October 1, 1997 the Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Law became effective. All farms with two or more animal units per acre (2,000 pounds or more of animals per day per acre) are required to have an approved nutrient management plan. Farms with less than two animal units per acre are encouraged to develop voluntary plans. Farms needing plans have one year to develop the plan and three years to implement the best management practices identified in the plan. Plans need to be up dated every three years unless a major change in acres or animals occurs sooner. The regulations specify restrictions on when and where manure may be spread.

The regulations also supersede township ordinances and offers some liability protection. All farmers are encouraged to develop nutrient management plans. The number of voluntary plans developed will have a large influence on future regulations and who must comply. For more information on nutrient management contact your county conservation district office or Penn State Cooperative Extension Office.

To Dispose of Plastic Correctly

Jeffrey Stoltzfus, Eastern Lancaster County School District Adult Farmer Program, reminds us that local township officials are getting pressure to ban open burning and dumping of plastic. Large plastic fires are an especially big concern. To avoid this issue, farmers are encouraged to take their plastic to the county incinerator. The county incinerator burns the plastic at 1800 degrees which burn much cleaner than most open fires. In addition, the smoke at the incinerator goes through a series of scrubbers which remove more of the pollutants from the smoke. Smoke from open plastic fires emit arsenic, lead, cadmium and mercury, all of which may cause health problems. Neighbors are becoming more concerned about the smoke that comes their way. Every Monday in November at the Leola Produce Auction from 9:00 am to Noon, they will be accepting plastic. The plastic must be rolled, bagged, baled or cut into pieces not longer than 10 feet. Since there will be a per ton charge to handle the plastic, farmers are encouraged to have the plastic as dry and clean as possible. For more information and details, contact Jeffrey Stoltzfus at 717-354-1522.

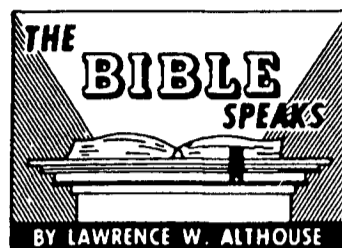
To Plant Winter Cover Crops

According to Leon Ressler, Lancaster County Agricultural Environmental Agent, many farmers need to empty their ma-

nure storage units during the fall season. This means these crop nutrients are applied to cropland at a time of year when they are not needed by a growing crop. Therefore these nutrients are vulnerable to being lost to the environment due to soil erosion and leaching. Winter cover crops are a valuable tool farmers may use to prevent this economic loss of valuable nutrients and prevent environmental damage. If you are applying manure to crop land this fall, plan on planting a small grain cover crop such as rye. The rye will take up the available nitrogen and hold

it in the plant and preventing its loss to the water supply. If the rye is harvested, the nutrients will be utilized as high quality feed. If the rye is killed or plowed down in the spring, the nutrients will become available to the following crop. The rye will also prevent nutrient loss by slowing soil erosion. Rye may be planted as late as November. The earlier it is planted, the more nutrients it will take up and the more it will yield in the spring.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Be too big for worry and too noble for anger."



BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

IN WHOSE HANDS ARE YOU?

October 12, 1997

Background Scripture:

Daniel 3

Devotional Reading:

Psalms 27 7-14

"And they all lived happily ever after."

Chapter one of the Book of Daniel left us under the impression that Daniel and his three friends could look forward to that kind of future. But then we come to Daniel 3 and the whole picture has changed once again.

Just when we had assumed that Daniel had won the King's permission to practice their faith without prohibition, Nebuchadnezzar puts their faith to a new trial. Everyone in his kingdom, he decrees, must fall down and worship a monstrous gold statue he has had erected. Whether the statue is of himself or of a god, we do not know, but Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego realize that once again they are being commanded to adulterate their faith in God. To worship this idol or whomever it stands for is a blatant denial of their commitment to the Lord.

First of all, let us recognize in their situation a lesson all of us have to learn: *no earthly victory is ever permanent.* The victory they had won in Daniel 1 did not last long. So it is with us, too. Many of us go through life thinking that if only this or that were to happen, life would be happy and wonderful.

During World War II many of us prayed with the expectation that victory would solve all the world's problems. Well, we won the war but immediately slid into 40 some years of conflict with Communism. Many of us then prayed for the demise of Communism. If only we could free the world of Communism. So Communism fell, but the world is much the same as before.

NO GUARANTEE

So, not long after the victory of chapter one comes the new crisis of chapter three—just as in our lives, too.

Once again, then, the faith of Shadrach, Meshach and

Abednego is challenged (Where's Daniel in all this? The writer of Daniel is mysteriously silent about Daniel in this matter.) We must admire their faith. They had no guarantee that God would save them as he had in the first crisis. He had not told them that, if they remained faithful to him, he would get them out of this trap.

Responding to the King's thundering threats, they say, "Our God is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up" (3:17,18). Their loyal refusal to worship the golden image was not based on the expectation that God would save them from the consequences. That God could save them, they had no doubt, that he would save, they did not know—and it would not matter.

DELIVERANCE

We know now what they could not know: that God would save them from the fiery furnace. But we also know that, of the millions of people who have been challenged to give up their faith at the pain of death, the overwhelming majority of them have *not* been delivered from the consequences of their faith. Our God can save us. But we cannot be certain that he will. The only guarantee that we get from him is that he will be with us when we suffer for his sake. Even if that suffering ends in death.

Isn't this what the cross teaches us? We are called to remain faithful to him in any crisis, not because we are assured that he will save us from paying the consequences, but that he will be with us in the midst of those consequences and that he will make us victorious in a way that no escape in the 'nick of time' can.

"Who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands," the king taunts the three Jews. What he didn't realize is that because of their faith in God they were *never in his hands.*

- Saturday, October 11**
Choice Plus Club Calf Sale, Mercer Co. 4-H Park, 7:30 p.m.
Annual Octoraro Creek Nature Walk, Black Rock Area, Octoraro Creek, meet at Ken Shoemaker's house, Kirkwood, 9 a.m. Return 11:30 a.m.
- Sunday, October 12**
- Monday, October 13**
Dillsburg Community Fair, Dillsburg, thru Oct. 17.
- Tuesday, October 14**
Pasture Walk and Conservation Tour, Alvin J. Stoltzfus, Paradise, 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.
Equine Workshop for Conservationists, Urbana-Ijamsville United Methodist Church, Urbana.
- Thursday, October 16**
National Poultry Health and Processing meeting, Sheraton Fontainebleau Hotel, Ocean City, Md., thru Oct. 17.
Lancaster County 4-H Recognition Night, Bent Creek Country Club, Lititz, 6:30 p.m.
ADADC Dist. 12 annual meeting, Sennett Federated Church, Sennett, N.Y., 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, October 17**
Mid-Atlantic Regional Romney Show, NYS Sheep and Wool Festival, Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Rhinebeck, N.Y., 7 p.m.
Uniontown Poultry and Farm Pro-

- ducts Show, Uniontown, thru Oct. 19.
- Wyoming County Sheep and Wool Producers meeting and roast lamb dinner, United Methodist Church, Centerville, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, October 18**
Mid-Atlantic Region Romney Sale, NYS Sheep and Wool Festival, Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Rhinebeck, N.Y.
Annual meeting, American Romney Breeders Association, Rolling Rock Restaurant, Rhinebeck, N.Y.
- Sunday, October 19**
Regional Natural Colored Sheep Show, NYS Sheep and Wool Festival, Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Rhinebeck, N.Y.
Family Day on the Farm, Cherry Grove Tree Farm, Rising Sun, Md., 1 p.m.-5 p.m.
- Monday, October 20**
ADADC Dist. 14 meeting, Tally-Ho Restaurant, Kanona, N.Y., 7:30 p.m.
Improving Reproductive Efficiency, Jere Grube Farm, Salunga, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 21**
ADADC Dist. 9 meeting, Tally-Ho Restaurant, Richfield Springs, N.Y., 7:45 p.m.
Lycoming County Cooperative Extension dinner meeting, Eldred Township Fire Hall, Warrensville, 6:30 p.m.
Chester County Holstein club annual meeting, West Fallowfield Christian School, Atglen, 7 p.m.

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