



## OPINION

### Scams Now Running On Lancaster Farms

(Continued from Page A1)

Of course, there was no written agreement, and no company name was given. An 800 number just gets you an answering service so there is no real tracer to the people involved.

Two more scams in southern Lancaster County involve sealing driveways and fixing chimneys. The driveways are sealed with a chemical that washes off with the first rain, and the chimneys are fixed with plaster of paris.

Amish farmers seem to be targeted, but all farmers need to be alert. It was an Amish farmer that asked the policeman to contact *Lancaster Farming* as the best way to warn other farmers about these scams.

Whenever you agree to have work done around your farm, be sure you are dealing with a firm or person who has a good reputation and is well-known in the community. Ask for references from other jobs that have been completed. Get a company name, address, and telephone number.

Get price quotes from several firms. Always sleep on it. A reputable firm will be glad for your business tomorrow. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

And be especially careful right now because people running scams are on the loose in Lancaster County. And they could show up anywhere in Pennsylvania or in neighboring states.



Editor,

I am submitting a poem for your consideration for printing. As an ex farm boy, I deeply the farmers needs in this hour. So many farms are going under, the younger generation so often wants the big money for their parents lands etc. And where our Government should back the farmers in every way so often they show no concern.

As an ex Farmer, I can readily appreciate the plight of today's Farmer. So many of them are finding their farms auction off — their life's work gone with the pound of the gavel on the auction block. The following poem is a tribute to all such farmers.

#### The Farmer

He stood where he had stood,  
for many years,  
Feeling the power and the pull  
of the land;  
His greying hair ruffled by the  
western breeze,  
Today was different. It was  
hard to understand.

He scanned the far off green  
pasture lands

Where cattle had trod trails  
morning and night;

He looked at the early morning  
rising sun,  
Thought: such power, such ma-  
jesty, such might!

He was stirred by the sounds of  
the barnyard,  
Hens cackling, cows mooing,  
all dependent upon man;

Old Shep, with tail wagging,  
was ready to follow,  
Shep wondered why today  
seemed a different plan.

He looked to his house, where  
with wife and children

They had been so close as the  
years had flown by;  
He remembered nights so plea-  
sant around the kitchen table,  
With his hand he brushed a tear  
from his eye.

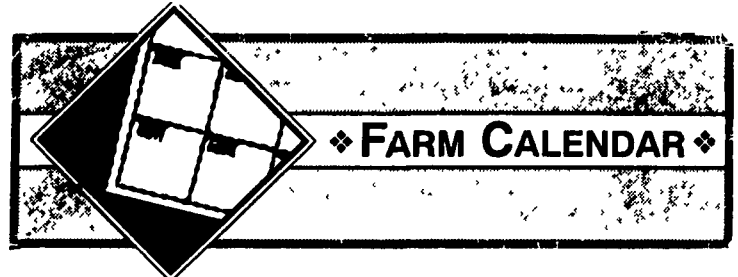
He knelt in an act of so final a  
surrender,

And felt the earth so, cold, cold,  
cold;

While the words echoed  
throughout his mind

With the bang of that gavel:  
sold! sold! sold!

Roger E. Sovocool



Saturday, November 8

Fall Seminar Emu Husbandry,  
Products, Marketing, Farm  
Show Complex, Harrisburg, 9  
a.m.-4 p.m.

Bucks County DHIA and Bucks  
Holstein annual meeting, St.  
Matthew's Lutheran Church,  
Kellers Church, 6:30 p.m.

3d Annual Killer Trail Course  
Competition, Tuckahoe

Equestrian Center, 11 a.m.

Sunday, November 9

Monday, November 10

Watershed Workshop, meeting #2,  
Farm and Home Center, Lan-  
caster, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Dauphin County Extension annual  
meeting, Dauphin County Ag  
and Natural Resource Center,  
Dauphin, 7 p.m.

Mt. Joy Co-Op Service Program,



## Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent

#### To Know Forage Quality

Because of this summer's drought conditions, forage crop yields were down on many farms. However, quality was generally good. Because of the shorter growth, this year's forages had less stalk and fiber content with a higher concentration of nutrient rich leaves and grain.

According to Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County Extension Dairy Agent, this makes our forages looking more like a supplement, lower in fiber and higher in energy and protein. When this kind of forage is fed, there is less need to feed grain and expensive supplements. What is really needed is more effective fiber. This may be supplied by feeding more longer stemmed or coarsely chopped forages.

#### To Balance Cow Rations

Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County Extension Dairy Agent, remind us if cows have been having low fat tests, appetites are sluggish, lose too much flesh and lose flesh too quickly, fail to peak well and drop off milk too quickly, are "loose" and passing undigested grain and fiber in their feces, tend to be ketotic and develop laminitis, chances are they may be consuming too much grain or protein. These problems are costly.

With today's slim margins, there is no room for costly mistakes. Test your forages for nutritive value and consult a trained nutritionist for specific recommendations. Formulate a balanced ration and feed it properly. Aim to maintain an even level of high activity in the rumen throughout the day.

Total mixed rations may help you accomplish this. Otherwise, avoid feeding large slugs of grain at any one time. Limit intakes to about 6 to 8 pounds per feeding. Try to feed some forages before feeding grain.

#### To Test For MUN

Excess protein in the ration and in the blood stream is expensive and unhealthy, according to Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County Extension Dairy Agent.

Country Table, Mount Joy,  
10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Chester County Extension Annual  
Meeting, J&J Catering, White-  
land Business Park, Exton, 7  
p.m.

Beef 2000 Course, Penn State, thru  
Nov. 12.

Beginning and Retiring Farmer  
Workshop, Hoss's Steak  
House, Williamsport, 9 a.m.-3  
p.m.

Vegetable Growers Meeting, Hill-  
top Restaurant, Shade Gap.

Northampton County Extension  
meeting, Star Grange, Moores-  
town, 7 p.m.

Northeast Greenhouse Seminar,  
Luzerne County Community  
(Turn to Page A31)

sion Dairy Agent. One good way to monitor protein metabolism in dairy cattle is to use the milk urea nitrogen (MUN) test on individual cows on a regular basis.

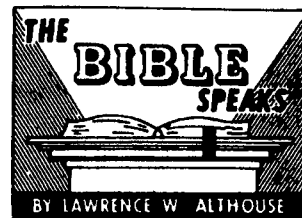
This may be done through the DHIA program. Normal MUN values are 12 to 16 mg/dl. Higher levels mean: 1. Too much protein is being fed. 2. Rumen degradable protein levels are high. 3. Too little rumen degradable energy is being fed. Thus, not all of the rumen degradable protein can be utilized and some of it spills over into the blood stream as urea nitrogen.

This is a costly situation for several reasons 1. More purchased feed ends up being excreted and wasted. 2. A considerable amount of energy is needed to metabolize and excrete the excess protein. Less energy is available to the cow. As a result, milk production, body condition and conception

suffer. MUN values generally increase when rations contain increased amounts of haylage, lush pastures and rapidly digested protein supplements such as soybean oil meal and urea. This is especially true when there is not an accompanying decrease in the use of protein supplements and an increase in the amount of rumen degradable energy being fed, such as high moisture corn, barley, wheat, molasses, etc.

Low levels of MUN may result from feeding too little protein, too little rumen degradable protein or too little energy. This is more apt to occur on rations containing considerable amounts of hay, especially low protein and low energy hay.

Feather Prof's Footnote:  
"Pride is a personal commitment; it is an attitude which separates excellence from mediocrity."



IN OVER YOUR HEAD?  
November 9, 1997

#### Background Scripture:

Ezra 9:1 through 10:17

#### Devotional Reading:

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

You probably have never heard a sermon on Ezra 9 and 10 and you are not ever likely to do so. Why? For one thing, because the situation in these two chapters seems utterly irrelevant to our own situation today.

Who today can relate to Ezra's violent reaction in learning that many of the men of Israel have taken foreign wives? Ezra is more than a little upset: "When I heard this, I rent my garments and my mantle, and pulled hair from my head and beard, and sat appalled." And when he calls upon God in prayer, he says: "Oh my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift my face to thee, my God, for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has mounted up to the heavens" (Ezra 9:3,6).

Reading that, I just could not relate, either to the reason for his concern or the depth of his response. Inter-religious marriages can certainly cause some problems, but do they call for that kind of response?

Ezra also raises a concept which waves a red flag to many of us: "the holy race has mixed itself with the peoples of the lands" (9:2b). Generally, not only do we as Christians not think of ourselves as a "holy race," but even the suggestion of this concept seems out of place in the day in which we live. I bristle when it seems that Ezra is saying that the "holy race" of Israel has been polluted because of intermarriage with other races not so holy.

#### ADULTERATED FAITH

After some consideration, however, I can understand Ezra's point of view. The problem is that the faith of Israel has been adulterated with the religious influence, practices and values of these pagan peoples. The intermarriage between these peoples has materially weakened and perverted the faith of Israel. And with that concern I can identify very well. The problem is not with the foreign wives per se, but with the destructive influences they have introduced to Jews returned from exile.

Actually, this is a very real and current problem for Christianity. Not because of intermarriage

necessarily, but for a number of reasons I see Christianity has having been seriously watered down with ideas, values and practices which, apart from our professions of faith, render it often indistinguishable from the rest of society. At work, in the market place, in our citizenship, in our community life, in our families, what is there in the way that we live that marks us and our church as 'Christian' as distinct from the secular world?

Does the way we do our daily work or practice our profession make us any different than the way that others do? Do we run our churches according to Christian values or by the values of the market place? Does our response to "the least of these my brethren" — the hungry, the poor, the naked, the lost, the prisoners — reflect the gospel of Jesus Christ or the philosophy of our political party? Do our churches incarnate the true differences between the Church and religious clubs?

#### WHAT WE MUST DO

If in any way you share the belief that, like the people of Israel in Ezra's day, "our iniquities have risen higher than our heads," he has shown us what we must do about it. Ezra's prayer of confession and contrition is one of the great prayers of the Bible. Ezra does not make any alibis, but states plainly that "our guilt has mounted up to the heavens." We are told that "a very great assembly of men, women and children, gathered to him out of Israel" and "they wept bitterly."

But neither Ezra, nor the people who came to hear him, were willing to let it go at being sorry. Ezra challenged them: "Therefore let us make a covenant with God to put away all these wives and their children..." (10:3). Beyond feeling penitent the people were called to make a covenant that would produce results. I am not suggesting for one moment that we, too, ought to "put away" our spouses and children. Our situation is different and the solution most certainly is different, too.

So, beyond feeling sorry, what should we do when, as individuals and as churches, we are into the way of the world over our heads?

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