



# OPINION

## See You At The Farm Show

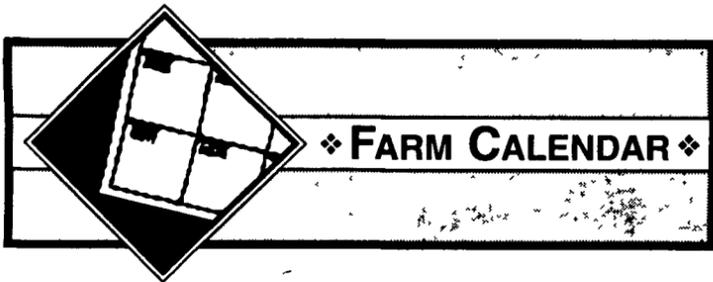
With the new year comes the time for snow. At least that's the thought for those who annually attend the Pennsylvania Farm Show. But even if the weather is frightful, the show will undoubtedly be delightful. This has become one of the most publicized farm events in the East. And while it takes extra effort to show farm animals in January, many livestock exhibitors brave the cold to show their prize animals because of the potential public exposure a champion will receive.

In addition to the opportunities for farmers to visit with friends and see the new machinery and services the commercial exhibitors have to offer, the event has become a major showcase for agriculture to both local consumers and buyers of foreign exportable farm commodities.

Again, a major event to be held in conjunction with the show will be the special International Celebration to begin even before the show is open to the local public. Gov. Tom Ridge, along with State Ag Secretary Sam Hayes, Jr., plans to be personally involved with helping to show the 200 expected international visitors the quality and diversity of Pennsylvania agriculture.

Since 1917, the Farm Show has been the focus of agriculture in the Keystone State. Over the years the emphasis has changed with the changing conditions in agriculture. But always the program and event schedule has been dedicated to promote Pennsylvania's number one industry: agriculture.

Next Saturday Gov. Ridge is scheduled to officially open the show. And once again all those with an interest in farming will have the opportunity to visit the premier ag show of the year. We hope to see you there.



**Saturday, January 3**

**Sunday, January 4**

Retirement Reception for William A. Reagan, Franklin County Senior Extension Agent, St. John's United Church of Christ, Chambersburg, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

**Monday, January 5**

Crop Pest Update, Blairsville Grange Hall, 10:20 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Crop Pest Update, Worthington Fire Hall, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Sharing A Night With A Legislator, Tulpehocken Adult/Young Farmer Educational Session, Tulpehocken High School, 7:30 p.m.

Wills and Estate Planning, Octorara Area Young Farmers Association, Octorara High School, 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, January 6**

Pesticide Update Meeting For Ephrata Area Young Farmers, Family Time Restaurant, 6:45 p.m.

Franklin County Dairy Day, Kauffman's Community Center, 9:35 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Bucks/Montgomery County Dairy Day, Family Heritage Restaurant, Franconia, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Lancaster County Tobacco Show, Farm and Home Center, judging 1 p.m.

Meeting on the Deregulation of Electrical Energy, Clarion County Extension Office, 7:30 p.m.

Keystone Farm Show, York Fairgrounds, thru Jan. 7.

Eastern Pa. Turf Conference and Trade Show, Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, thru Jan. 8.

**Wednesday, January 7**

Crop Planning Workshop, Hugo's Restaurant, Brownsville, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Berks County Dairy Day, Berks County Ag Center, Leesport. Reproductive meeting, Adams County extension office, 9:30 a.m.-noon.

Options Workshop, Lebanon Valley Ag Center, 7 p.m., also Jan. 21.

**Thursday, January 8**

Chester County Dairy Day, Oxford Fire Hall, Oxford.  
NYS Ag Society Annual Meeting, Four Points Sheraton/ITT, Liverpool.

Leola Produce Auction meeting, Bareville Fire Hall, 12:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

Clarion County Dairy Management Meeting, extension office, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Kutztown Produce Auction Educational Event, Getting The Most From the Drive-Through Auction, Kutztown Produce Auction, 7 p.m.

**Friday, January 9**

Schuylkill County Dairy Day, Penn State Schuylkill Campus, Schuylkill Haven, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Basics of Managing A Dairy Farm Business, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 10 a.m.

**Saturday, January 10**

Pa. State Farm Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Jan. 15.

**Sunday, January 11**

American Farm Bureau Federation Convention, Charlotte Convention, Charlotte, N.C., thru Jan.



## Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent

**To Focus On Priorities**  
With dairy profit margins now being tight, it is time to focus on priorities, according to Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County Extension Dairy Agent. One area to focus on is cost control. When feed is scarce and you need to purchase more feed, make the best use of your feeds.

Sell unprofitable cows and contract heifers out to a good grower in order to reduce feed needs. This will also make more feed available for your best cows. Feed a balanced ration, use good feeding techniques and avoid over feeding a lot of expensive feeds and additives. Take advantage of price breaks, bulk discounts and lower price feed alternatives.

**To Manage Cow Investment**  
Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County Extension Dairy Agent, reminds us of the importance of protecting your investment in cows. They are your income producing base. Take a good look at your involuntary culling rate, your herd health program, your heifer program and your dry cow program.

Take a good look at your management practices. Are you maintaining high production by culling your problems rather than fixing them and preventing the problems in the first place? If so, that is a very, very costly practice. Instead, focus on the areas that set the stage for good herd health, longevity, good production and

15.

**Monday, January 12**

**Tuesday, January 13**  
Reducing Risk On The Farm Seminar Series, Morrison's Cove Memorial Park, also Jan. 20 and Feb. 10, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Vegetable Update Meeting, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, Md., 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Wednesday, January 14**  
Farm Production Management Workshops, York County Extension, thru Jan. 15.  
Fundamentals of Soil Science, Neshaminy Manor Center, Doylestown, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m., also Jan. 21 and 28 and Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25 and March 4.

**Thursday, January 15**  
Risk Management/Grain Marketing Seminar, Adams County Extension Office, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Weed Management School, Lebanon Valley Ag Center, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Basics of Managing A Dairy Farm Business, Stephen S. Stoltzfus Farm, New Holland, also Jan. 22.

**Friday, January 16**  
Franklin County Holstein Association annual meeting, Gibbles Restaurant, 7 p.m.  
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conception.

Develop and implement programs for good health, good cow comfort, good nutrition, good genetics and for good management of heifers and dry cows.

**To Know The Facts**

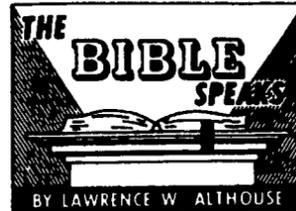
A recent newspaper article reported on a science fair project that a freshman won first prize. The student wanted to know how gullible people have become as a result of the alarmist ability to receive news media attention.

In his project, the student urged people to sign a petition demanding strict control or total elimination of the chemical dihydrogen monoxide.

His petition stated that dihydrogen monoxide caused excessive sweating and vomiting, is the major component of acid rain, causes severe burns in the gaseous state, accidental inhalation can kill, contributes to erosion, decreases the effectiveness of automobile brakes and has been found in the tumors of terminal cancer patients.

His test group included 50 people. Eighty six per cent thought it should be banned and signed the petition. Twelve per cent were undecided. Only one person was able to identify the chemical dihydrogen (two hydrogen) monoxide (one oxygen) as H<sub>2</sub>O or water.

*Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Do not just think about it, do it!"*



**THE INHERITANCE**  
January 4, 1998

**Background Scripture:**

1 Peter 1:3-22

**Devotional Reading:**

Hebrews 11: 1-12

I inherited from my parents what remained of their collection of old photographs. The last few weeks I have been sorting them out, identifying them and placing them into one or more photo albums along with my own photos that span the years between 1930 and the present.

Working with these photographs has caused me to ruminate on my family inheritance. I don't mean a material inheritance-money, property, investments-but the more lasting kind that can be passed on from generation to generation by the force of personal influence. I have concluded that I am heir to a very rich inheritance.

Working with these photographs has also made me reflective. I look at the photos of me at two months, two years, six, twelve and so on, comparing those images with the man I see every morning when I shave. Is there any continuity between them? Anything left of the youthful idealism and superficial confidence?

**DANGEROUS PHOTOS**

Old photographs can be dangerous if they lead us to live in the past. That is truly a sign of old age, although not maturity. Just as the young seem to live only for the future, the elderly appear to live too much in the past. But, no matter how wonderful or how disappointing our pasts may have been, the power for living here and now is not to be found in the past.

Actually, maturity has nothing to do with chronological age. The meaning of life is based upon a hope that far transcends any of those upon which I have trusted over the years. As a youth I had great hopes for myself. I wouldn't make the mistakes and commit the sins I saw all around me. I would never be prejudiced or intolerant, never hurtful to others, never negligent in my responsibilities. The gospel and I (maybe not in that order) would transform the church and save society.

Looking back, I can see that none of those hopes were truly realized. On that basis, I should be very disillusioned. But I am

not! For I have found a hope that does not fade with time. 1 Peter 1:3,4 says it more eloquently. "By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ...and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading..."

**A LIVING HOPE**

Everything else in which I have trusted has proven to be perishable, corruptible, and inconstant-myself, others, ideologies, society, yes even churches. The only "living hope" I have is the inheritance that is offered to all of us: "his great mercy." Everything in this world decays, is destroyed or violated, but our inheritance-salvation through the mercy of God- is "kept in heaven" for us where, as Jesus said, "neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal" (Mt. 7:20).

1 Peter says, "In this you rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith...may redound to praise and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1:7) Our hope is not that we can avoid the failures of the past of the trials of the present, but that there is a salvation awaiting us beyond both past and present.

Maybe as youth we do not truly appreciate the good news of salvation because we do not yet realize how truly we need salvation and how impotent everything else is to provide it. In our early years we see salvation in many directions. It is only in time that we find that each of these, save one, is a blind alley. So, betrayed by so many salvations we can see, we may come to trust in one we cannot: "Without having seen him you love him; though you do not now see him you believe in him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy" (1 Peter 1:8)

In the *Oxford Annotated Bible* there is a footnote: "Inheritance expresses the forward-looking character of the Christian life; the greater part of the riches is yet to come." That is our inheritance; a "living hope" that the really best-imperishable, undefiled and unfading- is yet to be.

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