



OPINION

We're Looking For You

The Super Bowl of Pennsylvania agriculture is scheduled to start today in the Farm Show Complex at the corner of Cameron and Maclay streets in Harrisburg. As usual, farmers go to the show to meet friends, see how their neighbors' entries placed in the animal, plant, and youth shows, and investigate the newest in agriculture products and services.

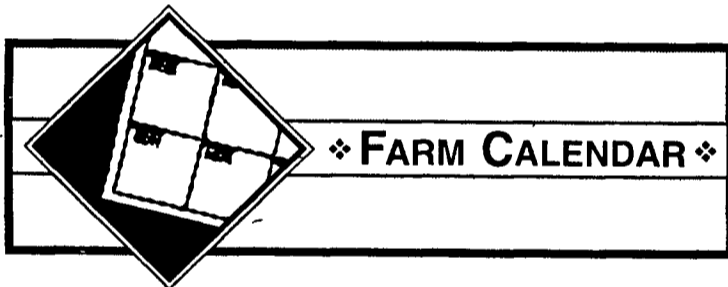
Actually, the Farm Show has become more than just a farmers' show. Pennsylvania's \$44 billion ag industry now uses this showcase to forage good relations between agriculture and the urban areas of the state. In addition, the international guests that have been invited give those companies interested in the export market an opportunity to forage business relationships with foreign officials.

The heart of the Farm Show is still the commercial exhibits, the animals, the food, and the family living and agricultural learning centers. A record premium bank of \$247,138 will provide the incentive to bring the prize exhibits out in the uncertain January weather.

While the entry numbers are down because no poultry will be shown this year, still over 9,000 entries are registered in 30 departments. In addition, 325 commercial companies will show their wares to the 250,000 people who may show up if the weather is nice.

The show runs from today, Saturday, January 10 to Wednesday, January 14, and is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. each day, except the last day when the show closes at 4 p.m.

If farming is in your blood, so is the annual trip to Harrisburg this time of year. Somehow part of your life is missing if you don't attend. So, round up your family and friends and head for the show. And while you're there, stop by our booth, number 274 in the main exhibition hall, and say "Hi." We look forward to your visit.



❖ FARM CALENDAR ❖

- 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. 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.
Pa. Producers Research and Development Commission Meeting, Stephen Lantz Farm, Lebanon, 7 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.
Pa. Producers Research and Development Commission Meeting, Reuben K. Fisher Farm, Allenwood, 7 p.m.
- 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.
- Friday, January 16**
Basics of Managing A Dairy Farm Business, Stephen S. Stoltzfus Farm, New Holland, also Jan. 22.
- Saturday, January 17**
Franklin County Holstein Association annual meeting, Gibbles Restaurant, 7 p.m.
- Sunday, January 18**
Susquehanna County Holstein Association annual meeting.
- Monday, January 19**
Beef 2000 Seminar, Penn State, thru Jan. 21.
New Holland Vegetable Day, Summit Valley Elementary School, New Holland, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Commodity Futures Basics, Lebanon Valley Ag Center, 1 p.m.-3 p.m., also Jan. 26 and Feb. 2 and Feb. 9.
- Tuesday, January 20**
Pa. Producers Research and Development Commission Meeting, Intercourse Fire Hall, Intercourse, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 21**
New Jersey Annual Vegetable Meeting, Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City, N.J., thru Jan. 22.
- Thursday, January 22**
Nutrient Management for Vegetable Crops, University of Maryland Plant Science Building, College Park.
Pa. Lime, Fertilizer, and Pesticide Conference, Nittany Lion Inn, State College, thru Jan. 22.
Forage School Level 1, Lebanon Valley Ag Center, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Develop Business Side of Farm

Every business has two sides. The technology side and the business side. To be successful today you need to develop both sides. The technology side produces the products that we sell to generate profits. Thus, we must be the best at what we do.

However, the business side must also be equally developed in order to insure success. The business side involves organizational structure, supervising employees, developing and monitoring budgets, controlling costs, marketing products, keeping records and providing benefits to employees and community.

As in any business you must develop each side of the business equally. As we start the new year make sure you are developing both sides of your businesses equally.

To Look At Incremental Returns

One form of expansion is to increase production per cow, acre or output per worker, according to Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County Extension Dairy Agent.

However, production may only be pushed so far until you start reaching a point of diminishing returns. As you push for more production, keep comparing incremental costs with incremental gains.

Know your abilities and limitations plus your likes and dislikes. Do you have the ability to sustain high levels of production without experiencing negative

Clarion County Extension/Pa.DHIA meeting on MUN testing, Clarion Clipper Restaurant, Clarion, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Dairy-MAP, Focus On The Future, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, also Jan. 27, 10 a.m. P.A.P.C. Annual Meeting, Nittany Lion Inn, State Collge, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, January 21
Passing On The Farm Workshop, Union/Northumberland counties, St. John's United Church of Christ, Lewisburg.

Lameness In Cattle Seminar, Milton All-American Restaurant, Milton, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Upper Susquehanna Direct Farm Marketing Seminar, Quality Inn, South Williamsport, 9:45 a.m.-4 p.m.

Thursday, January 22
1998 Pa. State Association of County Fairs Convention, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, thru Jan. 24.
No-Till Conference, Westin Hotel, Indianapolis, Ind., thru Jan. 24.
Lawrence County Fruit Growers Dinner, New Wilmington Grange Hall, dinner 6 p.m.,

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setbacks at some future date? Generally speaking, an economical level of milk production appears to be around 19,000 pounds of milk shipped per cow per year. Each 1,000 pounds of milk above this 19,000 pound level will net an about \$50 additional profit per cow per year. These figures will vary from farm to farm.

To Make Smart Decisions

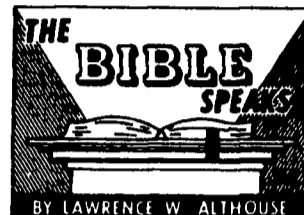
Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County Extension Dairy Agent, reminds us as we attempt to cut costs be careful not to cut profits in the process. Some examples of this are: Failure to maintain vaccination programs. Diseases could sneak in and hurt you latter.

Neglecting heifers and dry cows. You will pay for it dearly latter in the form of ketosis, low milk production, poor conception

rates and increased culling. Giving cows less feed or using poor quality feeds. This will trigger problems discussed earlier. The most profitable milk a cow gives - the milk that pays the bills - is the milk she produces above break even level of about 50 to 60 pounds per day (this varies from farm to farm).

When you under feed a cow, the lost milk comes right off the top. That is the most profitable milk and this lost milk may be her only profit. Using a herd bull to save AI costs. If the bull is infertile or has bad genetics or if he spreads infections from cow to cow, you will pay latter. Not to mention your safety.

Feather Prof's Footnote:
"Some succeed because they are destined to, but most succeed because they are determined to."



THE SOLITARY
CHRISTIAN
January 11, 1998

Background Scripture:

1 Peter 2:1-10

Devotional Reading:

2 Corinthians 1:3-14

As a pastor, I have frequently been asked: "Is it possible to be a Christian without being a part of the Church?"

My usual answer is that in God's world, I suppose, anything is possible, but it would be extremely unlikely. I have also gone on to say that we may perhaps be Christians without joining a church, but not without being part of the Church.

Unless you live on a desert island, being a Christian alone is a virtual contradiction in terms. To be a Christian means to follow Jesus Christ and, although Jesus sometimes went away to a quiet place to be alone or with only his disciples, still he spent most of his time with people—healing, preaching, and teaching.

In 1 Peter 2 the writer metaphorically likens Jesus to a stone. First, a rejected stone: "Come to him, to that living stone rejected by men but in God's sight chosen and precious." This is an allusion to Psalms 118:22: "The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner." The rejected stone, Peter says, has turned out to be the most important stone of all, Jesus has been rejected by many, but as resurrected Lord he was proven the cornerstone of God's kingdom.

A "LIVING STONE"?

But also, he is a "living stone." This is really a mixed metaphor, because "living" and "stone" seem to be self-contradictory. Stones don't live and if you're alive you are hardly a stone. But Peter knowingly used this mixed metaphor because he wants to convey both the solidity of Christ's place in the kingdom and the certainty that this Christ-the-cornerstone is vibrantly alive. (As I read this passage again today I was fascinated to think that it is Simon, whom Jesus called Peter—"the Rock"—who makes this analogy of Jesus as the "living stone.")

Finally, we come to Peter's words which obliterate the concept of the solitary Christian:

"...and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house..." (2.5). The only physical presence Jesus Christ has in the world is the physical presence on those of us who follow him. It is we, the living stones of Christ, who make up the Church in this world. As Annie Johnson Flint wrote:

*Christ has no hands
but our hands*

To do his work today;

He has no feet but our feet

To lead men in His way;

A SPIRITUAL HOUSE

And it must be abundantly clear from these analogies that the Body of Christ can exist only when Christians are connected to each other in some way. We are called, no to be spiritual hermits, but "living stones....built into a spiritual house." The "spiritual house" is the physical representation of Christ in our world. Paul likened Christians to parts of Christ's Body—some representing the head, others the hands, and so on. But all these parts of the Body of Christ must be connected if the Body is to do anything in the world.

Peter proceeds with another mixed metaphor, the "living stones" turning into a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Christ" (2.5). In verse 9 he expands that corporate concept, saying: "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of the darkness into marvelous light," No Christians standing alone here.

There is not one word there to encourage the concept of the solitary Christian. We come together and work together because God has a great work for us to take up for Him and it is a work that requires us to work together with other disciples.

There's an old Jewish saying: "Ein Mensch ist kein Mensch" "One man is no man." I think we might apply that same concept to Christian discipleship. A Christian alone is no Christian.

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A Steinhilber Enterprise

Robert G. Campbell General Manager

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