



OPINION

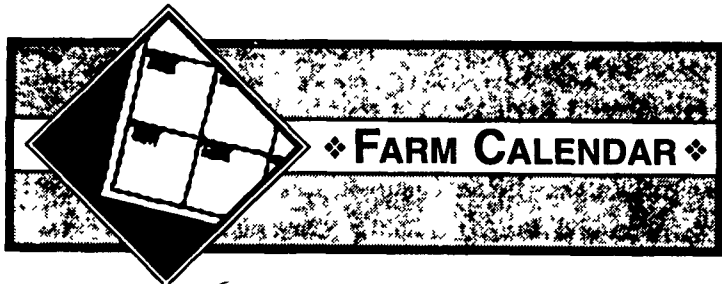
Children's Impressions Of Farming

While the children of our society are more highly educated at a younger age, TV programs and recently copywrited books aimed at this purpose seem to be intentionally misleading our youth about agriculture. Recently, while watching Saturday morning "kids" programs with the grandchildren, we saw the farmer portrayed as a stupid fellow with an even more stupid son whose only aim in life was to take the prizes at the Hicktown County Fair. Of course, the futuristic genetic engineer (a creepy looking fellow) arrived to grow huge vegetables and corn that the stupid farmers stole and took to the fair for their own dishonest glory. As the prizes were being awarded, the genetically engineered plants started growing and became so huge they came alive and ate up everybody and everything at the county fair.

On the same weekend, we browsed the "kids" books in a children's store. One looked like a good commentary on agriculture. It was the story of a poor piglet born in a "factory farm" and thrown into the waste can because he was the runt of the litter.

The "humane" hero rescued and revived the piglet and took him to a much more satisfactory barn of maybe 80 years ago where he, along with a special mate, were able to live out their lives in happiness.

We believe the farmer's story is so filled with good things that there should be books and programs that tell this story in a favorable light. If you know of such books or programs, let us know so we can help spread the word. The impressions of children last a lifetime. It's time to start making good impressions on children about the wonderful contributions agriculture is making to our society. And with all the subtle anti-agriculture impressions already on the shelf, it's time to make these favorable farm impressions now.



Saturday, January 24

Huntingdon County Holstein Association annual meeting, Marklesburg Fire Hall, Marklesburg, 7 p.m.

Cornell Maple Production School Downlink Video Conference, Bradford County Extension Office, Towanda, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 25

37th Annual Meeting of the National Mastitis Council, American Society of Ag Engineers, International Dairy Housing Conference, Adams Mark Hotel, St. Louis, Mo., thru Jan. 28.

Monday, January 26

Adams County Corn Growers Conference, York Springs Fire Hall, 9:30 a.m.

N.E. Pa. Maple Syrup Producers' Association Annual Meeting, Pleasant Valley Grange Hall, Honesdale.

Tuesday, January 27

Cooperative Director Institute XIV, Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, Penn State, thru Jan. 29.

Passing On The Farm Workshop, UGI Building, Bethlehem.

Pa. Vegetable Conference and Trade Show, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, thru Jan. 29.

Southwest Livestock and Forage Management Workshop Series, Cedar Brook Country Club, Belle Vernon, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m., also Feb. 3, 10, and 17.

Chester County Crops Day, Guthriesville Fire Hall, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Poultry Nutrient Management

Meeting, Grantville Holiday Inn, 9 a.m.-noon.

Corn Clinic, Kauffman Community Center, 9 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

Workshop On Nontraditional Dairy Feeds, U. of Md. Cooperative Extension, Frederick, 10:30 a.m.-noon.

Better Kid Care, Chester Extension, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Perry County Extension meeting, Highland Presbyterian Church, Newport, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, January 28

Dairy Housing Conference, St. Louis, Mo., thru Jan. 30.

Lehigh/Northampton County Crops Day, UGI Auditorium, Bethlehem, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

York County Corn Clinic, 4-H Center, Bair Station, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

North American Bramble Growers Association meeting, Hershey Convention Center, thru Jan. 29.

Winter Conference, Otterbein United Methodist Church Hall, Sunbury, 9 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

Delmarva Ag Safety and Health Conference, Capitol Grange Hall, Dover, Del., 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Delmarva Dairy Day, Hartly Fire Hall, Hartly, Del., 9 a.m.

Sheep Nutrition and Management Seminar, Cooperative Extension Office, Leonardtown, Md., 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Beef, Forage, and Sheep Production, Wesley Grange, also Feb. 4, Feb. 11, and Feb. 18.

Mount Joy Co-Op Annual Meeting, Country Table Restaurant, Mount Joy, 11:30 a.m.



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Control Winter Weeds in Alfalfa

Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent, reports this has been an ideal winter for winter annual weeds. Winter annual weeds, especially chickweed, can adversely affect alfalfa yields in several ways.

First, the competition it produces will shorten the stand life of alfalfa.

Second, the quality of first cutting will be reduced.

Third, the drying time of first cutting is increased.

Chickweed and other winter annuals will soon experience a period of rapid growth including blooming and seed production. There are few good products available to alfalfa growers to control chickweed and other winter annual weeds. Each product has its own set of advantages and disadvantages. By reading and studying the label, you should be able to find a herbicide to meet your needs.

To Select Herbicide for Alfalfa Weed Control

Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent, states there are several good herbicides labeled for chickweed and other winter annual weeds in alfalfa. Gramoxone Super, Velpar, Lexone, Sencore, Sinbar, or Kerb are all labeled for use on established stands of alfalfa. The Gramoxone treatment will probably be the most economical.

However, since it is a contact herbicide, it may not do a good job if complete spray coverage of the chickweed is not obtained. It also controls fewer species of weeds than some of the other products.

Best activity with this treatment is when the weeds are small, temperatures are above freezing and the days are bright and sunny. Velpar, Lexone or Sencore will also provide excellent control.

However, the cost of these materials is higher. These materials

Monroe/Carbon County Field Crops Meeting, Polk Township Fire Hall, Kresgeville, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Lebanon Valley Bank Ag Luncheon Seminar, Lebanon Valley Expo Center, Lebanon Fairgrounds.

Pesticide Credit update, extension office, Ebensburg, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Northumberland Conservation District/Penn State Extension Conference, Otterbein United Methodist Church, Sunbury, 10 a.m.

Warren County Conservation District meeting, Holiday Inn,

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do work better if the chickweed is large and complete coverage is a problem since they do have soil activity for plant up take. They also have a broader spectrum of weeds they will control. Sinbar will also control a wider spectrum of weeds. However, there is a two year replanting restriction on the label. Kerb is only labeled for fall applications.

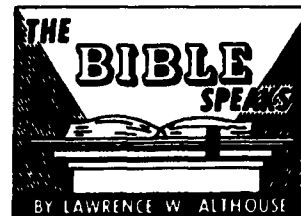
To Attend Grazing Conference

The 1998 Pennsylvania Grazing Conference will be held March 4 and 5 at the Holiday Inn, Grantville PA. Topics to be covered include parasite build up in pastures, poisonous weeds, pas-

ture production during the summer slump, manure to pastures, applying no-till renovation of pastures and selection of pasture plant species. Dr. Sinclair Mayne, Northern Ireland Research

Institute, will discuss his research on grazing management to increase intake and pasture utilization and evaluation of optimum genetic merit of various cow breeds for grazing management systems. For more information on the conference, contact the Grazing Research and Education Center at 814-863-2543.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "The harder you work, the harder it is to surrender."



WHAT KIND OF CROWN?
January 25, 1998

Background Scripture:

1 Peter 5:1-11

Devotional Reading:

Romans 12:9-21

Several years ago, as part of the promotion of a book I was asked to review, I was sent a cap by the publisher. On it in bold letters was the caption: "I AM THE C.E.O. IN THIS HOUSE." I have never worn it.

It occurred to me that people have long used crowns or hats to denote their authority and vocation. There is the tall white chef's hat that tells us who is the boss in the kitchen. There is the policeman's visored cap, more a symbol of authority than a practical head covering. The sailor's round cap clearly distinguishes him from any soldier. Even if we don't wear a distinctive head covering we still may use it as an analogy and remark that a particular person "wears several hats," meaning that person fills several different roles.

Whenever we are in a position of power—at home, at work, in the community—even if we do not actually wear a distinctive hat, we will likely unconsciously choose a figurative "crown" that defines how we conceive of our role. Some people bear their position of responsibility and power with a crown of self-importance. Whenever I stand in line at a customs check-point in an airport, I try to pick out the customs agent who appears least likely to have to demonstrate that he or she has the authority to be picky and petty.

TRAINED TO BE RUDE

Others wear the crowns of officiousness, arbitrariness, arrogance and hostility. For me, the worst of these were the borders guards that controlled access through the former Iron Curtain. These people, it seemed, were trained to be obnoxious. But you don't have to go that far to find that kind of people—you can experience them at the local tax office, the corner store, a downtown parking lot or even in your church. Sometimes we clergy choose the wrong hats to wear as pastors or ecclesiastical officials.

The writer of 1 Peter is very much aware of this problem. He advises pastors of the early church to "Tend the flock of God that is your charge, not by constraint but willingly, not for shameful gain but eagerly, not as

domineering over those in your charge but being examples to the flock" (5:2-3—italics mine). He goes on to say, "Clothe yourselves, all of you (he is no longer speaking to just the clergy), with humility toward one another, for 'God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble'" (5:5).

Humility does not seem to be very valued in our society today, nor, it seems to me, in the church either. Perhaps that is because we have the wrong idea of what Christian humility means. There are eight different meanings to the word "humble" in my *Random House Dictionary of the English Language*. The first of these is the one most often used in the Bible; "not proud or arrogant; modest." My Bible dictionary says the most frequent use of the word 'humble' in the Bible is to denote the "opposite to pride, arrogance and violence."

THE YAWNING GAP

Now I cite that because I have a suspicion that many Christians think of 'humble' as "having a feeling of insignificance, inferiority, subservience." A humble Christian is not one who thinks of himself or herself as "worthless." Humility consists of recognizing the yawning gap between where we are and where God has created us to be.

So, when Peter says, "Clothe yourselves..with humility toward one another," he is not saying that we are to clothe ourselves with feelings of inferiority. Nor, when he quotes Proverbs 3:34, he is not saying that God gives grace to the worthless. God gives grace, not to the domineering, the arrogant, the officious, the practitioners of petty power and privilege, but to those who realize that in the presence of God they cannot be arrogant or self-serving. The One who made them worthy calls for them to be worthier still.

All of us want and need a certain amount of praise and pride. We need to remember, however, that it is only the approval of God that means anything in the long run. "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that in due time he may exalt you."

Humble now; the crown of glory later.

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