

## OPINION

### A Reasonable Response

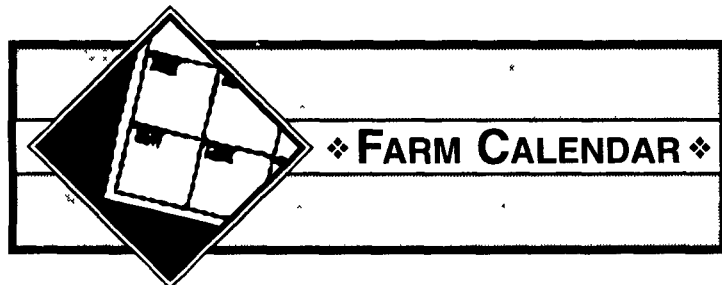
Farmers need to become public relations servants of agriculture in their everyday contact with people who have no background in our favorite enterprise of producing food for the peoples of the world. Often the normal practices of farming look offensive and even barbaric to those who have no emotional ties to farming.

For example, Brent Palmer, a dairy farmer from Salt Lake City, Utah, posted on Dairy L on the internet that his family had problems with visitors to the farm about how calves were handled in their dairy operation.

"The biggest hang-up that people have about our operation is 'Why do you take the babies away from their mothers?'" Palmer writes. "Some people even ask this on the verge of tears. No matter how we explain the reasons why, it never satisfies them. Practices such as culling or something as simple as ear tagging go beyond their grasp. 'Man' They tell us, 'this sure is a cut-throat business.'"

In response to this dilemma, Howard Cornwell from Norwich, Ont. wrote that the answer to this question that gets the most acceptance is the real answer. "We separate the calves shortly after birth so that the calf bonds with the farmer or herdsman. Sometimes we forget the real reason, and just do things the way our fathers did. Dairy cows are very dependent on humans for all their needs and it is important that they respond to the farmer and not be so independent that they (suffer or) cause problems."

This is a very logical and reasonable response that gives a glimpse of the real relationship between farmers and their animals, we think.



### FARM CALENDAR

#### Saturday, January 31

N.Y. State Farmed Deer Seminar,  
N.Y. State College at Vet Medicine,  
Ithaca, N.Y.

#### Sunday, February 1

4-H Day With The Lady Lions,  
Bryce Jordan Center, University  
Park, 2 p.m.

Udder Health School, Berks County  
Ag Center, Leesport.

#### Monday, February 2

Northeast Agriculture Direct  
Marketing Conference and  
Trade Show, Sturbridge Host  
Hotel and Conference Center,  
Sturbridge, Mass., Feb. 4.

Beef Educational Evening, Midway  
Diner.

Welcome To Computers Seminar,  
Adams County Extension  
Office, 9:30 a.m.-noon, also  
Feb. 9.

Octorara Young Farmers pesticide  
credit meeting, Octorara High  
School, 7:30 p.m.

Community Relations and Swine  
Management, Montoursville  
High School, 7:30 p.m.

#### Tuesday, February 3

38th Pa. Young Farmers Association  
Winter Convention, Ramada  
Inn, State College, thru Feb.  
5.

Beaver Crops Day, Big Knob  
Grange, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Southwest Forage Management  
Workshop Series, Belle Ver-  
non, also Feb. 10.

Writing Nutrient Management  
Plans, Western Md. Resource  
and Education Center,  
Keedysville.

Cattle Feeder's Day, Lancaster  
Farm and Home Center, 9:30  
a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Pesticide test, 4-H Center, Fair-  
grounds, Bedford, 9 a.m.-noon.  
Ag Round Table, Howard John-

son's, Millington, 10 a.m.-2:30  
p.m.

Milker's School, Potter County  
Extension Office, Coudersport,  
repeats Feb. 10 at Brady Town-  
ship Community Center,  
Luthersburg.

Soil Fertility and Nutrient Man-  
agement Workshop, Mahantango  
Fire Company, Pitman, also  
Feb. 10 and 17.

Corn Planter Clinic, Biehl Farm,  
Kutztown, 10 a.m.-noon.

#### Wednesday, February 4

Passing On The Farm Workshop,  
Lancaster Farm and Home Cen-  
ter, Lancaster.

Cooperative Extension Regional  
Greenhouse Meeting, Richland  
Township Fire Hall, 8:30  
a.m.-3:45 p.m.

Armstrong Crops Meeting, Kittan-  
ning Fire Hall, 7 p.m.-10 p.m.

Butler Crops Day, Days Inn, 9:30  
a.m.-3 p.m.

Planter, Drill, Sprayer Clinic,  
Lebanon Expo Center, 10  
a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Soybean Production Management,  
Clarion County Extension  
Office, 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

N.E. Vegetable Growers Meeting,  
Thompson's Dairy Bar, 9  
a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Dairy Industry's Changing Envi-  
ronment Conference, Leslie N.  
Firth Learning Center, Mercer,  
12:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

Management Intensive Grazing  
Series, U. of Md. Cooperative  
Extension, Frederick, Md., 7  
p.m.-9 p.m.

Regional Greenhouse Educational  
Meeting, Richland Fire Hall,  
Johnstown.

Ohio Fruit and Vegetable Growers  
Congress, Seagate Center,  
Toledo, Ohio, thru Feb. 6.

Johne's Disease Meeting, Craw-



## Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent

### To Understand Bt Corn Resistance

Now that corn growers finally have an economical and effective way to control European Corn Borers through corn varieties which contain Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), careful management to prevent the borers from becoming Bt resistance is essential, according to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent. Before an effective control was available, most corn growers were somewhat oblivious to the amount of damage the European Corn Borer was causing in corn fields.

Now that corn growers have experienced their first real effective control of European Corn Borer with Bt, they have become aware of the losses caused by this insect. Now that the value of this control is recognized, farmers must also recognize the importance of an effective Bt resistance management plan. Otherwise, European Corn Borer may develop resistance to Bt corn and we will lose this effective control method.

### To Manage Resistance to Bt Corn

As more corn growers begin to use Bt corn, resistance management becomes more important. The EPA will make management plans essential beginning in 2000. However, farmers should begin now to prevent resistance according to many entomologists.

There are several approaches to prevent resistance. Growers can plant Bt and non Bt corn in the same field by mixing seeds. Or they may plant adjacent fields with Bt and non Bt corn. Or they may plant a field border of non Bt corn around all Bt corn fields. In all cases, it is vital to plant non Bt corn that has similar agronomic characteristics, like maturity and is planted at the same time.

If farmers take resistance

management seriously, Bt corn may be a valuable tool to increase corn yields for many years to come. However, Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent, reminds us if farmers plant only Bt corn, resistance may develop in a short period of time.

management seriously, Bt corn may be a valuable tool to increase corn yields for many years to come. However, Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent, reminds us if farmers plant only Bt corn, resistance may develop in a short period of time.

### To Prevent Stall Vices

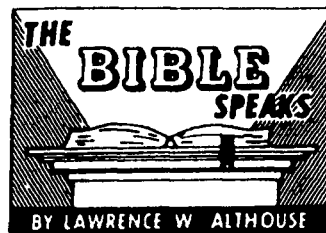
During the winter months many stable vices of horses become more evident, according to Lori Little, Lancaster County 4-H Animal Sciences Extension Agent. This is due to the lack of exercise and pasture time during the winter months. Horses may become bored within their stalls and as a last resort pick up bad habits to occupy their time. Some common stable vices are weaving,

pawing, wood chewing and wind sucking.

Providing access to hay and a salt block may help eliminate these problems. Toys placed in a stall may also help. Stall toys may be purchased at any tack store. Be sure to read the instructions and the cautions when using. Remember prevention is the key to controlling stable vices.

The following are some preventative tips: allow as much pasture time as possible, make hay available constantly, avoid keeping a horse stalled alone and keep windows open so the horse may see out.

*Feather Prof's Footnote: "If you have the courage to begin, you have the courage to succeed."*



BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

PLEASE CONFIRM!

February 1, 1998

### Background Scripture:

2 Peter

### Devotional Reading:

2 Peter 1:16-21

We had been to China and planned to stopover a few days in England on the way back to Dallas. Before leaving Dallas, I had called to book a country hotel about 25 miles from London's Gatwick Airport. When we got there, exhausted after a long flight and wandering the countryside trying to find the hotel, we were shocked to hear the receptionist tell us, "I'm sorry, Mr. Althouse, your reservation is for tomorrow night, not tonight. Unfortunately, we are fully booked tonight!"

This experience confirmed for me the wisdom of confirming in writing arrangements made orally. It is one of the best ways to avoid misunderstanding, disagreement and disappointment. Often, after an important conversation, I will write a letter or memo that says, "If I understood correctly from our conversation, you expect me to do the following..." Sometimes the reply tells me that we did not really understand each other.

"Confirm" has various meanings which are quite related: to establish the truth or accuracy of something, to acknowledge with definite assurance, to ratify, to make firm or more firm, and to corroborate. I believe the writer of 2 Peter had all of these meanings in mind. "Therefore, brethren, be the more zealous to confirm your call and election, for if you do this you will never fall..." (1.10 italics mine).

### OFFER & ACCEPTANCE

Although the person and work of God can never be reduced to a formula, the Bible seems consistent in representing the call of God as a process in which God does the calling, but we must confirm our acceptance of that call. I remember from my college classes in business law that to every contract there must be "offer" and "acceptance." If an offer is made but not accepted in some way—a word, an action—there is no contract.

So it is in our relationships with God. God makes the offer, you and I must respond with the acceptance. Without our confirmation that we have accepted the grace of God, the call of God, the salvation of God, to put it in simplistic terms, there's no deal!

I'm sure that this is nothing you don't already know. I know it, too, but I sometimes forget it. So 2 Peter is saying to his readers, "Therefore I intend always to remind you of these things, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to arouse you by way of reminder." (1:12,13)

### ARE YOU CONSISTENT?

I am currently reading a book about the Apostle Paul. The author questions the authenticity of Peter's experience (Acts 10) with Simon the Tanner at Joppa because later, Paul was critical of Peter for avoiding eating with gentile Christians. The author says that if Peter had had this revelation about gentiles from God in Acts 10, he would not have acted as reported in Galatians 2. Admittedly Peter in Galatians 2 is not consistent with Peter in Acts 10. But where does it say that people always (even usually) have to act consistently?

I do not and I rather imagine that you do not either. I know better and try to live by what I believe, but there are times when I lapse back into behavior which is not consistent with the best I know. Does that not happen to you, too? Would you agree that our problem is not in knowing what to do, but in consistently doing what we know to be true? So, like those to whom 2 Peter is addressed, we need to be reminded of what we already know.

I believe it was Emmet Fox who wrote about a man who was offering courses in spirituality—a beginner's course and an advanced course. Everyone signed up for the advanced course. What the man eventually told his students was that there was really no difference between the two courses. The beginner's course was based upon the principles of a spiritual life and the advanced course was about putting into practice the principles of the beginner's course.

We do not need the revelation of any more "secrets" or "advanced courses" in following Jesus Christ. We know all the basics. What we need to do is simply confirm God's call by putting those basics into practice.

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A Steinman Enterprise

Robert G. Campbell General Manager

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