



# OPINION

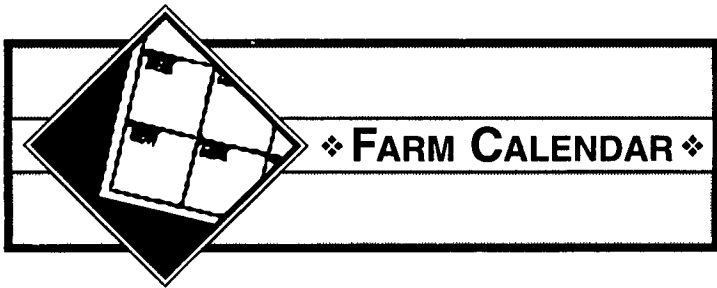
## Be Careful With Children

The pain and suffering a child experiences from an agricultural injury is easy to appreciate. That's one reason farmers should be careful that their children who play and work around the farm are kept safe from animals and equipment that may harm them.

While a child may have developed the skills and mental knowledge to do many jobs around the farm, the physical strength often has not been developed sufficiently. Sometimes we see a small child driving a tractor or handling a team of mules or draft horses. Because the child and the farm family are so close to the situation, they often see no danger. However, if the tractor hits a hole, an unexpected mound of dirt, or a stone, the child may not be heavy or strong enough to keep the machine under control. If something spooks the mules, they may take off on the run with the child in no way able to reign in the runaway team.

After the child is hurt, it is too late. Now is the time to reassess what jobs you allow your child to do. Give each situation the benefit of the doubt. It may be better if he or she grew a little more before taking on this work.

There are many testimonies of families who wish they would have done things differently after their child was permanently maimed or killed in a farm accident. Do everything possible to not let this happen in your farm family.



### ❖ FARM CALENDAR ❖

#### Saturday, February 7

EAYF Banquet, Mt. Airy/Durlach Fire Hall, 6:30 p.m.  
Pa. State Rabbit Breeders Association Annual Convention, Lebanon County Fairgrounds, thru Feb. 8.  
Susquehanna County 4-H presentations and public speaking workshop, Montrose government office building, Montrose, 9:30 a.m., also March 9, 7:30 p.m.

#### Sunday, February 8

#### Monday, February 9

Field Crop Meeting for Producers, hosted by Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Monmouth County Extension, 9 a.m.-noon and Hunterdon County Extension, 7 p.m.-10 p.m.  
Southern Maryland Agriculture Breakfast, Jaycees Community Center, Waldorf, Md., 8 a.m.-10:30 a.m.  
Northern Fruit Growers Meeting, Ramada Inn at Chinchilla in Lackawanna County, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

#### Tuesday, February 10

Capitol Area Turf and Ornamental Winter School, Holiday Inn, Grantville, 8:15 a.m.-3:05 p.m.  
New York State Berry Growers Association annual meetings in conjunction with the New York State Vegetable Conference and Trade Show, Four Points ITT/Sheraton Convention Center, Liverpool, N.Y., thru Feb. 12.  
Ephrata Area Young Farmers pesticide meeting, Family Time Restaurant, 6:45 p.m.  
Lancaster County Crops Day, Farm and Home Center.  
Southeast Fruit Meeting, Schuylkill County Ag Center, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
New York State Vegetable Conference, Four Points Sheraton/ITT, Liverpool, N.Y., thru Feb. 12.  
Southwest Pa. Breeders Forum,

Somerset Vo-Tech School, Somerset, 10 a.m.  
Soil Fertility School, Lebanon and Dauphin Ag Centers, also Feb. 11, 17, and 18.

Pa. Allied and Industrial Nursery Conference, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., thru Feb. 11.  
Maryland/Delaware Peach School, Wye REC, Queenstown, Md., 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Pesticide Test, extension office, Ebensburg, 9 a.m.-noon.

Western Potato Meeting, Tata's Restaurant (formerly Bonanza), Lyndora, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Empire State Potato Club Meeting, Four Points ITT/Sheraton.  
Reducing Risk On Farm, Morrison Cove Memorial Park, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Milking School, Berks County Ag Center, also Feb. 17.  
Soybean and Small Grain Meeting, Gettysburg High School, 7 p.m.

Crop Information Management System, Firth Learning Center, 1 p.m.-3 p.m., also March 10.

#### Wednesday, February 11

Southeast Fruit Meeting, Berks County Ag Center, Leesport.  
Regional Vegetable Grower's Production Meeting, York County 4-H Center, Bair Station.  
Keystone Pork Expo, Lebanon Valley Expo Center.  
Cambria-Somerset Potato Meeting, Imperial Room-Mini Mall, Ebensburg.  
John's Disease Meeting, PDA Office, Tunkhannock, 1:30 p.m.  
Northwest Pa. Livestock and Grazing Management Workshop Series, Wesley Grange, Barkeyville, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

#### Thursday, February 12

Lancaster County Fruit Growers meeting, Farm and Home Center, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
Venango County Crops Night, Venango County Extension Office, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.  
Franklin County Crops and Soils



**Now Is The Time**  
By John Schwartz  
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

### To Be Alert to Carbon Monoxide

Whenever combustion takes place without sufficient oxygen, carbon monoxide is produced. Since less fresh air is entering homes due to conservation measures, it is doubly important to be alert to the dangers of improper venting. Exposure to carbon monoxide may cause any or all of the following symptoms: headache, dizziness, ringing in the ears, seeing spots, nausea, violent coughing, irregular breathing and ultimately, unconsciousness.

If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning, get into fresh air quickly. Call an emergency squad or ambulance and get medical help. Give artificial respiration if victim is not breathing. Loosen clothing, keep victim warm and place head lower than feet. Consider installing carbon monoxide detectors in your homes, especially near sleeping areas. They could save your life!

### To Prevent Winter Storm Damage to Trees

The recent winter storms have demonstrated the hazards they present to trees, according to Dr. Timothy Elkner, Lancaster County Extension Horticultural Agent. Accumulation of ice and snow may increase the branch weight of trees by 30 times or more. This causes breakage and high winds during and after a storm may cause even more damage. The amount of storm injury that occurs depends on several factors

First, different tree species vary in their resistance to injury. Generally, the fast growing species of trees such as silver maples, willows and poplars seem to suffer the most damage because they have soft, weak wood that will not support much snow or ice.

The age and maintenance of trees are other important factors. Large, old trees are particularly

Day, Lemaster Community Center.

Franklin-Cumberland Vegetable Growers meeting, Penn Township Fire House, Huntsdale, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Start A Small Business Workshop, Penn State Berks Campus, Reading.

Milking Management Workshop, Firth Learning Center, Mercer, 12:30 p.m.-4 p.m.

Dairy-MAP, Gutshall's Corner Restaurant, also Feb. 19.

Lancaster County 4-H Livestock Clubs Annual Banquet, Country Table Restaurant, Mount Joy, 6:30 p.m.

Genex Local Membership Meeting, Seven Valleys Fire Hall, Seven Valleys, 10 a.m.

Milking School, Lebanon Ag Center, 9:45 a.m.-3 p.m., also Feb.

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susceptible to damage. Trees that have been neglected or improperly pruned in the past also may sustain more injury than those carefully managed.

Finally, improperly training young trees may increase the probability of storm damage years later.

### To Clean Up Storm Damage Trees

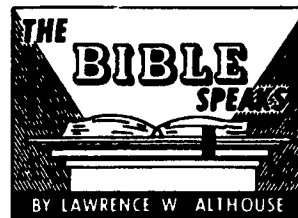
Dr. Timothy Elkner, Lancaster County Extension Horticultural Agent, reminds us that after a storm, hazardous trees and branches should be removed immediately to ensure safety and prevent additional property damage. Trees that have lost more than 50 per cent of their branches, those with splits in the main trunk or large trees with their tops broken are generally poor risks and should be removed from the landscape.

Trees deemed salvageable but with broken branches, jagged stubs or torn bark should be repaired immediately rather than waiting until spring. Since removing large tree limbs may be dangerous, this work should be left to trained arborists.

Consult a professional arborist if: 1. the work requires climbing or chain saws, 2. when cabling or large branch removal is called for and 3. if the injured tree or branch is leaning on another tree or structure.

Any tree damage occurring around power and communication lines should always be handled by the utility company. Proper tree management including pruning on a regular cycle will lower a tree's susceptibility to winter storms.

*Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Sometimes you must do the thing you cannot do."*



ARE YOU A SLAVE?  
February 8, 1998

### Background Scripture:

II Peter 2

Devotional Reading:  
Ephesians 4:7-16

One of the two main purposes of II Peter is to warn the readers against false teachers. "But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction" (2:1).

I have read a lot of religious books and sermon titles in the past 40-plus years since I entered the ministry, but I don't remember coming across one addressing the problems of "false teachers" and "heresy." Is that because "false teachers" and "heresy" are no longer threatening to the Church? No, I think not, but the terminology we use today is different. Furthermore, II Peter may seem irrelevant also because the "false teachers" and the "heresies" they were concerned about are different than the ones that plague us today.

So who are the "false teachers" in the Church today? For what shall we be on the lookout in looking for and identifying them? II Peter 2 gives us some guidelines.

For one thing, he says, the false teachings are "destructive heresies." When we examine what he read and hear today of preaching and teaching in the Church, one way we can spot that which is false is to note teaching and preaching that are destructive to the Church. Heresy always wears down the Church, never upbuilds it.

### DENYING THE MASTER

Some people today are negatively obsessed with those with whom they do not agree. They condemn them continually and unmercifully because their conception of the Gospel is different from their own. "From of old their condemnation has not been idle, and their destruction has not been asleep" (2:3). Their orientation is destructive and negative. For them, condemnation of others has become a way of life.

The writer also tells us that these "false teachers" deny "the Master who bought them." Whenever you hear teaching or preach-

ing that persuades you to believe or behave in a way that is contrary to the way of Jesus Christ, that is "false teaching." Jesus was not afraid to speak out against sin, but he did not found his gospel on condemning the sinners. Any teaching that entices us to be less compassionate, less forgiving, and less loving is false teaching. Any gospel that derides us for being the peacemakers Jesus calls us to be is not the good news of Jesus Christ.

The writer of II Peter also tells us that the "false teachers" are licentious people: "They are blots and blemishes reveling in their dissipation, carousing with you . . . They entice unsteady souls." (2:13b, 14b). Anyone who teaches you to live licentiously is a "false teacher."

### LICENTIOUSNESS

We need to realize, however, that that includes not only "passions of the flesh" — sexual licentiousness, gluttony and drunkenness — but any kind of behavior in which we are out of control, where something else, not the Lord, is in charge of us. An addiction to violence can be licentiousness. An obsession with verbal abuse can be living out of control. Lying about other people, demeaning their character can be compulsive. Self-righteousness is equally addictive and destructive.

What makes these "false teachers" and their "heresies" so dangerous is that they are so persuasive, particularly when it comes to using the Bible to support their destructive teaching. They promise a lot, but when people think for themselves and are open to the leading of God's Spirit, they can realize that they do not and can not deliver what they promise.

These people finally, promise "freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption; for whatever overcomes a man, to that he is enslaved." Lots of people who think they are free are really slaves to persuasive charlatans and their teachings which appeal, not to the love of Christ, but to our most selfish and destructive natures.

Are you a free person or is there something or someone to whom you are subtly, but surely enslaved?

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