



OPINION

Foes-For-Us Target Phosphorus

We're not conspiracy fanatics, but we know there is a coordinated effort to battle highly concentrated livestock operations.

It's been involved in food scares created through purposefully misleading interpretations of science and fact, through paranoia, and in some cases through distorting legitimate concern.

The avenues of fear-mongering (a recognized, well-paying occupational niche in the lobbying jungle) have involved pesticide scares, bacteria scares, and health and beauty scares.

What all the poster issues chosen by fear-mongers have in common are perceptions by the general public of a possible threat to life and health, and the involvement of subject matter that deals with specialized sciences — which means subject matter that the general population knows just enough about to know they fear it.

Like eating wild mushrooms.

So the general public seeks someone in whom to trust.

Fear-mongering is lucrative for some, especially when attacking a large industry. And overall, it has become easier to do because real-world cover-ups and lies from established leadership, government, business and institutions has created a distrustful general population that is suspicious of the traditional bearers of factual truth.

This being so, it seems that highly publicized concern over phosphorus in poultry and swine manures — that now involves a leap of logic that connects Pfiesteria (a human health fear issue) to phosphorus — has all the appearance of a professional fear-mongering campaign.

In fact, it would seem more strange if there weren't a strong anti-agriculture element involved.

There are efforts to get federal government to create across-the-board limits on phosphorus applications to cropland as part of its strategy to implement the nation's Clean Water Act. The EPA is now requiring national discharge permits for large livestock operations, in effect no longer treating agricultural nutrients as coming from non-point sources.

If federal control of nutrient management would target and limit phosphorus, it would mean the entire livestock industry would be faced with finding land on which to spread manure.

When balanced against nitrogen, most animal manures contain more phosphorus than plants need.

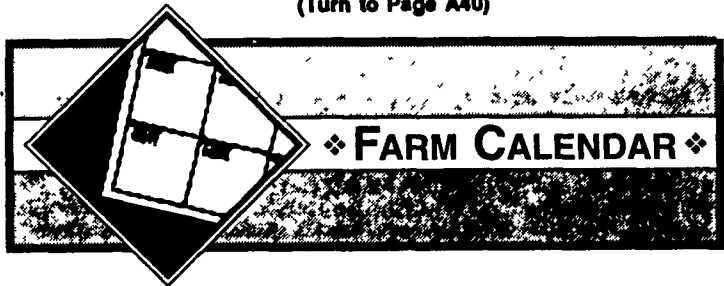
This appears to be a battle to control large-scale, integrated livestock production. It is targeted toward poultry and swine facilities, for now, but its affects would be wide-reaching.

While Pennsylvania is not considering changing its nutrient management laws to reflect a change from nitrogen being the nutrient of most concern, it is happening elsewhere.

Like in Maryland.

But just because Pennsylvania's political leadership is not now considering increasing the regulatory control of agricultural phosphorus, that doesn't mean it will not.

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Saturday, April 4
Spring Conference and Meeting
Pa. Dairy Goat Association,
Logan Grange Hall, Pleasant
Gap, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
**9th Annual Forest Stewardship
Workshop, Allen Hall, Mans-
field University, 9 a.m.**
**Wye Angus Sale, Queenstown,
Md.**

Sunday, April 5
Palm Sunday
Daylight Saving Time Begins
Natural Resources Income Oppor-
tunities On Private Lands Con-
ference, Hagerstown, Md., thru
April 7.

Monday, April 6
Natural Resources Income Oppor-
tunities on Private Lands Con-
ference, Ramada Inn Conven-
tion Center, Hagerstown, Md.,
April 5-7.
1998 Tractor and Farm Machinery

**Safety Course, Octorara High
School, 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m., also
April 13, 20, and 27.**
**Tractor Safety, Guthrie Home
Health, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.**

Tuesday, April 7
Estate Planning Update and Issues
Workshop, Walgreen Com-
pany, Lehigh Valley Distribu-
tion Center, Bethlehem, 7
p.m.-9:30 p.m., also April 14
and 21.

Wednesday, April 8
4-H County Council Meeting,
Extension Office, Towanda,
7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 9
Evening Farm Visit, Penn State
Cooperative Extension, Leba-
non County.
Lebanon County Spring Promise
Sale, Lebanon Area
Fairgrounds.

Friday, April 10

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

To Call Before You Dig
Just a reminder it is the law, you must call before you dig. Before you do any excavation or moving soil like digging post holes, footers, buildings, manure storages, etc., make One Call. By making that One Call to contact the Utility Location and Coordination Council (ULCC), you can save time, money and maybe your life.

The ULCC has a uniform color code which alerts contractors and excavators to utilities in the work area. The council will give you the green light to dig, excavate or move earth. For Pennsylvania, One Call number is 800-242-1776. For more information on One Call consult your local telephone directory.

To Use Buffer Strips

According to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent, buffer strips are economical for the farm and good for the environment. Maintaining a vegetative buffer strip along streams, water flow areas in crop fields and along roads makes good environmental and economic sense.

Properly installed and maintained, these strips reduce sediment and nutrients in runoff. Buffer strips protect people, crops, livestock, buildings, wildlife and roads from the effects of erosion. The United States Department of Agriculture has increased its emphasis on buffer strips by launching the National Conservation Buffer Initiative. They have set a goal of installing two million miles of conservation buffer strips by the year 2002.

With the increase concern on the environment, farmers need to re-exam their farming practices and incorporate time proven soil conservation practices into their farming operations. These include buffer strips and cover crops. The amount of government regulation will depend on voluntary participation of farmers incorporating Best Management Practices.

To Protect Ground water

Corn planting will soon be underway. This means that a large percentage of the pesticides that will be applied this year will be used during this period. Protecting our farm's ground water supply from contamination should be a high priority, according to Leon

Saturday, April 11
3d Annual John Deere Antique
Plowing Demonstration, Ron
Boyer Farm, Hereford, 9 a.m.

Sunday, April 12
Easter

Monday, April 13

Tuesday, April 14
Management Intensive Grazing
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Ressler, Lancaster County Extension Agricultural Agent. Following a few common sense guidelines when using pesticides will go a long way towards achieving that goal.

First, never fill your sprayer near a well. Choose the water faucet located the further most from the well for your water supply. If that is not practical, purchase enough hose to be able to fill your sprayer at a safe distance from your well. Avoid spills when mixing. Periodically move the location where you do your

mixing. When cleaning the sprayer, rinse it at least three times and spray the rinse water on the field where the pesticide was used. Triple rinse spray containers and add the rinse water to the spray tank. After properly rinsing the containers, punch holes in them and dispose of them at approved disposal sites. Always read and follow label directions when using pesticides.

*Feather Prof.'s Footnote:
"Farms do not succeed, people do."*



A PERSONAL EASTER MESSAGE April 4, 1998

Background Scripture:
John 18 through 29.
Devotional Reading:
Acts 2:32-39—

I read somewhere that, during the days of the Soviet Union, some Russian Orthodox churches were permitted to have Easter services because Communist officials reasoned that something so ancient as the Easter liturgy couldn't have any affect upon the opinions and actions of a handful of worshippers. A contemporary scholar has commented that the Soviets couldn't have really understood the meaning of Easter or they would have had to ban it completely.

The Soviets — and probably many others — failed to understand that the Easter gospel is not just about a startling event that took place almost 2,000 years ago. Properly understood and experienced, Easter is contemporary good news about people and situations today. More than just a corporate liturgy, Easter comes to each of us with revolutionary power for this very year, month and day.

Part of Easter's personal message to me — and you — is the relevance of what immediately preceded the resurrection: the passion and crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ. This, too, is not just about a man who suffered unjustly and was put to death in the third decade of the first century AD. The crucifixion is about us, too, in 1998.

THE STUMBLING-BLOCK

The stumbling-block of Christianity has always been the passion and death of Jesus. Here was a man so spiritually powerful that he could heal disease and cast out demons. Here was also a man so innocent, so loving, yet so despised by so many. Christians still want to know: why did such a man go to the cross? (If we can understand that, then perhaps we will understand the crosses in our own lives.)

Some may reason that Jesus had no choice, that fate, divine will, providence decreed his death. It is obvious that Jesus could have avoided both Jerusalem and the cross, staying in Galilee or sojourning out in the wilderness of Judea. But, if Jesus had no choice, then he would simply be a victim with no power to bring redemption to anyone.

Others, taking an opposite tack would say Jesus sought to be a martyr. But I don't believe that either. Why would he have prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane for

"this cup" to be taken from him? Still others will hold that Jesus died on Calvary because God willed it for his own cosmic purposes. But that would make the passion and death of Jesus nothing more than a cruel charade. God would be the author of the evil that overtook Jesus at Calvary.

I believe that the reason Jesus died on Calvary was that, while he did not seek death, and while his death was the will of men, not God, Jesus would not betray his mission for the sake of saving his life. The only factors that made his crucifixion inevitable were his obedience to God's call and its collision course with the terrible malevolence of those who crucified him.

WHAT'S IT TO US?

So what is so personal about all of the above? How does it apply to us as well as Jesus of Nazareth? The answer: we can approach life with the same obedience that we see exemplified in Jesus Christ. We don't seek suffering and we don't believe God wills that we suffer. But there are times when remaining faithful to the good news in Jesus Christ leads us to a cross. As Jesus did, we can experience our crosses with the same faithfulness and compassion with which Jesus experienced his. Calvary, then, is a very current and personal message about how to live *faithfully* in our world today.

Furthermore, the resurrection of Jesus is a personal and current message about living *victoriously* in this world of today. The enemies of our Lord did their very worst to him, but the resurrection proved that their worst was not more powerful than his best. That is no less true in our lives today!

The resurrection appearance of Jesus to Mary also has a contemporary message for us. Notice that when Jesus first appeared to her, "she did not know that it was Jesus" (10:14b). Even after Jesus began to talk to her, she didn't recognize the Lord, "supposing him to be the gardener." It was only when, instead of addressing her as "woman," Jesus said "Mary," that she realized Jesus was standing before her. The resurrection faith is always and ever a matter of faith, not scientific logic and testability.

By that faith, the resurrection of Jesus Christ becomes a very personal message, showing us how to live victoriously in the very world we live in today.

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