



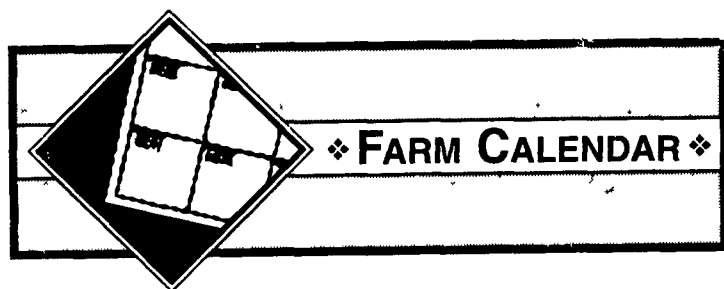
OPINION

A Faithful Dependence On Science

Veterinarians, farmers, and makers of animal medicines share the concern of public health officials that the injudicious use of antibiotics on the farm can contribute to the increase of antibiotic resistant bacteria being transferred to people via uncooked food. Even though the data are still only suggestive and not definitive, everyone must take this issue seriously. We applaud the animal medic industry for continuing efforts to work with government regulators, public health officials, and all other stakeholder groups to develop new prudent-use guidelines and education programs. These efforts go a long way to assure antibiotics are used wisely, safely, and responsibly.

Everyone needs to remain attentive to scientific evidence as it develops. But we must also be aware that whenever a change or reduction in antibiotic use in food animals is made, some other consequence of importance may emerge. As one agriculture researcher said recently, "When we push down on one risk button, often another pops up in the background."

The challenge is to base decisions and regulations on a faithful dependence on science, not manufactured emotions.



Saturday, May 16
Bedford County Dairy Princess Pageant, Denny's Restaurant, Bedford, 7:30 p.m.

Blue Mountain Antique Gas and Steam Engine Show Swap Meet, Jacktown Community Center, Bangor, thru May 17.
4-H Spring Show, Wills Fair, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, Md.

Sunday, May 17
5th Annual Manor FFA Benefit Horse Show, Columbia Riding Club, Columbia.

Monday, May 18
Farm Pond Management Workshop, Smethport Country Club, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

Tuesday, May 19
Farm Pond Management Workshop, Laurel Mountain Winery, Falls Creek, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

Wednesday, May 20

Thursday, May 21
Chester County Conservation District Anniversary Banquet, Brandywine Valley Association, West Chester, 7 p.m.

Strawberry Study Circle: A Discussion With Larry Yager, Extension Marketing Agent, Swamp Fox Farms, Glen Rock, 6:30 p.m. tour, discussion 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Friday, May 22
Wyoming/Lackawanna Dairy Princess Pageant, Mehoopany Township Building, Mehoopany, 7:30 p.m.

Atlantic National Angus Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, thru May 24.

Saturday, May 23
Northwest Keystone Junior Beef Classic, Butler County Fairgrounds, thru May 24.

4-H Spring Show, Southern Md., Charles County Fairgrounds, LaPlata, thru May 24.

Monday, May 25
Memorial Day
Lancaster Farming office closed.

Tuesday, May 26
Septic System Management and Well Protection Workshop, Penn State Fruit Research Laboratory, Biglerville, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 27
Cream Ridge Twilight Tour Meeting and Strawberry Breeding Showcase, Rutgers Fruit Research and Extension Center, Cream Ridge, NJ.

Thursday, May 28
Philadelphia County Fair, Philadelphia, thru June 7.

Friday, May 29

Saturday, May 30
Cecil County Breeders Fair, Cecil County Fairgrounds.

Boring Fire Company Gas Engine Show, Boring, Md., thru May 31.

Lebanon County Dairy Princess Pageant, Lebanon County Career and Technology Center, 7:30 p.m.

Blair County Dairy Princess Pageant, Logan Valley Mall, Altoona, 7 p.m.

Thursday, June 4
Southeast Pa. Fruit Growers Twilight Meeting, Stoudt's Orchard, Shartlesville, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, June 5

Saturday, June 6
Huntingdon County Dairy Princess Pageant, Huntingdon Area Middle School, Huntingdon.

Sunday, June 7
Clinton County Dairy Princess Pageant, Porter Township, Lamar, 2 p.m.

Now Is The Time
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Save Alfalfa Leaves
Dr. Mike Collins, University of Kentucky, has completed ten years of studying ways to save alfalfa leaves during harvest. He found hay should be raked into windrows before the moisture content drops below 40 per cent.

This will allow the maximum number of leaves to be kept on the plant. He says leaf loss may increase to as high as 20 per cent if hay approaches storage moisture before it is raked. Hay preservatives are very useful if trying to avoid rain damage.

The economic pay back is mainly in those cases where the use of an effective preservative allows the producer to avoid rain damage. To be effective, make sure you apply enough product and distribute it uniformly through the hay.

Monday, June 8
Ephrata Area Young Farmers meeting, Therapeutic Riding Program, Greystone Manor, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, June 9
Centre County Wool Pool, Grange Fairgrounds, Centre Hall, 7 a.m.-11:30 a.m., and 1 p.m.-2 p.m.

Wednesday, June 10

Thursday, June 11
Lancaster County Poultry Association Golf Outing, Foxchase Golf Club.

Friday, June 12
Franklin County Dairy Princess Pageant, Lighthouse Restaurant, Chambersburg.

Indiana County Dairy Princess Pageant, Marion Center Presbyterian Church, Marion Center, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 13
Cumberland County Dairy Princess Pageant, Ember's Convention Center, Carlisle, 8 p.m.

Sunday, June 14
Ephrata Area Young Farmer 4th Annual Farm Family Safety Day Camp, Ephrata Community Park, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Lancaster County Dairy Princess Pageant, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 7 p.m.

Beaver-Lawrence County Dairy Princess Pageant, Old Princeton School, Princeton, 8 p.m.

SUN Area Dairy Princess Pageant, Susquehanna Valley Mall, Hummels Wharf, 7 p.m.

Schuylkill County Dairy Princess Pageant, Zion's Church, New Ringgold.

To Plan On Using Cover Crops

With the increased interest in environmental effects of agriculture, farmers need to increase their use of cover crops. Cover crops keep soil erosion to a minimum in the winter and act as a nutrient bank, according to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent.

This is especially true for nitrogen. Cover crops are capable of using left over nitrogen from the previous crop. In the spring, when the cover crop is killed with a herbicide or plowed down, the nitrogen is released back into the soil during the growing season for the next crop to use.

Cover crops also add organic matter to the soil. Organic matter adds water holding capacity to the soil, provides food for soil microbes, improves soil structure and increases the soil's ability to hold some nutrients.

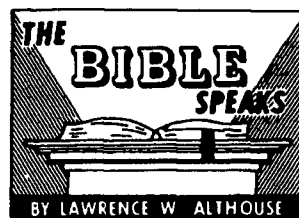
To Control Parasites
Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County

Extension Dairy Agent, reminds us a variety of parasites may affect animals throughout their lives. These may be internal parasites such as intestinal worms or external parasites such as lice.

Intestinal worms are generally more of a problem with cattle that are pastured. Calves and heifers are more susceptible to worm infestations than older cows. They may need to be dewormed every three months, especially if they are pastured.

There are a variety of dewormers on the market. Some are slow release capsules. Others need to be administered several times starting in early spring with a second dose soon after. Read and follow label directions. It is also a good practice not to graze heifers after older cows. Older cows may develop immunity to worms but they may still be shedders.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "For every obstacle there is a solution - over, under, around or through."



THE DIVORCE QUESTION
May 17, 1998

Background Scripture:
Mark 10:1-12
Devotional Reading:
Genesis 2:18-24

The Pharisees raised a question that people are still asking: "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" (Mark 10:2). Apparently this was a much debated question in Jesus' time, just as it used to be in our society in decades gone by.

Mark tells us that the Pharisees asked Jesus this question "in order to put him to the test." They wanted to catch him in saying something that they could use against him. They probably thought they already knew how he would answer. If he said no — as they suspected — they could accuse him of speaking against the Jewish law given by Moses, who had clearly said that it was lawful for a man to do so.

Jesus, however, rarely answered within the strict confines of his enemies' questions. As Halford E. Luccock put it, "Jesus transferred the whole discussion from the realm of is it lawful? into the higher realm of the purposes of God . . ." Turning the tables on them, he asked: "What did Moses command you?" They must have been reluctant to answer, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce, and to put her away" (10:4). That ended the question of legality. Of course it is legal for a man to divorce his wife.

YES, IT IS LEGAL

Jesus went on to say, however, "For your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one." (10:5-9). Yes, it is legal, says Jesus, but this is not what God intends for us.

How interesting, then, that while Jesus changed the question from legality to God's purpose, somewhere along the line Christians changed it back to a legal issue, making a new law out of Jesus' words which were intended to go beyond legality. Despite both

the words of Jesus and Moses the churches held that divorce was illegal. Instead of concentrating on the purpose of God, we have concentrated on divorce as a legal problem.

It is easy to see that one of the things that bothers Jesus here with the Pharisees' legal approach is that it gives men a right which was denied to women. Men could terminate their marriages, but their wives could not. For women it was eternally binding; for men it was a matter of temporary convenience or pleasure. This was most certainly contrary to the divine intention.

NO, NOT GOD'S INTENTION

Divorce is always a denial of God's plan for the permanency of marriage. The law of Moses does not change that fact. Divorce always represents human failure and the law represents an accommodation to it — as Jesus said, because of "your hardness of heart." The law was an attempt to deal with that "hardness of heart," not to encourage it. Unfortunately, the law of Moses often ran counter to the purpose of God, making both marriage and divorce too easy.

I have read recently of a law enacted in another state that will make it harder and a more lengthy process to obtain a divorce. It seems to me that we should make it both hard to divorce and harder to marry. If, in seeking marriage, we were more concerned with God's purpose, the legalism of divorce would not be so much a problem.

When I was a very young man, divorce was almost unknown in the congregations I attended. Today it is very commonplace in most churches. Neither of those legal extremes are very helpful to the Christian. Yes, it is legal for Christians to divorce and remarry. And, no, that is not God's intention for us. The answer is to be found not in legalism — forbidding or permitting divorce — but in grace, the manifestation of God's mercy in the midst of his judgment.

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got milk?