



# OPINION

## The War Of Noses

As farming enterprises and urban home development continues to grow closer together, the resulting "war of noses" intensifies. Last week we heard of a new large hog maternity operation that has just started. Even at half capacity the odor has already become so repulsive that homes down wind have been enveloped with "hog smell" that the families cannot tolerate.

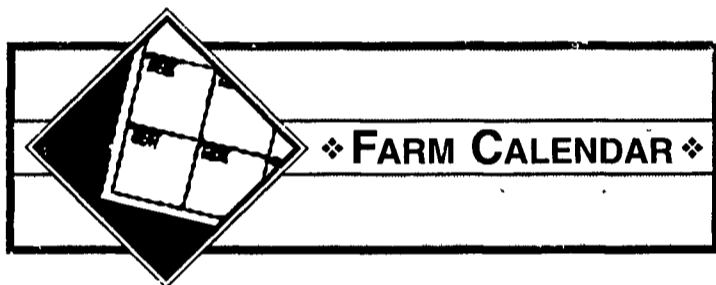
These homeowners are not fresh out of the city. They have lived among and do business with farmers every day. In fact, one of the homes is a new one a farmer built on his farm property when the son took over the farming operation.

What seems disconcerting is that this hog house was built before the farm had a nutrient management plan in place. Now there seems to be a question about where all the hog manure will be placed.

We certainly support all farming enterprises though we are not sure the economies of scale and efficiencies of largeness that show up on the drawing board always materialize in actual operation.

We do believe that whenever possible farmers should not put themselves in an adversarial position with government regulators or urban neighbors. They must use common sense when placing large size animal and poultry units near urban centers or where there is not enough land to utilize the nutrients produced by the operation.

To disregard this common sense is to risk the ire of neighbors and the likely possibility that the operation will be shut down by the environmental laws already on the books.



### FARM CALENDAR

#### Saturday, June 13

- 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.
- Md. Simmental Field Day, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship.
- Md./Del. Wool Pool, Del. State Fairgrounds, Harrington, 7 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Lebanon County Dairy Princess Pageant, Lebanon Career and Technology Center, 7:30 p.m.
- Emu Farmers Seminar, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 9 a.m.
- Somerset County Dairy Princess Pageant, Berlin Brothersvalley High School, Berlin, 7:30 p.m.

#### Sunday, June 14

- Schuylkill County Dairy Princess Pageant, Zion's Church, New Ringgold, 12:30 p.m.

#### Monday, June 15

- Tioga County Dairy Princess Pageant, Whitneyville Fair Youth Building, 7 p.m.

#### Tuesday, June 16

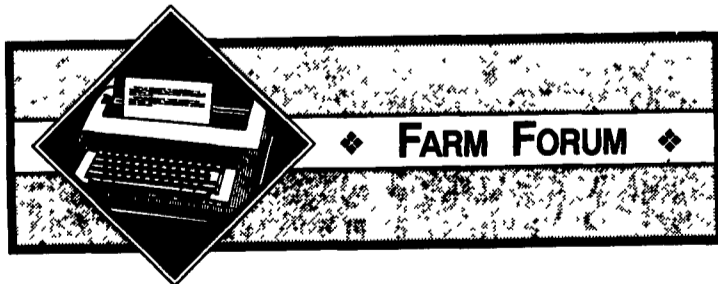
- Greenhouse Management Short Course, Montgomery CES Office, Derwood, Md.
- Oregon Dairy Family Dairy Days, Oregon Dairy, east of Lancaster, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., thru June 18.
- Lancaster County Honey Producers Meeting, Glenn Long residence, Washington Boro, hive opening 6:30 p.m., meeting 7:30 p.m.

#### Wednesday, June 17

- Md. Wool Pool, State Fairgrounds, Timonium, 7 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Using Milk Futures To Effect Summer Pricing, Session 1, Kent College Extension Office, Chestertown, 10:30 a.m.-noon.
- Pasture Walk, Holterholm Farms, Frederick County, Md., 10 a.m.-noon.
- Snyder County Holstein Association Twilight Meeting, Terry and Shirley Womer Farm, Middleburg, 7 p.m.

#### Thursday, June 18

- Tree Appraisal Workshop, York Extension, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.
- Lancaster/York Fruit Grower Twilight Meeting, Rinehart Orchards, Dillsburg, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.



### FARM FORUM

#### Editor:

It has been almost a year since I have been crowned the Lycoming County Dairy Princess. In that year I have been given the opportunity to represent the dairy farmers of Lycoming County in various ways. From working with children to attending farm and non-farm meetings to writing newspaper articles, I have promoted the dairy industry spreading the great news about dairy products. Now it is time to end my reign and pass it on to another girl.

At 7:30 Friday, June 12, at the Lycoming Mall, I will crown my successor. This year there is one



## Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

#### To Compost Swine Mortality

With recent changes in Pennsylvania law, composting is now an option for disposing of swine mortality, according to Leon Ressler, Lancaster County Extension Environmental Agent. Composting involves the microbial breakdown of organic matter into carbon dioxide and water with the release of heat in the process.

Several factors need to be managed in order to make the process work efficiently. First, the moisture content needs to be in the 40 to 60 per cent range.

Second, oxygen is needed to maintain the activity of aerobic bacteria. If the compost pile is allowed to run out of oxygen, then anaerobic bacteria will begin to operate and this will result in break down products with offensive odors.

Therefore, it is important to maintain oxygen in the pile either by turning the pile or with aeration. The third parameter that needs to be managed is the carbon to nitrogen (C/N) ratio in the pile. This should be in the 20 to 30 parts carbon per one part nitrogen.

Adding a bulking agent such as straw or dry broiler litter to the swine carcasses is necessary to

p.m.

#### Friday, June 19

- 12th Annual Eastern Regional Shorthorn Show, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, Md., thru June 20.
- Warren County Dairy Princess Pageant, 4-H Center, Warren County Fairgrounds, Pittsfield.
- Md. Dairy Youth Weekend, Frederick County 4-H Camp Cen-

(Turn to Page A34)

candidate for the Lycoming County dairy princess crown. Melissa Daly, the 18-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Daly, will be crowned. Also, four new maids will be honored. They are Shelly Vandine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Vandine; Donna Greider, Vanessa Greider, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Jeffery Greider; and Janelle Hearn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Hearn.

I am sure this team of young ladies will have a joyous and successful year of dairy promotion. Be there to help the girls start off the year in a grand celebration on June 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the Lycoming Mall.

supply carbon to bring the C/N ratio into the proper range.

#### To Build A Compost Facility

Composting of swine mortality should be done in a facility constructed to Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) specifications. These plans are available from your county NRCS or Penn State Cooperative Extension office.

Generally these facilities consist of several bins over a concrete pad with a roof. The bins are filled one at a time. First, a layer of carbon source such as straw and broiler litter is put down. Then the daily mortality for the day is placed in the bin. Then a final layer of broiler litter and straw is added. Each day the process is repeated until the bin is full.

The bin is allowed to compost for at least 10 days and then the material is turned and moved to a secondary area for an additional 10 days. Depending on size of animals being composted, you may

want to turn the pile again and allow the pile to go through a third 10 day cycle. At this point the process is complete and the compost may be used as fertilizer.

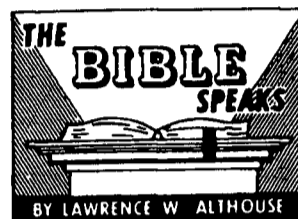
#### To Wear Rubber Boots With Pesticides

When working with pesticides it is very important to wear rubber boots. If you wear leather shoes or boots and pesticide spray or spill onto the leather, it is impossible to remove the pesticides from the shoe or boot.

The pesticide is absorbed into the leather. When the shoes or boots are worn later, the pesticide may move from the shoes or boots to your skin as your feet perspire.

Remember it is very important to wear protective clothing and goggles at all times when handling and applying pesticides. It is your health you are protecting!

*Feather Prof's Footnote: "See the invisible, feel the intangible and achieve the impossible."*



#### GOOD QUESTIONS

June 14, 1998

#### Background Scripture:

Job 1:1-4, 8-11; 2:3-8 3:1-4, 20-26

#### Devotional Reading:

Job 3:11-26

Recently, our delightful four-year-old grandson was diagnosed as having leukemia. When we told his six-year-old sister, she put into words the questions that had risen silently in our own minds; "Why James? He's just a little boy!"

Indeed, why? That's the question lots of us ask when innocence appears to be rewarded by pain and suffering. It is this same kind of question that is raised in the Book of Job.

Job's story is one of the oldest in the world. Scholars believe that the original story may have begun to circulate orally sometime between 1,000 and 2,000 B.C. It was probably written down in the time of David and Solomon, between 1,000 and 800 B.C.

What can such an old story have to do with us today? The world of Job was a totally different world than what we live in today. But maybe it wasn't as different as we might first assume. People had the same problems, concerns and outlooks that we have today, even though our circumstances are quite different.

The Book of Job is full of questions that are just as fresh and relevant today as in the time of Job. His questions are about suffering and he raised them because he is trying to understand the mystery of suffering. Many of those questions remain unanswered in Job's story, but he finally arrives at a point where his faith can take hold once again.

#### CELESTIAL QUESTION

The Book of Job begins with some questions raised in the celestial realm. On a day when the sons of God present themselves before the Lord, with obvious pride, God asks Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? (1:8)

God and Satan, despite apparent civility, are verbally sparring and Satan replies with a smirking derision: "Does Job fear God for naught? Hast thou not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side?" (1:9), Sure, Job is a good guy, but who wouldn't be with all you've given him?

I often wonder whether I could keep my faith in God if my circumstances should ever turn as disastrous as Job's. I like to think that I would keep the faith, but I cannot guarantee it. When things are going reasonably well, it is easy to praise God; but when life falls apart.....?

#### HUMAN QUERIES

When at last Satan was permitted to afflict Job as much as he wanted, providing he did not take his life, Job finally verbalized the questions that he could not restrain: "Why did I not die at birth?...Or why was I not as a hidden untimely birth?...Why is light given to him that in in misery and life to the bitter in soul" (3:11, 16,20).

Is it sacrilegious for us to cry out questions like these? I do not think so. To keep them bottled up inside without ever raising them, I believe, would be much worse. God wants our honesty much more than he wants pretenses of false piety. In the Bible, God is not represented as being offered by his children's questions—even hard questions which may sound like accusation.

By the time we reach Job 3, he is obviously reeling under his adversity. Why did God cause him to be born if he was to suffer so much? He has not lost faith in the existence of God, but he seems to have lost his faith in God's goodness. God does not rebuke his temerity in raising these questions, because God knows that they are good questions which Job must raise.

And you? Do you have any good questions for God?

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