



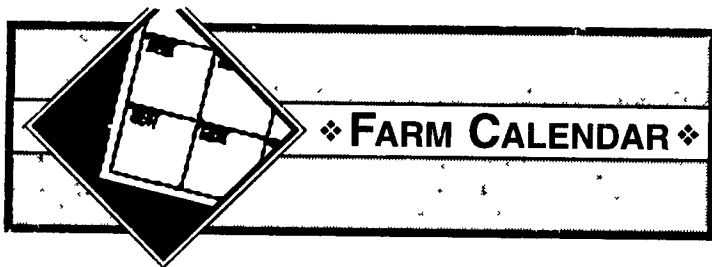
OPINION

Agriculture Makes America Strong

On Independence Day, we celebrate the strength of America and the good things we enjoy as a nation. Many people don't seem to realize the fact that one of our strengths is the impact agriculture presents to the economy.

Agriculture is often presented as insignificant because only two percent of the population is involved in farming. This may be true, but it is not relevant to the real picture. We as an agribusiness industry do ourselves a tremendous disservice to allow the public to assign a sense of minor importance to the food production system. If we count the agriservice, processors, support services, truck drivers, and distributors, the total food production system accounts for 27 percent of the U.S. economy and about 20 percent of the employment.

If our farmers don't farm, not only do the people not eat, 20 percent of them are also out of a job. Every nation that is dependent on foreign agriculture for a food supply has an inherent weakness. America's agriculture makes America strong.



- Saturday, July 4**
Independence Day
Sullivan County Rodeo and Truck Pull, Sullivan County Fairgrounds, thru July 5.
- Sunday, July 5**
Clarion County Fair, New Bethlehem, thru July 11.
Mercer County Grange Fair, Mercer, thru July 11.
- Monday, July 6**
NCWGA Region 5 Sheep Show and Colored Fleece and Sheep Sale, Derry Ag Fair, New Derry, thru July 11.
Derry Township Fair, New Derry, thru July 11.
Clinton/Centre County Pa. Holstein Junior Judging School, noon, thru July 7.
- Tuesday, July 7**
Southeast 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, Elizabethtown Fairgrounds.
Pasture Walk for Frederick County, Maryland, Catoctin Station Farm, Jefferson, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 8**
PRVA Golf Tournament, Parline Golf Course, between Elizabethtown and Middletown.
Baltimore County 4-H Fair, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, thru July 12.
Lebanon County Pa. Holstein Junior Judging School, noon, thru July 9.
Dairy-MAP On Tour, Ed Zug Farm, Peach Bottom, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Pasture Walk, Conrad and Bonnie Fisher, Green Lane, 9:30 a.m.-noon.
Southwest Pa. 4-H Dairy Overnighter, Dayton Fairgrounds, thru July 9.
- Thursday, July 9**
Region 5 NCWGA Show — 1863 Enactment, Derry Ag Fairgrounds, 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Central Maryland Research and Education Center Open House, Clarksville Facility, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Talbot County Fair, Talbot Agriculture Center, Easton, thru July 11.

- Ag Issues Forum, Kreider Farms Family Restaurant, Manheim, 7:30 a.m.-9 a.m.
- Friday, July 10**
3d Annual Antique Tractor, Gas Engine and Farm Equipment Show, West End Fairgrounds, Gilbert, thru July 12.
York County Home and Farm Safety Camp for 8-13 Year Olds, York County 4-H Center, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
9th Annual Fawn Grove Olde Tyme Days, Fawn Grove, thru July 12.
35th Animal Industry Day, Virginia Tech Livestock Center.
Derry Ag Fair Hosts Region 5 Natural Colored Wool Growers Sheep Association Colored Fleece and Colored Sheep Sale, Derry Fairgrounds, 7 p.m.
Grazing and pasture meeting, Colleen Epler Ruths, Northumberland, 9 a.m.-noon.
- Saturday, July 11**
Tioga County Annual Farm-City Day, David and Donna Cleveland's Farm, Wellsboro, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Turkey Hill Giant Ice Cream Sundae, Capitol City Mall, Camp Hill, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Summer Beef Field Day, hosted by Mullinix family, Woodbine, Md., carcass evaluation July 15, Mt. Airy Locker, Mt. Airy, Md., 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, July 12**
Ice Cream Social, John and Bonnie Hess Farm, Gettysburg, 1 p.m.
- Monday, July 13**
4-H Dog at Work, Chester County Romano 4-H Center, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Eastern Apicultural Society Short Course and Conference, Short Course at Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion, thru July 15.
Pa. Wool Pool, Wyoming Fairgrounds, Meshoppen, noon-7 p.m., also July 14.
- Tuesday, July 14**
Western Pa. Junior Holstein Show, Crooked Creek Horse Park, Ford City, 10 a.m.
Centre/Clintont Holstein Associa-



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

To Look For Aphids

Aphids are small, soft bodied insects that feed on plant fluids, according to Dr. Timothy Elkner, Lancaster County Horticultural Agent. They vary in color and may be found in green, yellow, red, purple, brown or black.

These insects cause damage to plants by removing fluids, by the toxic action of saliva they inject into plants while feeding and by spreading viruses which are harmful to plants. The feeding activity of aphids can stunt plant growth and deform leaves and fruit.

Many types of aphids also secrete a sticky, sugar rich substance called "honeydew". The honeydew will fall onto leaves, fruit or branches of the plant. It will also fall on cars, picnic tables and driveways.

A black fungus called sooty mold will then grow on the sugar rich honeydew and may ruin the appearance of the plant as well as driveways and furniture. Honeydew will also attract ants, flies, hornets and yellowjackets.

To Control Aphids

Dr. Timothy Elkner, Lancaster County Extension Horticultural Agent, reminds us controlling aphids is easier if you take action

- tion picnic, Paul and Dee Courter Farm, Mill Hall, 7 p.m.
- Southeast District Dairy Show, Lebanon Area Fairgrounds, Jacktown Fair, Wind Ridge, thru July 19.
- Wool Pool, Wyoming Fairgrounds, Meshoppen, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Christmas Tree Growers meeting, Helen and Ed's Tree Farm, Dorrance, 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
- NPPC Pork Quality and Safety Summit, Hotel Fort, Des Moines, Iowa, thru July 15.
- DEP CAFO Proposal Meeting/Hearings, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 6:30 p.m.
- Grazing and pasture meeting, Dave and Ruth Ann Hallow, Jersey Shore, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 15**
Somerset County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Meyersdale, 6:30 p.m.
- Eastern Apicultural Society Short Course and Conference, Conference at Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion, thru July 17.
- World Sheep and Wool Congress, Fairplex, Pomona, Calif., thru July 19.

- Thursday, July 16**
Weed Science Field Day, Landisville.
- Kent County Fair, Kent Ag Center, Tolchester, thru July 19.
- Pa. Young Farmers Tours and Conference, Tulpehocken High School, also tour on July 17 (buses leave from high school).

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before the population becomes too large. Many people have successfully disrupted the life cycle of aphids by washing the insects from their plants with a strong stream of water. Beneficial insects may also be effective in controlling aphids.

Ladybugs are one important predator of aphids. Lacewings, some flower flies and parasitic wasps are other predators that are often not noticed. If the aphid population is very large, the most effective means of control is the use of a registered insecticide.

There are many products labeled for the control of aphids. Remember, when using any pesticide, always read the label and follow the directions on the label.

To Protect Food After Storms

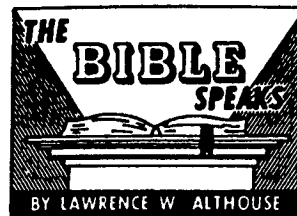
The recent storms we have experienced reminds us that power outages may occur. During power outages, you will want to preserve the cold air inside your refrigerator and freezer.

If it looks like the power failure may be of short duration, keep the door closed. According to Nancy Wiker, Lancaster County Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Agent, a refrigerator should keep foods safely cold for 6 hours, depending on room temperature. A freezer will hold foods much longer - up to two days if it is a free standing freezer that is fully loaded or about a day for a partially loaded.

If it looks like the power outage will last for more than a few days, buy some dry ice for the freezer. If the power is going to be out more than 6 hours, refrigerated food may have to be discarded. If the electricity continues to be out more than two days, then the freezer food may have to be thrown out as well.

Remember, ice crystal are a good indication that the food is still cold enough to be safe.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote:
"Goal: Conceive it! Believe it! Achieve it!"



**STAYING WITHIN
THE LIMIT**
July 5, 1998

Background Scripture:
Proverbs 2:1-15
Devotional Reading:
Psalms 53:1-6

The books of Ecclesiastes, Job and Proverbs are called "the Wisdom Books" of the Bible. The purposes of these books is not to tell a story, but to impart wisdom, a characteristic highly valued by the Hebrews.

The Book of Proverbs is different than Job and Ecclesiastes in that it is simply a large collection of proverbs — wise and vivid sayings especially, but not exclusively, for the instruction of the young. Historically, Proverbs is a compendium of the religious and moral instruction given to Jewish youth by professional sages in the period after the return from the Babylonian captivity, although many of the proverbs date to much earlier times.

Many of us remember some of the proverbs our parents taught us: "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." "People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones." "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." The genius of proverbs is that they say so much in so few words. The source of proverbial wisdom is experience and the purpose is always practical: to help us live wisely.

DATA vs. WISDOM

Maybe the reason we do not very often hear proverbs quoted today is that wisdom is not highly valued in our society. It is said that we live in an "information age." But information by itself does not add up to wisdom. Computers may supply us with more information than we can use, but not the wisdom with which to use it.

What is really valued in our world today is toughness and power. In every political campaign I read ringing testimonies that this or that candidate is "tough" on crime, spending, corruption or on whatever they think people want them to be tough. I rarely hear of anyone being celebrated for their wisdom. That brings to mind a little passage

from Ecclesiastes 9:14-16:

There was a little city with a few men in it; and a great king came against it and besieged it . . . But there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city. Yet no one remembered that poor man. But I say that wisdom is better than might, though the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heeded.

SEEKING AND FINDING

Proverbs 2 sums up the themes of the whole book. First, says the sage, if you truly seek wisdom from the Lord, you will receive it. "If you cry out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasure; then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God (2:3-5). In New Testament times Gnostics taught that the gospel was a mystery that could be known by only a select few, but the Old Testament sage indicates that the only bar to wisdom is our own personal desire and receptivity.

Secondly, the sage says that if we accept the wisdom God imparts to us, then it will show up in our living. The wise person will "walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and equity." Knowing what to do is only half of it; doing it is the other inseparable half. So we seek wisdom, not to accumulate a mental library of teachings, but to live wisely in the sight of God.

Third and finally, if we receive wisdom and live wisely, there are great benefits from the Lord: "Discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you; delivering you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech . . . men whose paths are crooked . . . (11-15).

Elbert Hubbard once said: "Every man is a damn fool for at least five minutes every day. Wisdom consists in not exceeding that limit." With God's help we can stay within the limit.

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