



OPINION

All Roads Lead To Happy Valley

The annual trip to Rockspring in Centre County is on the schedule for all agriculturalists in Pennsylvania and surrounding states who want to be part of the premier scientific research and new technology event of the year. Ag Progress Days, sponsored by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, again promises to provide the showcase of what's new in agriculture.

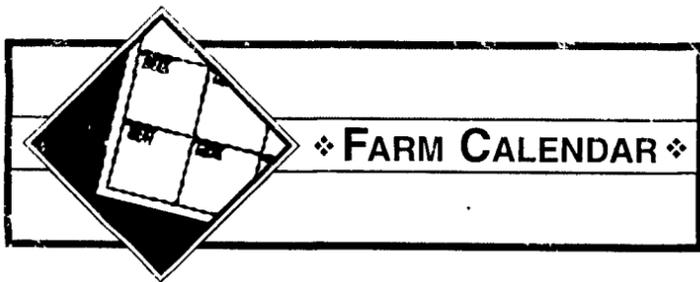
The theme, "Growing Pennsylvania: A Precision Business," focuses on how computers, space-age tools, and technology can improve how we grow our crops and manage our natural resources. Several new displays will explore precision agriculture and its role on Pennsylvania farms.

There will be something for everyone. For example, a special version of the show for children, called SciQ Jr., is played daily. Patterned after television game shows, SciQ is hosted by local radio personalities and contestants are chosen from the audience.

Of course, many farmers go to Ag Progress to see the new tractors and farm equipment in operation side by side in the fields. The crops look good this year, so the field demonstrations will be of special value to those who want to make these comparisons.

And Ag Progress is a social event too. The Dairy of Distinction winners meet. The Alumni Association also meets. And Government Day brings together officials of Penn State and national, state, and local government.

So, again, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, all roads lead to Happy Valley. We hope to see you there.



❖ FARM CALENDAR ❖

Saturday, August 15

Mow-In, Christ Lutheran Church, Stouchsburg, 9 a.m.
Howard County Fair, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, thru Aug. 22.
Washington County Ag Fair, Washington, thru Aug. 22.

Sunday, August 16

Cameron County Fair, Emporium, thru Aug. 22.
McKean County Fair, Smethport, thru Aug. 22.
Bullskin Township Community Fair, Woodale, thru Aug. 22.
Franklin County Fair, Chambersburg, thru Aug. 23.
Fulton County Fair, McConnellsburg, thru Aug. 22.
Huntingdon County Fair, Huntingdon, thru Aug. 22.

Monday, August 17

Northeast District Dairy Show, Tioga County Fairgrounds, Whitneyville.
Dayton Fair, Dayton, thru Aug. 22.
Lawrence County Fair, New Castle, thru Aug. 22.
Harford Fair, Harford, thru Aug. 22.

Tuesday, August 18

Ag Progress Days, Rockspring, thru Aug. 20.
Huntingdon County Holstein Show, Huntingdon Fairgrounds, Huntingdon, 9 a.m.
Pa. Holstein Northeast Championship Show, Troy Fairgrounds, Troy, 10 a.m.
Dairy-MAP On Tour at Ag Progress.
Hay Show, Ag Progress Days.
Blue Valley Farm Show, Bangor, thru Aug. 22.
Perry County Community Fair, Newport, thru Aug. 22.
Dale and Dan Goodyear Host Tulpehocken Young Farmers, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 19

Blue Valley Youth Show.
Pa. Dept. Of Ag Meat Animal Evaluation Center 23rd Annual Performance-Tested Boar Sale, Ag Arena, Penn State, 6 p.m.
Perry County Holstein Show, Perry County Fairgrounds, 9:30 a.m.

Dairy-MAP Annual Alumni Ice Cream Social At Ag Progress, 3 p.m.-4 p.m.

Pa. Ag Republican Chicken Barbeque, VFW Picnic Grounds, Pine Grove Mills, 6 p.m.

Thursday, August 20

Wye Field Day, Queenstown.
Berks County Grazing Walk, Nevin and Audrey Mast, Oley, 10 a.m.-noon.

Great Pocomoke Fair, Pocomoke City, thru Aug. 22.

Washington County Holstein Show, Washington Fairgrounds, Washington.

Franklin County Holstein Show, Franklin Fairgrounds, Chambersburg, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, August 21

Montgomery County Ag Fair, Ag Center, Gaithersburg, thru Aug. 29.

Susquehanna County Holstein Show, Harford Fairgrounds, Harford, 10 a.m.

Westmoreland County Fair, Greensburg, thru Aug. 29.

Saturday, August 22

Pa. Holstein Central Championship Show, Huntingdon Fairgrounds, Huntingdon, 6 p.m.

Warren County Holstein Club Sale, Warren Fairgrounds, Pittsfield, 11 a.m.

South Central District Dairy Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.

Crawford County Fair, Meadville, thru Aug. 29.



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Attend Ag Progress Days

Next week features one of the premier agricultural events in Pennsylvania. Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences' Ag Progress Days. This three day event features educational exhibits, machinery demonstrations and tours of the research plots.

More than 300 commercial and non commercial exhibitors and the latest in computer and satellite technologies will be featured. Tentative field demonstrations include combine harvesting, sweet corn harvesting, corn chopping, mowing and baling.

Family activities planned are storytelling, insect zoo, cut flower beds and interactive displays for kids. Plan to attend meet friends and learn about the latest happenings at Penn State.

Ag Progress Days is August 18-20 at Rock Springs (9 miles southwest of State College on Route 45). Admission and parking is free. Hours are 9 AM - 5 PM Tuesday and Thursday and 9 AM - 8 PM Wednesday.

To Look At Biofilters

Leon Ressler, Lancaster County Extension Environmental Agent, reports recent work by Dr. Dick Nocolari, University of Minnesota, is demonstrating the potential biofilters have to reduce odors from swine operations.

Building air is blown through the pit beneath the floor and exhausted through the biofilter. The biofilter is made of a 50/50 mixture of wood chips and yard waste compost. Wooden shipping pallets are used as the support structure for the filter material. Plastic netting on the pallets and over the compost mixture helps keep the organic medium in place.

Susquehanna County 4-H Livestock Clubs 4-H Livestock Auction, Harford Fairgrounds, Harford, 1 p.m.

Sunday, August 23

West End Fair, Gilbert, thru Aug. 29.

Williamsburg Community Farm Show, Williamsburg, thru Aug. 29.

Somerset County Fair, Meyersdale, thru Aug. 29.
Garden Tractor and ATV Pull, Oley Fire Company, noon.

Monday, August 24

Southeast District Dairy Show, Kutztown Fairgrounds.
Hookstown Fair, Hookstown, thru Aug. 29.

Mountain Area Fair, Farmington, thru Aug. 29.

Elizabethtown Fair, Elizabethtown, thru Aug. 29.

Tuesday, August 25

Northeast District Jersey Show, Troy Fairgrounds, 9:30 a.m.
2nd Annual Ephrata Agway/

Microorganisms in the biofilter consume the odorous gases before they are vented to the outside. Since biofilters are living systems, they must be managed to keep the organisms alive. Early results on the University of Minnesota biofilter have been encouraging. When first installed the biofilter reduced odors 61 per cent. The odors were reduced 90 per cent in a second test and a third test showed a 97 per cent reduction in odors. The odor reduction increases as the microorganisms multiply and adapt to the food source.

To Buy Hay Based on Tests

Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent, reports two different studies were conducted comparing what farmers saw and the actual

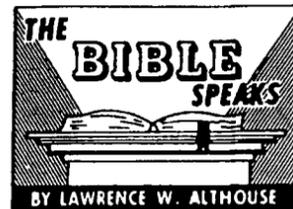
feeding value of the hay based on forage analysis.

In the first study, 200 farmers were asked to evaluate four bales of hay. Only 20 per cent selected the bale with the highest quality. The lowest quality bale was selected by 45 per cent as being the best.

The second study looked at hay sold at auction. The hay sold based on what the buyer saw had very little correlation between price and feed value. For example, one load with 20 per cent protein sold for \$100 per ton while a load with a 8.5 per cent protein sold for \$120 per ton.

Lesson to learn, whenever possible buy hay based on forage analysis, not its looks.

Feather Prof's Footnote: 'The roots of progress are nourished by diversity.'



Background Scripture:

Proverbs 11:12, 13; 12:18; 13:3, 15:1, 2, 23, 28, 16:24; 17:27, 21:23; 26:21, 28.

Devotional Reading:

James 3:1-12

When I was about ten years old, I spent a lot of my lazy days of summer at the town playground where there was a lot of organized activity, including a baseball team that played in a township playground league. I was a bit too young to be on the team, but I took pride in its accomplishments.

One day, a few of the older boys were talking about a game that was scheduled to be played that evening. Joining in the camaraderie, I asked, "Do you think we will win?" I'll never forget one older boy who turned to look at me with an Olympian sneer and said; "Where do you get this 'we' stuff? I realized then that he was telling me I did not belong. It was a painful experience that I have never completely forgotten. I have long since forgiven him, whoever he was.

I don't know who first said, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me." It was a good enough rhyme, I suppose, but an erroneous precept. I have known so many people who have been very hurt by careless or mean words. Someone once said to me, "Well, sticks and stone can hurt us physically, while words can only hurt our feelings. But even that is erroneous; spoken or written words can sometimes cause physical pain, too, because feelings are often transformed into physical symptoms."

EMBELLISH THE TRUTH

If we want to be followers of Christ, we had better watch our mouths! It is easier said than done (no pun intended). One man told me he had always found it possible to keep the Ten Commandments, except "Thou shalt not bear false witness." I don't mean to lie, he told me, but when I'm talking about my neighbor I find it hard not to embellish the truth, in my favor.

Sprinkled throughout the Book of Proverbs is a rich assortment of warnings about the danger of not controlling what comes out of our mouths.

"He who belittles his neighbor lacks sense...He who goes about

as a talebearer reveals secrets..." (11:12)

"There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts..." (12:18)

"He who opens wide his lips comes to ruin..." (13:3)

"A harsh word stirs up anger, the mouths of fools pour out folly..." (15:1, 2)

"As charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife..." (26:21)

"A lying tongue hates its victims, and a flattering mouth works ruin..." (26:28)

FROM MIND TO MOUTH

Belittling others, spreading falsities, speaking rash words, uttering harsh judgements, quarreling, lying, flattering—these are all ways in which we cause others pain by the words that come from our mouths. The source of these evil words, of course, is not the mouth but the mind and spirit. Our mouths only reflect what is inside us.

The mouth, however, can be used or good as well as for evil. Proverbs is just as explicit in cataloguing these. Instead of belittling, a man of understanding remains "silent" and "he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing hidden" (11:12, 13). While he who speaks rashly injures, "the tongue of the wise man brings healing" (12:18). While the man who does not restrain his tongue brings ruin upon himself, "He who guards his mouth preserves his life" (13:3). Harsh words stir up anger, but "A soft answer turns away wrath" and "the tongue of the wise dispenses knowledge" (15:1, 2). "He who restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding" (17:27). "He who keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble" (21:23).

By watching carefully what we say, we help and heal others instead of hurting them. With soft, peaceful words we can dissipate anger and hostility. We can save others from ruin and share knowledge. And, if we do, our own lives will be blessed as well.

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