



OPINION

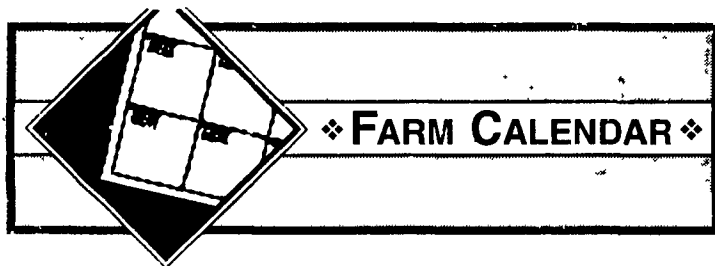
Make Sure An Accident Doesn't Happen To You

We are into the harvesting season on the farm and often farmers push themselves to get the crops in the barn before the weather breaks. This is good farm management, but it also puts a stress on the operator to take timesaving shortcuts that may just be the ticket to a serious injury or even death.

Agriculture is the second most hazardous industry in the United States, with a death rate of 21 per 100,000 workers, compared to mining with 25 per 100,000. The National Safety Council estimates that in 1996 alone, 710 people died and 150,000 were permanently disabled by injuries sustained on farms and ranches in the United States.

According to Tom Bean, Ohio State University Extension safety leader, you can help your safety situation by replacing any missing guards and shields on equipment, conducting a general farm cleanup to avoid accidents, store hazardous pesticides in a proper location, repair any broken steps or flooring to prevent falls, and check and replace fire extinguishers for buildings or equipment and locate these extinguishers where they may be needed.

Other areas of concern include silo gas, grain bin safety, sun and heat exposure, and safety for children. In addition, farmers move equipment from farm to farm. Farm traffic on roads and highways causes accidents too. Think about getting your lighting and marking upgraded on farm equipment and tractors before you take to the road. Remember, almost all farm accidents could have been prevented with a little common sense applied in time. Make sure an accident doesn't happen to you or your family.



Saturday, August 29
Second Annual Harrisburg Grange Fair, Harrisburg, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Maryland State Fair, Timonium, Md., thru Sept. 7.

Sunday, August 30
Indiana County Fair, Indiana, thru Sept. 5.

Monday, August 31

Tuesday, September 1
The Great Allentown Fair, Allentown Fairgrounds, thru Sept. 7.
Erie County Fair at Wattsburg, Wattsburg, thru Sept. 6.
Greene-Dreher-Sterling Fair, Newfoundland, thru Sept. 7.
Big Knob Grange Fair, Rochester, thru Sept. 5.
Northumberland County Conservation District farm meeting, Pine Hurst Acres, Riverside, 5 p.m.
Vegetable Grower Meeting, Trax Farms, Finleyville.

Wednesday, September 2
Stoneboro Fair, Stoneboro, thru Sept. 7.
Sullivan County Fair, Forksville, thru Sept. 7.
Wyoming County Fair, Tunkhannock, thru Sept. 7.

Thursday, September 3
Somerset County Fall Classic, Fairgrounds, Meyersdale, 7 p.m.
Allegheny County Fair and Expo, Pittsburgh, thru Sept. 7.
Vegetable Study Circle, Kutztown Produce Auction, 7 p.m.
Northumberland County Conservation District Farm Meeting, Mark and Paul Kieffer Farm, Washington Township, 5 p.m.
Farm Open House at Milky Way Dairy, Troy, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Friday, September 4

Saturday, September 5
Northwest District Dairy Show, Crawford County Fairgrounds, Meadville.
Mon Valley District Dairy Show, Washington County Fairgrounds.

Sunday, September 6
Spartansburg Community Fair, Spartansburg, thru Sept. 12.
Cambria County Fair, Ebensburg, thru Sept. 12.

Monday, September 7
Labor Day
Lancaster Farming office closed.
Waterford Community Fair, Waterford, thru Sept. 12.
Ox Hill Community Fair, Plumville, thru Sept. 12.
West Alexander Fair, West Alexander, thru Sept. 12.

Tuesday, September 8
EAYF meeting on farm theft, Dale Stahl, police chief, Clay Township, 7:30 p.m.
Jamestown Community Fair, Jamestown, thru Sept. 12.
Claysburg Farm Show, Claysburg, thru Sept. 12.
Twilight Meeting For Produce Farmers, Karns Market, Lemoyne, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, September 9
Luzerne County Fair, Dallas, thru Sept. 13.
Pike County Fair, Matamoras, thru Sept. 13.
Bellwood-Antis Farm Show, Bellwood, thru Sept. 12.
Agribusiness Breakfast, McConnellsburg American Legion Post 561, 8 a.m.
Water Clinic, Fulton County Extension Office, McConnellsburg, 10 a.m.-noon.



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Plan Corn Harvest

Corn has passed the silking stage in many fields, according to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent. This year silking was slightly behind normal in many fields but should not cause any problems. However, some fields which are or have just silked may run out of summer before reaching maturity.

Under normal summer growing conditions, corn requires approximately 64 days from silking to reach maturity. The corn kernel goes through various developmental stages from silking through maturity or black layer formation.

At black layer formation, the corn plant has reached its full potential and only requires heat to dry down the kernel. Thus, corn silking later than the first week of August may not reach maturity before frost occurs. Fields which will reach maturity late may best be used as silage.

To Understand New Plant Genetics

One day the use of pesticides to protect crops from insects and diseases may be a story we tell our grandchildren. Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent, reports plant breeding through genetically engineered plants are bringing agriculture closer to the elimination of pesticides.

Plants are being genetically altered so that they are naturally resistant to certain insects and diseases. This results in a cost effective and environmentally friendly

Thursday, September 10

Prince George's County Fair, Prince George's Equestrian Center, Upper Marlboro, thru Sept. 12.
Clear Spring Community Show, Clear Spring High School, Clear Spring, thru Sept. 12.
Twilight Meeting For Produce Farmers, Oregon Dairy Market, Lititz, 7 p.m.
Nittany Antique Machinery Association Inc. of Central Pa., Penns Cove, Centre Hall, thru Sept. 13.
Small Grain Roundtable, Hilltop Restaurant, Shade Gap, noon-2 p.m.

Friday, September 11

Hay Creek Fall Festival, north of Morgantown, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., thru Sept. 13.
Ballenger Community Show, Frederick, thru Sept. 12.
Wicomico County Fair, Wicomico Youth and Civic Center, Salisbury, thru Sept. 12.
Damascus Community Fair, Damascus Volunteer Fire Dept. Activity Grounds, Damascus, thru Sept. 13.

York Fair, York, thru Sept. 20.

way to produce food and fiber without the use of pesticides.

Corn and soybeans were among the first crops to be genetically altered. Recently, it was announced a transgenic potato will soon be on the market. This potato is resistant to insects, particularly the Colorado potato beetle.

To Follow Safety Rules

Jeff Stoltzfus, Eastern Lancaster County School District Adult Farmer Program offered several fall harvesting safety tips every farmer should follow.

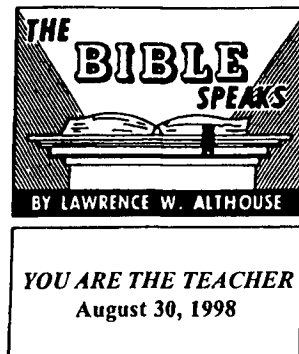
PTO shafts spin at 9 or 16 times per second at full speed. Once it catches your clothing, you do not have a chance. Make sure all shields are in place. Do not step over a rotating PTO shaft. Keep all children away from silo and machinery. There are plenty of

less dangerous opportunities to teach children about the values of work.

This month a mother was driving a tractor when her 5 year old son fell off and was run over. He survived with a broken pelvis and is expected to fully recover. His mother has nightmares and has not had a full night's sleep since the accident.

Children under 10 do not belong on tractors. Blower accidents usually occur when the pipe clogs up and someone is trying to loosen it. Never stand on a blower when it is running. Turn it off and then clear the pipe. Lets keep this harvest season an accident free season.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."



Background Scripture:

Proverbs 4 1-5, 6 20, 10 1, 22 6, 31:26-28

Devotional Reading:

Psalms 128 1-6

YOU ARE THE TEACHER
August 30, 1998

I am always wary of sweeping diagnoses and prescriptions for societal ills. So, when I read a letter to the editor that pontificates that the reason for juvenile delinquency and crime is always directly traceable to the failure of the parents, I want to object. I have known wonderful children to come from very troubled children to come from the homes where parents were loving, wise and responsible.

Still, I must agree that many children today are lacking in the values that make for a stable and wholesome society. Is it because the parents are not trying to teach good values, or is it because the peer groups and culture are much more effective in shaping their values? Many spend more time in front of a television set than they do in the presence of their parents. They are exposed to values that are at least part of the problem.

I think part of it is also the society to which we expose them. If we don't like and are uncomfortable with the values we see in children and today, might it not be our contemporary society we are seeing reflected in their lives? The problem might not be that they are rejecting our society, but that they have embraced it. Maybe we see mirrored in them a selfish, incompassionate, hostile and materialistic way of life.

The Reasons We Fail

Still, I would agree that none of us are doing a particularly effective job of teaching our children and youth values, morals and spiritual principles. Some parents are obviously too busy with their work or own good times. Others may not be teaching values because they don't have any to impart. Some may not want to "force" their values on their children as they may believe their parents tried to force them. Others may not try to teach values because the believe professionals—school teachers, pastors, counselors—

are equipped to do so and they are not.

Proverbs tells us, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (22:6). While there are certainly numerous, even glaring exceptions, still, as a rule, children will become better adults when parents and others make serious and persistent efforts to teach them values they hold to be vital.

I believe that an important reason parents fail in this role today is because they feel so inadequate. If that is true, then the churches, schools and institutions have failed to prepare them for this most important job.

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

Thinking back to the days when my offspring were children and youth, I realized I missed a lot of good opportunities to teach my children. I took too much for granted. I wish now that, when I made certain decisions or choices, I had explained the values that lay behind them. When I made mistakes, I wish I had been more vocal in explaining why I was wrong. I think I assumed that since I preached a sermon every Sunday, my children would know what I believed and what was important to me. No so, I realized now.

In a beautiful passage in Proverbs 31, we get a depiction of the ideal wife: "Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue" (v. 26). My mother taught me kindness; I wonder whether I did.

Parents, however, cannot do the job all by themselves. Henry Rische in *American Youth in Trouble*, says: "We're the first generation that has ever said to parents, 'You and you alone must care for children.' When I was a little boy, I could get fed at forty houses and probably spanked in twelve. Lots of people took care of me."

If parents are going to be successful in teaching children of today, all of us need to be a part of the teaching team.

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Lancaster Farming, Inc.

A Steinman Enterprise

William J. Burgess General Manager
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