



OPINION

Dairy History And Current Events All In One Place

The All-American Dairy Show is scheduled for this week from Sunday, September 20 to Thursday, September 24. Actually, the event starts Saturday night, September 19 with the dairy princess gala that crowns the new state-wide representative of the dairy industry.

This 35th anniversary of the state's premier dairy show will not only feature some of the best dairy animals in the nation, the added events this year will increase the reasons to visit the show.

First, a new idea involving old dairy items will be featured this year. Dairy antiques and collectibles from a by-gone dairy farm era will be exhibited to show how cows were milked, how milk was handled, how cream was separated, and how butter, cheese and ice cream were made on farms in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Collectors from Pennsylvania, Maryland, New York, and North Carolina have agreed to bring exhibitions.

Second, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture will be hosting a seminar focusing on the mechanics of how to market livestock internationally. If you are looking to sell animals internationally or want to find new ways to increase farm income and exposure, this will be an educational opportunity ill not want to miss.

Of course, the main course of the event will be the showing of six national dairy breeds, youth shows and contests, and will climax with the picking of a supreme champion on Thursday afternoon. Often in the past, the number of ringside spectators for these major dairy shows has been less than these shows merit.

We believe this will change for the 1998 show. With all the efforts to increase the interest in the event, many more breeders and commercial dairy farmers will find a reason to go see dairy history and current events combined nicely in one place, the Farm Show building in Harrisburg. If you haven't been to the All-American in recent years, this will be the show to attend.



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Remember Fly Free Date
Wheat growers for decades have been concerned with the "Fly Free Date".

According to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent, the "Fly Free Date" refers to the time which the Hessian Fly, a serious pest of wheat, is no longer active. Since its introduction during the Revolutionary War, the Hessian Fly continues to pose a threat to the wheat crop.

The fly has two generations per year. The second generation of the fly emerges in late summer and early fall. It then lays its eggs on small wheat plants that have emerged.

When the eggs hatch the maggot begins feeding on the plant. It then passes the winter as a pupa. In the spring an adult emerges and begins to lay eggs on the leaves of the wheat. When these eggs hatch, the maggot begins to feed near the nodes of the stalk and weakening it. This will cause the wheat stalk to break over before harvest.

By planting wheat after the "Fly Free Date", the farmer is

simply planting the crop at a time when the fall egg laying is over. The "Fly Free Date" for Lancaster County is between October 10 and 20. Wheat planted after this date has little risk of damage from the Hessian Fly.

To Lime Fields

Lime plays an important part in maintaining productive soils. According to Leon Ressler, Lancaster County Extension Agricultural Agent, lime supplies calcium and magnesium ions that are leached from the soil as a result of rainfall. Soils naturally become acidic as a result of this leaching process.

An application of lime will reverse this process and bring the soil back to a desirable pH of 6.5 to 7.0. Adding too much lime may be as harmful as too little. This may raise the pH above the neutral pH of 7.0 and tie up needed plant nutrients.

The proper amount of lime to apply for your fields should be determined by soil test. Soil test kits are available from your county Penn State Cooperative Extension office for \$6.00. The best time to apply lime is in the fall. This gives the lime several months to react with the soil and neutralize the acidity before planting time arrives.

A single application will be effective for several years. The time elapsed until another applica-

tion is required will vary depending on amount of fertilizer applied, soil type and amount of rainfall. Therefore, it is a good idea to soil test every two to three years to monitor soil pH and nutrients.

To Plan Ahead

Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County Extension Dairy Agent, reminds us as the 1998 harvest season draws to a close, take time to look ahead and make plans for the next 12 months. Take an inventory of the amount, kind and quality of feeds that you will have in storage. Compare this to what the herd will need.

If you will be needing more feed, stock up when prices are more favorable, even if you have to borrow money to take advantage of good deals. What you save in feed costs should easily pay for the interest incurred. Plus, you may be more sure of having the quality of feed you need, so that means more income and fewer vet bills. When buying feed, negotiate for favorable prices.

Be sure you are receiving the kind, quality and the amount you specified. Forage tests will help you know the quality you are buying. Also, be sure to adjust prices for variations in moisture content and feed analysis.

Feather Prof's Footnote
"Some people dream of success
Others wake up and work hard at it."

divine martinet who delights in making us toe the mark. In my earliest Sunday School experience I was told that it is not for us to question God's commandments.

Nevertheless, I did question his commandments and found that their purpose was not to make life more burdensome, but just the opposite. Gradually I concluded that there is nothing God requires of us that is not for our own good. "To have no other gods" before him is not for the sake of his ego, but for our own welfare. Worshipping and serving a diversity of gods is not good for us, individually and corporately (Deut 5:7).

FOR OUR OWN GOOD

Furthermore, it is not because God is offended, but for our own good that he commands: "You shall not make for yourself a graven image you shall not bow down or serve them" (5:8). Graven images do not injure God, but they can do us a lot of harm. When we become enam-

ored of things we make with our own hands—material goods, technology, wealth and power—we are creating substitutes for God. And when we run after substitutes for God, we are the ones who suffer the most.

What about when we "take the name of the Lord your God in vain"? (5:11). Surely that is more an affront to the Lord than it is a danger to us! But when we take God's name in vain—which includes but does not end with profanity—no matter how unconsciously and habitual that profanation may be, we weaken our own faith in God.

So it is with observing the Sabbath day and the command "to keep it holy" (5:12-15), God so commands us for our own welfare, not for his. Jesus himself affirmed this: "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath" (Mk. 2:27). So, too, although our parents benefit when we obey his commandment to "Honor your father and your mother," the net affect of obeying this command is to enrich ourselves as well as our

parents. (5:16).

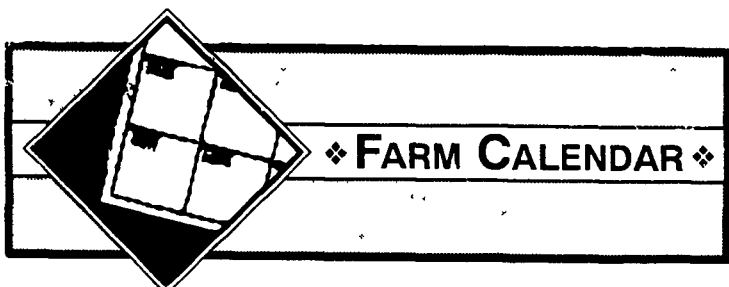
YOU SHALL NOT

Then we come to the "You shall not..." commandments. We are not to kill, commit adultery, steal, bear false witness, or covet. (5:18-20). True, the breaking of any or all of these injures our neighbor, but we are harmed even more. Killing brings tragedy to both the person killed and the one who does the killing—even if he or she seems to get away with it. (Note: when God says "You shall not kill," he does not make any exceptions!) Adultery, whether discovered or undiscovered, adulterates (weakens, corrupts) marriage and other relationships.

Stealing and bearing false witness against our neighbor hurts us as well as our neighbor. Unfortunately, although most of us wouldn't think of stealing from our neighbor, we might not hesitate to bear false witness against him or her.

That brings us to one of the most difficult of commandments "Neither shall you covet..." Many of us who find we can keep the other commandments tend to overlook this one. It seems such a harmless act, hardly a sin. But that is only because we do not realize how destructive it can be in our lives. It can be the foundation of the breaking of most of the others.

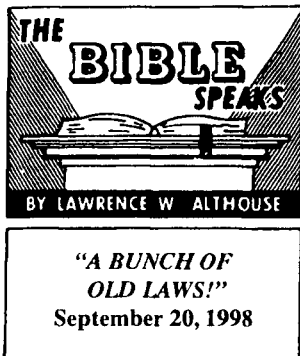
The Ten Commandments may seem like "a bunch of old laws," but, when break them, we hurt ourselves. When we live by them, we reap the blessings that God intended when he gave them to us.



FARM CALENDAR

- Saturday, September 19**
Phila. Harvest Show, Pa. Horticultural Society Hort Center, Fairmount Park, thru Sept. 20.
National Eastern Regional Plowing Match, Harlow Smith Farm, Canastota, N.Y., thru Sept. 20.
Adams County Farm City Festival, Circle Oak Angus Farm, Bonneauville, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Sunday, September 20**
Pa. All American, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Sept. 24.
Gratz Fair, Gratz, thru Sept. 26.
Beaver Community Fair, Beaver Springs, thru Sept. 26.
Sheep Skill-a-Thon, Reading Fair, 3 p.m.
Farm Safety Week, thru Sept. 26.
- Monday, September 21**
Reading Fair, Kutztown Fairgrounds, thru Sept. 27.
- Tuesday, September 22**
Pa. Holstein Fall Championship Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 9 a.m.
Harmony Grange Fair, Westover, thru Sept. 26.
Ephrata Fair, Ephrata, thru Sept. 26.
Farm Science Review, Ohio State University, Molly Caren Ag Center, near London, thru Sept. 24.
Food For Profit Seminar, Convention Hall, Pittston, also Sept. 29.
Lycoming Fall Crops Day, Gene Sellers Farm, Montoursville, 10

- a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 23**
15th International Lettuce Conference and Leafy Vegetable Crops Workshop, Atlantic City, N.J., thru Sept. 26.
Eastern National Holstein Sale, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.
West Lampeter Community Fair, Lampeter, thru Sept. 25.
- Thursday, September 24**
St. Mary's County Fair, Leonardtown, thru Sept. 27.
Eastern National Holstein Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 8 a.m.
Eastern National Livestock Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, Md., thru Sept. 27.
Pumpkin Twilight Meeting, WREC, Queenstown, 4:30 p.m.-7 p.m.
- Friday, September 25**
Penn State Alumni Association 2nd Annual Golf Tournament, Toftrees Country Club, State College, tee-off 1 p.m.
- Saturday, September 26**
7th Annual Harvest Sheep and Wool Festival, Salem County Fairgrounds, Woodstown, N.J., thru Sept. 27.
World Beef Expo, Wisconsin State Fairgrounds, Milwaukee.
Eastern National Livestock Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium.
Capitol Area Beekeepers Association Banquet, Summerdale Fire



"A BUNCH OF
OLD LAWS!"
September 20, 1998

Background Scripture:

Deuteronomy 5:1-21

Devotional Reading:

Isaiah 49:1-6

"The problem with God," someone once told me, "is that he's forever telling us what to do—and, if something's fun, he's sure to be against it!"

I respected her honesty, even if I couldn't agree I suspect there may be some Christians who feel that way, even though they may never verbalize it. God may sometimes seem to be a

- Hall, 6 p.m.
- Bloomsburg Fair, Bloomsburg, thru Oct. 3.
- Pa. Avicultural Society Third Annual Tailgate, Lake Tobias, Halifax, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Native American Festival, Indian Steps Museum, Airville, thru Sept. 27.
- Falmouth Goat Race, Falmouth, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Sunday, September 27**
Schuylkill County Therapeutic Riding Program Benefit Horse

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