



OPINION

A Farmer's Creed

I believe a man's greatest possession is his dignity and that no calling bestows this more abundantly than farming.

I believe hard work and honest sweat are the building blocks of a person's character.

I believe that farming, despite its hardships and disappointments, is the most honest and honorable way a man can spend his days on this earth.

I believe farming nurtures the close family ties that make life rich in ways money can't buy.

I believe my children are learning values that will last a lifetime and can be learned in no other way.

I believe farming provides education for life and that no other occupation teaches so much about birth, growth, and maturity in such a variety of ways.

I believe many of the best things in life are indeed free; The splendor of a sunrise, the rapture of wide open spaces, the exhilarating sight of your land greening each spring.

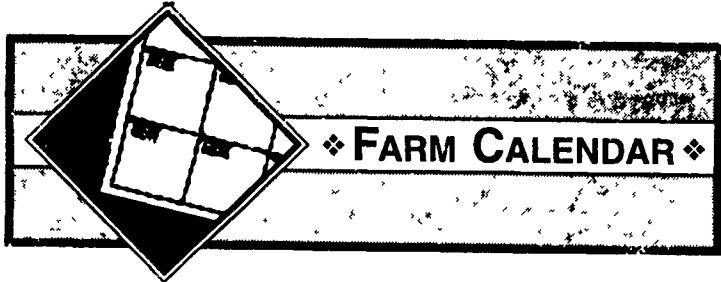
I believe that true happiness comes from watching your crops ripen in the field, your children grow tall in the sun, your whole family feel the pride that springs from their shared experience.

I believe that by my toil I am giving more to the world than I am taking from it, an honor that does not come to all men.

I believe my life will be measured ultimately by what I have done for my fellowman, and by this standard, I fear no judgment.

I believe when a man grows old and sums up his days he should be able to stand tall and feel pride in the life he's lived.

I believe in farming because it makes all this possible.



Saturday, October 3

4-H Super Saturday, Mercer County 4-H Park, 4 p.m.
Mercer County Conservation District Open House, Mercer County Conservation Farm, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sunday, October 4

National 4-H Week, thru Oct. 10.
Open Youth Schooling Horse Show, Northampton County 4-H Center, Nazareth, 10 a.m.
Solanco Young Farmers Family Picnic, Karl Herr and Family.
4th Annual Fall Antique Tractor and Implement Collector's Show, St. Peter's Church, Shimersville, 9 a.m.

Monday, October 5

Holidaysburg Community Fair, Hollidaysburg, thru Oct. 8.
Manheim Community Farm Show, Manheim, thru Oct. 9.
Poultry Health and Management Meeting, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, noon.

Dauphin County Farm Bureau Banquet, Halifax Ambulance and Rescue Building, Halifax, 7 p.m.

Dauphin County 4-H Achievement Night, Dauphin Ag Resources Center, Dauphin, 6:30 p.m.

Roadside Marketing Field Day, The Spring House, Eighty-Four, 1 p.m.

Md. and Va. Milk Producers Meeting, Evers Restaurant, Mt. Crawford, Va., 7 p.m.

Tuesday, October 6

1998 Pa. Feeder Calf Roundup Tele-Auction Sale, Buckhannon Stockyards.

Linganore/New Market Community Show, Linganore High School, New Market, thru Oct. 8.

1998 National Angus Conference. The Angus Plan For 2000 and Beyond, Washington State University, Pullman, Wash.

Fulton County Agribusiness Breakfast, American Legion, McConnellsburg, 8 a.m.

Md. and Va. Milk Producers Meeting, Four Points Sheraton, Hagerstown, Md., 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 7

Media Forum: Communicating About Food To A Cynical Public, St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Berks county 4-H Swine Roundup, Leesport Farmers Market, show 9 a.m., sale 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 8

Unionville Community Fair, Kennett Square, thru Oct. 10.
ADADC Dist. 17 meeting, Gibson Grange, Gillette, 8 p.m.

53rd Annual Pa. National Horse Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Oct. 17.

Trimming and Shoeing For Natural Hoof Balance, Willow Brook Equestrian Center, Catesqua, 7 p.m.-10 p.m.

Schuylkill County Extension meeting, St. Paul's UCC Church, 6:30 p.m.

Hooftalk Clinic, Willow Brook Farms, Monroe County, 7 p.m.-10 p.m.

N.E. Regional 4-H Leaders Forum, Dover, Del. thru Oct. 11.

Friday, October 9

Hooftalk Clinic, Willow Brook Farms, Monroe County, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Wyoming County Sheep and Wool Producers Association annual meeting and roast lamb dinner, United Methodist Church, Centertown, Pa., 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 10

47th Adams County Holstein Banquet, York Springs Firehall, York Springs, 7 p.m.

24th Annual Choice Plus Club Calf Sale, Mercer 4-H Park, 7:30 p.m.

Northwest Pa. Sheep and Wool Growers Fall Shepherd Picnic,



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Implement Nutrient Management

October 1, 1998 marks the implementation of Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Law. All concentrated animal operations (CAO) are required to file nutrient management plans with their county conservation district.

Recently USDA and EPA release its strategy for animal feeding operations. Agricultural leaders have been successful in including voluntary participation as important components of these government programs

Nutrient management plans are the basis of these programs. The amount of government regulations will depend on farmer participation. Farmers need to develop and implement nutrient management plans. A recent report from the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, shows nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment concentrations have significantly decreased during the period 1985 to 1997.

Voluntary nutrient management plans have played a major role in this decrease. By having all farmers implementing nutrient management plans, we will be increasing public support of agriculture and reduce government regulations while improving the environment and water quality. Now is the time to implement your nutrient management plan.

To Pick Up Farm Show Lists

The 1999 Pennsylvania State Farm Show Premium Lists have

Warren County Fairgrounds, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 11

Beef Skil-A-Thon, Berks County Ag Center, 3 p.m.

Judged Obstacle Ride, Marsh Creek State Park, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Family Day on the Farm, Cliff and Jacqueline England Bethel Farm, Rising Sun, Md., 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

Safety Training Workshop, Holiday Inn, Grantville, thru Oct. 12.

Monday, October 12

Md. and Va. Milk Producers Meeting, Burnt Tree Grange, Radiant, Va., 7 p.m.

Tuesday, October 13

Dairylea Cooperative Annual Meeting, Hotel and Exit 37 (formerly Four Points Hotel Sheraton), Liverpool, N.Y., thru Oct. 14.

ADADC Dist. 16 meeting, Troy Fire Hall, Troy, 7:30 p.m.

Solanco Young Farmers Corn Silage Management Meeting, Solanco High School, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 14

Pa. Retail Farm Market Association Educational Bus Tour, leaves Farm Show Complex

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arrived at your county Penn State Cooperative Extension Office. The dates for the 1999 show are January 9th to 14th. Many of the departments have closing dates in early November and December.

The premium list have rules, regulations, requirements, entry forms and schedule of events. Main attractions include rodeo, Pa. State Police Mounted Drill Team, Cumberland County 4-H Drill Team, Folk Dance Festival, Sheep to Shawl contest and Bid Calling contest. Be sure to pick up copy of the premium list, read it and make your entries for the 1999 Farm Show. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this outstanding agricultural show.

To Plant Cover Crops

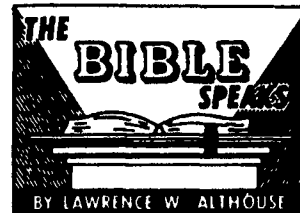
Using cover crops on the farm offers many advantages at a very minimal cost while requiring little time input, according to Robert

Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent. Cover crops planted in the fall are super at reducing winter soil erosion.

Cover crops add organic matter to the soil profile which in turn increases the soil's ability to hold water, nutrients and improves soil tilth. Fall planted cover crops capture nitrogen in the soil at the end of one growing season and prevent it from leaching below the root zone. Cover crops may help break up compacted zones in the soil.

Cover crops help hold livestock waste spread on the field in the winter. Cover crops make an excellent source of additional forages for the livestock and dairy farmer. As you see, cover crops offer many advantages at a very small price.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "We cannot direct the wind...but we can adjust the sails."



THE BAALS IN YOUR BACKYARD

October 4, 1998

Background Scripture:

Judges 2

Devotional Reading:

Psalms 78:17-32

So what are these 'baals' that I'm saying are so close at hand?

In the Old Testament Baal was a Canaanite farm god who was thought to be responsible for the germination and growth of crops, the increase of flocks and fruitfulness of farm families. He was also believed to be the consort of the goddess Asherah or Astarte.

There was not just one Baal, but each Canaanite community had its own manifestation of Baal. All of the Baals together were referred to as the Baalism and they were worshipped on mountain "high places" in licentious rituals. This worship was known as Baalism and, although strictly forbidden by God, was very attractive to the people of Israel who had heretofore practiced an austere desert wilderness religion.

From our 20/20-hindsight vantage point more than 3,000 years later, it seems incredible that Baalism should have been a threat. Trust in Good and his covenant had freed these people from captivity in Egypt, guided them safely through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. With a track record like that why wouldn't they continue to "dance with the one that bring them"?

VICIOUS CYCLE

Judges 2 is an introduction to the whole book, setting forth a cycle of national apostasy, peril, repentance and deliverance. Practically every chapter follows that outline and begins with these words: "And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals" (Judges 2:11). The writer of Judges seems as incredulous as we are today: "...and they forsook the Lord...who had brought them out of the land of Egypt..." (12). After all the Lord had done for them, how could they forsake him?

Generations from now, people may look at us and ask the same question. After all that God has done for us, how can we turn from him and worship the Baals

in our backyards? From the perspective of time, it may be quite apparent that we, too, have forsaken the Lord.

If the people of Israel had been asked whether they had forsaken the Lord and were worshipping the Baals, I am sure that they would have replied in the negative. The "anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel," not because of what they did. They still gave lip-service to the Lord, but it was to the Baals that they turned when they determined their values and their conduct.

OUR BAALS

Most of us also profess to believe in god, but it is not our profession, but our conduct that is offensive to the Lord. When we decide what is important in life, when we determine the ethics by which we live our daily lives, where do we turn for the answers? What backyard Baals entice us: power, wealth, popularity, sex, pleasure, material things or others? To what or whom do we turn when we need help? In what or whom do we trust? Where does our money go?

Inevitably, in Judges, whenever the people forsook the Lord and "did what was evil in the sight of the Lord," there was a painful price to be paid. Often, it was only when they were in the midst of suffering a terrible price that they repented and called upon the Lord to get them out. Since much of their suffering was at the hands of foreign enemies, God's response to their pleas was to raise up judges, "who saved them out of the power of those who plundered them" (16).

Yet, although time after time he sent judges to save them, they would eventually rebel against him again and the cycle would start all over again. Note that, although they were not faithful to him, he was faithful to them. Despite their dismal record of loyalty, the Lord did not give up on them.

Just as, despite all those Baals in our backyards, he does not give up on us.

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