



OPINION

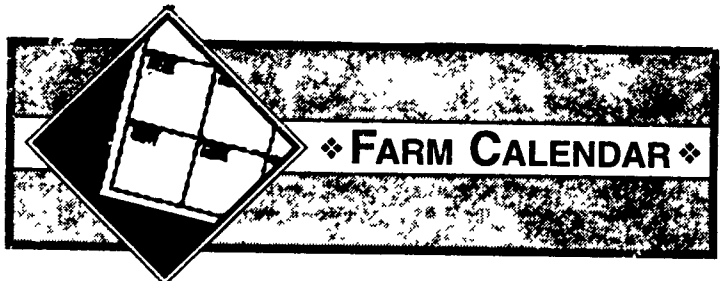
Thanks Farmers!

Thanks in large part to our nation's farmers, the quality of life the American people enjoy today is the envy of the world. This was also noted in a proclamation by President Clinton in honor of National Farm-City Week November 20 to 26, 1998.

Farmers and ranchers provide us with a safe, abundant, and affordable supply of food and fiber. American agriculture remains one of our country's most important and productive industries, generating more than 22 million jobs and contributing a trillion dollars to the American economy each year.

We believe it is important that everyone knows about this important national resource. Not only has agriculture reduced soil erosion and restored thousands of acres of wetlands, by using modern technology and environmentally responsible methods, farmers have greatly improved our nation's water supply too.

It is fitting that Farm-City Week coincides with our traditional Thanksgiving Day activities. Truly, the strength and prosperity of the nation starts with agriculture and the land. As we celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends, let us remember to count among our many blessings America's agricultural abundance that contributes so much to the quality of our lives.



FARM CALENDAR

Saturday, November 21
3d Annual 4-H Hoedown, Berks County 4-H Center, 8 p.m.-11 p.m.

Sunday, November 22

Monday, November 23
Md. and Va. Milk Producers Meeting, Travelodge, Winchester, Va., 7 p.m.

Franklin County DHIA Banquet, Gibbles Restaurant, Greencastle, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, November 24
22nd Annual Agriculture Industry Banquet of the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Lancaster Host Resort Ballroom, reception 5:30 p.m., dinner 6:30 p.m.

Passing On The Farm Workshop, Montgomery County 4-H Center, Creamery.

Md. and Va. Milk Producers meeting, Remington Lions Club, Remington, Va., 7 p.m.

Regional Greenhouse Meeting, Cambria County extension office, Ebensburg.

Wednesday, November 25

Thursday, November 26
Happy Thanksgiving!
Lancaster Farming office closed.

Friday, November 27

Saturday, November 28

Sunday, November 29

Monday, November 30

Tuesday, December 1

Wednesday, December 2
32nd National Young Farmer's Educational Institute, DoubleTree Hotel, Omaha, Neb., thru Dec. 6.

Thursday, December 3
Basic Computer Operation For Farms and Small Business, Washington Extension, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Friday, December 4
TMR Feeders Workshop, Franklin

County Extension Office 4-H Center, 9:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Lebanon County 4-H Dairy Achievement Banquet, Lebanon Expo Center, 7:30 p.m.

Computerized Farm Record Keeping, Main Course Restaurant, Cedarbrook Golf Course, Belle Vernon, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

RISA's Annual Community Meeting, Exploring Diverse Farm Marketing Opportunities, Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 5

Sunday, December 6

Maryland Farm Bureau 83d Annual Meeting, Ramada Inn Convention Center, Hagerstown, Md., thru Dec. 9.

Monday, December 7

Basic Computer Workshop For Beginners, Huntingdon County extension office, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

New York Farm Bureau Citizenship Award Contest, New York Farm Bureau annual meeting, Radisson Plaza-The Hotel Syracuse, thru Dec. 10.

Tuesday, December 8

Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School, Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel and Conference Center, Ocean City, Md., thru Dec. 10.

Dairy Feeding Systems Conference, Radisson Penn Harris Hotel and Convention Center, Camp Hill, thru Dec. 10.

Solanco Young Farmers meeting, Farm Safety, Solanco High School, 7:30 p.m.

Regional Greenhouse Meeting, Huntingdon County Cooperative Extension office, Huntingdon.

Practical Biosecurity for Poultry, 13th Regional Meeting, University of Delaware, Newark, Del., 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Western Pa. Regional Vegetable Conference, Days Inn, Butler.

Poultry Plentitude, University of Delaware, Newark, Del.



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Respond To DOPP

Dairy farmers in Berks, Bradford, Chester, Crawford, Franklin and Lancaster counties should have received information from USDA on the Dairy Options Pilot Program (DOPP). This is an educational program to help dairy farmers learn how to use the options market to set a minimum price for the milk they receive. Up to 100 farmers in each of these counties will have the opportunity to participate in this educational program.

The federal government will pay 80 per cent of the premium for the option and \$30 of broker fees. To participate in the program, dairy farmers must complete the application and sign the contract and return it to Risk Management Agency (RMA) by December 11. RMA will notify selected producers of the time and location of the required training meeting.

For Pennsylvania it will be the first week in January, 1999. To help farmers to better understand this program, the cooperative extension office in these counties have planned meetings to explain DOPP. Contact your county cooperative extension office for the date and location of meetings for your county. If you are interested in learning how you can manage milk prices, consider to participate in this program by filling out your forms today

To Establish Health program

Chester Hughes, Lancaster County Extension Livestock Agent, reminds us that vaccines used in an established health program may help reduce many different disease problems in cattle

A number of new vaccines and combination vaccines have been introduced in the last few years. It is important to know which vac-

Berks County DHIA Banquet, Ag Services Center, noon.

Wednesday, December 9

Dauphin County Agronomy Workshops, Elizabethtown Public Library, Elizabethtown, different morning and afternoon sessions, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Westmoreland County Cooperative Extension Association Annual Meeting, Donohoe Center, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 10

Core Pesticide Training, Mercer County Extension, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Adams County DHIA Banquet, York Springs Fire Hall, 7 p.m.

Friday, December 11

Clear Toy Candy Demonstration, Cake and Kandy Emporium, East Petersburg, 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m., also Dec. 13, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

...cines to use on your farm, when to use them and what other measures are necessary for disease control.

Use of vaccines that are not appropriate for your operation may increase costs unnecessarily. Consult with your veterinarian on the selection of vaccines. Modify vaccination programs as diseases, farm conditions and available vaccines change. Leave treatment of sick animals to your veterinarian.

Mark all vaccination dates on a barn calendar to ensure proper timing of vaccines. Scheduled vaccination programs are only one part of maintaining a healthy herd. Develop a complete program of management, sanitation, feeding and health care to assure a healthy and profitable herd.

To Vaccinate Properly

According to Chester Hughes, Lancaster County Extension Livestock Agent, vaccination does not always produce immunization. Sick or stressed cattle may not develop immunity following vaccination. The immune system of newborn calves is poorly developed and will not respond to vac-

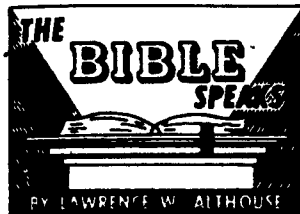
...cines as effectively as calves three months of age or older. Maternal immunity from colostrum intake may last for to 6 to 8 months and may prevent development of immunity from vaccination.

Following are some pointers for effective vaccine use: With your veterinarian, develop the right vaccination program for your farm. Review and update the vaccine program at least twice a year.

Buy fresh and refrigerated vaccine from a reliable source. Keep vaccine refrigerated until time of use. Follow label directions exactly. Give recommended dose. Give by recommended route. Use sterile disposable syringes that have not been used for other drugs.

Discard outdated vaccine or opened bottles that cannot be used right away. Do not use unnecessary vaccines. Do not mix two vaccines unless so indicated by manufacturer's directions. Do not vaccinate sick or stressed cattle.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "You must do the things you think you cannot do."



CAN THESE BONES LIVE?
November 22, 1998

Background Scripture:

Ezekiel 37

Devotional Reading:

Jeremiah 29:4-14

Ezekiel knew it was a trick question, so he gave a tricky answer: "O Lord God, thou knowest" (37:3). It was an answer that wasn't an answer. The scene he beheld must have convinced him that there was no hope that these bones could live again. There were not just bones, but, as the writer tells us, "...and lo, there were very dry." But, if these bones could not live again, why then would God ask this question?

Sometimes we find ourselves in Ezekiel's shoes. We look at a situation and it seems totally hopeless. All the evidence points in the other direction so that hope for anything seems quite futile and absurd. Yet, if God were to come to us and ask, "Can these bones live?", we'd have to wonder why he was asking. And, if we're wise, we will answer as Ezekiel did: "O Lord, thou knowest."

It is well to not here that God did not ask Ezekiel if he saw any signs of life. That would have been a much easier question to answer. No, the people these bones represented were truly dead and there was not even any flesh on them to revive. There was nothing in these bones that gave any evidence or hope for new life.

NO HOPE AT ALL

The key to this vision, however, was not in the bones. By themselves, these bones, would never be anything else again but bones, dry bones. But God said to Ezekiel, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord...Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live" (37:5).

The hope was not in the bones, but in the Lord. While the dry bones could do nothing, the Lord could and would breath new life into them. They would live again because it was God's

will to bring them to life once more.

Now, of course this spiritual experience of Ezekiel is not about God actually raising up a whole valley of real dry bones, but something greater than that: it is about what he intends to do with his people Israel. The Hebrew word, *ruah*, which we translate here as "spirit," can also be translated as "breath" and "wind." The "breath" of God is the "spirit" which he breathes into us. It is the life that animates our flesh and bones. New life is impossible for us, but not for the God who can breath that life into us.

WHEN HOPE IS LOST

Ezekiel's vision is directly derived from the situation of the exiles in their captivity. That is why God says to the prophet, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off'" (37:11). It was understandable that the people of Israel should have thought that. Nothing in their situation led them to any other conclusion.

But even in the midst of death, figurative and literal, there are always grounds for hope. Not because of the bones—not the physical circumstances in which we find ourselves—but because of God and his purpose. "And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken, and I have done it, says the Lord" (37:14).

All of us have seen various valleys of dry bones. All of us have been confronted by situations that appeared to be quite without hope. And when God asks us, "Son of man, can these bones live?", we are wise if we answer, "O Lord God thou knowest." For when God breathes his spirit on us, even the driest of bones can live again!

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