



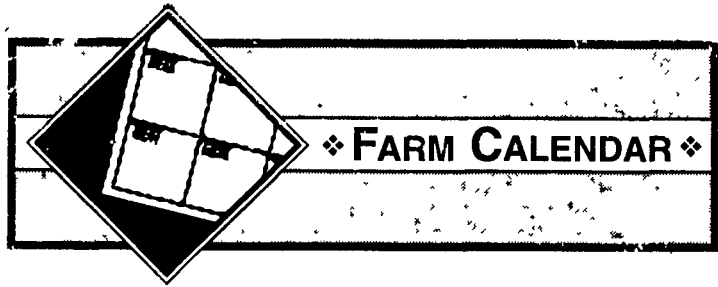
# OPINION

## Economic Reality

In recent weeks, the well-accepted truism that agriculture is Pennsylvania's number one industry has been called into question. Figures presented from statistics compiled by the Bureau of Economic Analysis in the U.S. Department of Commerce for 1996 show that primary metals, industrial machinery, chemicals, and health care all chipped in more money to the gross domestic product than agriculture.

While admitting that figures for the rippling effect of any one industry is hard, maybe impossible to nail down, we believe the importance of agriculture in all segments of the economy is obvious. Since food and fiber production starts from the land, the most basic platform of the economy, up through the food on the table and the value-added products from this chain of manufacturing, service, and distribution, a lot of agriculture's value is hidden in the value of the published figures for other sectors of the economy.

In economic reality, it's probably a case where the claims of importance by each segment of the economy would add up to more than the total business and employment activity. However, if other segments of the economy want to claim "most important status" in the economy, that's OK by us as long as everyone realizes that where the people are starving, there are no economic figures to discuss.



### ❖ FARM CALENDAR ❖

**Saturday, November 28**

**Sunday, November 29**  
Cecil County, Maryland 4-H Project Fair, Calvert Grange Hall, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

**Monday, November 30**

**Tuesday, December 1**

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

Farm Financial Management Workshop, Wye Research and Education Center, Queenstown, Md., 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., repeats Dec. 9, 16, and Jan. 13 and 20.

**Thursday, December 3**  
Beaver County DHIA Banquet, extension office, 7:30 p.m.  
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.

Dairy Options Pilot Program Meeting, Tulpehocken Junior/Senior High School, 7:30 p.m.

**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.

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.

Dairy Options Pilot Program Meeting, Berks County Ag Center, Leesport, 1:30 p.m.  
Dairy Options Pilot Program



## Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

### To Protect Venison Quality

Venison quality depends on how it is handled, according to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agent. The deer hunter is the key person responsible for the quality of his venison.

Preserving the carcass quality starts with the right tools and an understanding of what to do. The best venison quality is obtained with proper field dressing. While still in the field, excessive blood should be removed along with the digestive track and other internal organs. The body cavity should be washed as soon as possible with clean water.

Any organs to be kept should also be washed thoroughly. Cool the carcass quickly. Avoid transporting on the hood of a vehicle where the carcass will warm up. During warm weather, keeping the carcass cool is critical in avoiding meat spoilage.

### To Control Insects

Tim Elkner, Lancaster County Extension Horticultural Agent, reminds us many insects are searching for a warm, shelter location as winter approaches. Many people discover that these insects find their homes the ideal spot for a winter vacation.

According to entomologists, the best control method is to seal insects out. Inspect the perimeter

Meeting, Kutztown High School, Kutztown, 7:30 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.  
Dairy Options Pilot Program Meeting, Ag Classroom, Oley Valley High School, 7:30 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.  
Methane Digestion Open House, AA Dairy, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Saturday, December 12**

**Sunday, December 13**

**Monday, December 14**

**Tuesday, December 15**  
Ephrata Area Young Farmers Christmas Event, Ephrata Middle School, 6:30 p.m.

Solanco Young Farmers meeting, Computer Education: Navigating Windows, Solanco High School, 7:30 p.m.

Passing On The Farm Workshop, Lighthouse Restaurant, Chambersburg, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

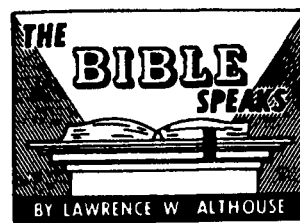
of your house for cracks, especially those at or just above the ground level. Tiny pests can slip unnoticed through holes around utility cables and windows.

Seal all openings you find. Besides shelter, some invading insects also are looking for secure nesting sites. To make your home less accessible to them, keep house hugging shrubs trimmed. Move mulch away from the foundation. Do not stack firewood against the house. Inspect fireplace logs for hitchhiking insects before bringing them in.

### To Control Mice

Fall is also the time when mice seek warmer shelter and a guaranteed food supply, according to Tim Elkner, Lancaster County Extension Horticultural Agent. These tiny rodents cause damage with their gnawing and spoil food supplies with their droppings.

Prevention is the best control. Seal all entries into the house.



CELEBRATION!  
November 29, 1998

**Background Scripture:**  
Nehemiah 8 through 9  
**Devotional Reading:**  
Galatians 3:23-29

There is a heated debate going on today in Christianity between the advocates of contemporary and tradition styles of worship. The criticism of contemporary worship is that it is not worship because it is focused on the needs of the worshipper, rather than the adoration of the Lord. On the other hand, traditional worship is criticized because it is not conversant with the needs and styles of many of the people we want to win to Christ.

I will not add to the debate, except to say from a purely personal standpoint that I don't feel it is necessary to choose the one and deny the other. I have experienced both kinds and found either can be either quite profound or quite superficial. In fact, I believe it would be ultimately harmful if one style should prevail over the other.

### CONSISTENTLY GRIM

One of the contributions of contemporary style worship to Christian life today is its emphasis upon celebration. Traditional worship has often seemed too devoid of this essential mood. My earliest recollections of worship, as a first-grader in what was the first of several "home churches," was that the mood was consistently grim—grim clergy leading somber people in sad hymns, ominous scriptures and despairing sermons. (Yes, I realize that my recollections may not be quite accurate or fair.)

It was not until as a 9th grader that, because my girlfriend Jackie got me to go with her, I joined the youth fellowship of Park Evangelical Church in Reading, PA, and came to realize that people could both be spiritual and have a good time. Up until that time it had seemed to me that I had to choose one or the other. The pastor, Mark Steirwald, was both spiritual

and fun-loving. The other kids I met there were very much the same way. Laughter was as prevalent as prayer. It was a revelation that changed my life.

**THE JOY OF THE LORD**  
In Nehemiah 8 and 9 we see a transformation of the people of Israel returned from exile. Ezra the scribe and priest read to the assembled people from "the book of the law of Moses." Ezra told the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep" (8:9), for when they had heard the words of the law, many of the people had wept. "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared...and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength" (8:10). And the people "went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing because they had understood the words that were declared to them."

Some days later, but in the same month, the returned exiles assembled once again before Ezra and this time their mood was different and they engaged in confessing "the sins and iniquities of their fathers" (9:2). Ezra then prays a long prayer in which he acknowledges many of God's saving acts in the history of the Hebrew peoples, starting with creation and moving on to the present. Repeatedly, he confesses the stubborn sinfulness of their ancestors; "But they are our fathers acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey thy commandments; they refused to obey, and were not mindful of the wonders which thou didst perform among them..." (9:17).

The hear of their worship, thus, blending both old and new, joy and confession, was a celebration of all that God had done for them, a recounting of God's mighty acts in the past, a recognition of what he is doing in the present, giving them the power to approach the future in the hope of his steadfast love.

Feather Prof's Footnote:  
"Champions keep playing until they get it right."

and fun-loving. The other kids I met there were very much the same way. Laughter was as prevalent as prayer. It was a revelation that changed my life.

### THE JOY OF THE LORD

Some days later, but in the same month, the returned exiles assembled once again before Ezra and this time their mood was different and they engaged in confessing "the sins and iniquities of their fathers" (9:2). Ezra then prays a long prayer in which he acknowledges many of God's saving acts in the history of the Hebrew peoples, starting with creation and moving on to the present. Repeatedly, he confesses the stubborn sinfulness of their ancestors; "But they are our fathers acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey thy commandments; they refused to obey, and were not mindful of the wonders which thou didst perform among them..." (9:17).

The hear of their worship, thus, blending both old and new, joy and confession, was a celebration of all that God had done for them, a recounting of God's mighty acts in the past, a recognition of what he is doing in the present, giving them the power to approach the future in the hope of his steadfast love.

The hear of their worship, thus, blending both old and new, joy and confession, was a celebration of all that God had done for them, a recounting of God's mighty acts in the past, a recognition of what he is doing in the present, giving them the power to approach the future in the hope of his steadfast love.

**Lancaster Farming**  
Established 1955  
Published Every Saturday  
Ephrata Review Building  
1 E. Main St.  
Ephrata, PA 17522  
- by -  
**Lancaster Farming, Inc.**  
A Steinman Enterprise  
William J. Burgess General Manager  
Everett R. Newswanger Managing Editor  
Copyright 1998 Lancaster Farming