



# OPINION

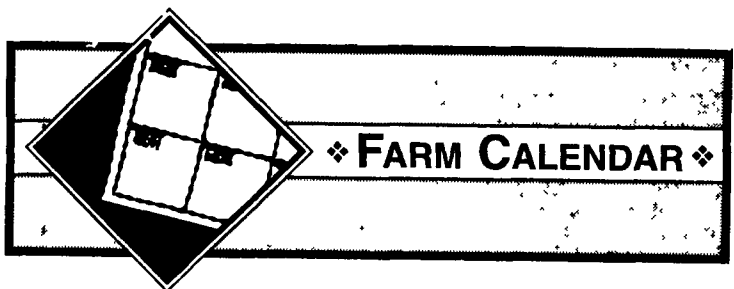
## Preaching To The Choir

In times past, farmers were more respected. Today, you wonder why some people have no regard for the hand that feeds them. Robert Santini of New Village, New Jersey, says it's discouraging when you're pulling a plow down the road to get to the next field and somebody passes you yelling or gesturing obscenely. You know that person is just hurrying home to get something to eat, and then jump in front of the TV.

Many of these people never stop to think where that food comes from. Or they have been fed (no pun intended) information that is totally out of touch with the real world of farming. Often when children from the city are asked where milk comes from, they say the store.

Today's farmers not only provide an abundant food supply, they are doing it with crop planning, rotation schedules and insecticide, herbicide, and fertilizer applications that provide use only when needed. This not only lowers input costs, it benefits the land and the community as well.

We know we are preaching to the choir, but this is the message that we need to get the consumers who eat well, but have no regard for the source of their food.



### Saturday, May 22

Berks County Dairy Princess Pageant, Berks County Ag Center, Leesport, 6:15 p.m.  
Regional 4-H Achievement Day, Altoona Campus, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

### Sunday, May 23

### Monday, May 24

### Tuesday, May 25

Contaminated Soil Cleanup Short Course, Maryland 4-H Center, College Park, thru May 27.  
Mid-Atlantic Regional Post-Harvest Handling Conference, Sheraton Inn, Fredericksburg, Va., thru May 27.

### Wednesday, May 26

Natural Landscapes and Habitats Walk, Foulkeways Retirement Community, 3 p.m.  
No-Till Vegetable Field Day, Westtown Rd., West Chester, 1:30 p.m.

### Thursday, May 27

Fruit Twilight Meeting, Rohrbach's Orchard, Catawissa, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

### Friday, May 28

### Saturday, May 29

Northwest Keystone Junior Beef Classic, Butler County Fairgrounds, thru May 30.  
Blair County Dairy Princess Pageant, Williamsburg Elementary School, Williamsburg.  
Bradford County Dairy Princess Pageant, New Life Church, Canton.  
Clearfield County Dairy Princess

### Pageant, Clearfield Agway Store, Clearfield, 8 p.m.

### Sunday, May 30

Clinton County Dairy Princess Pageant, LaMar United Methodist Church, LaMar.

### Monday, May 31

### Memorial Day

### Lancaster Farming office closed.

### Tuesday, June 1

Pork Quality Assurance Meeting, York County Pork Producers Annual Meeting, York 4-H Center, Bair, 7:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, June 2

4-H Strawberry Roundup, Farm and Home Center.

### Thursday, June 3

Grain Marketing Breakfast Meeting, Howard Johnson's, Millington, 6:30 a.m.

### Friday, June 4

Indiana County Dairy Princess Pageant, Marion Center United Presbyterian Church, Marion Center.

### Wayne County Dairy Princess Pageant, Belmont Fire Hall.

### Saturday, June 5

Bucks-Montgomery Wool Pool, Delaware Valley College.  
Clarksville Field Day, Ellicott City, Md.

Antique Engine, Tractor, and Toy Club Annual Show, Kempton Community Center, thru June 6.

Centre County Dairy Princess Pageant, Pleasant Gap Grange Hall, Pleasant Gap, 7:30 p.m.

Lebanon County Dairy Princess Pageant, Lebanon County Vo-Tech Building, Lebanon.

### Sunday, June 6



## Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

### To Bale At Proper Moisture

Baling hay at the optimum moisture content can be tricky business. This often involves some guesswork and cooperation from the weather. Baling at moisture levels above the optimum will cause heating and spoilage of the hay.

Conversely, baling at moisture levels below the optimum causes excessive leaf loss which translate into lower quality hay. The optimum moisture for baling hay is not a constant and depends on the bale size being used. According to Dr. Marvin Hall, Penn State Agronomist, moisture for small rectangular bales should be no higher than 20 per cent, unless a preservative is used.

The upper moisture limit for large bales, both round and rectangular, is about 16 per cent to avoid excessive heating during storage. If large round bales are stored outside and uncovered, moisture content at baling may be up to 20 per cent.

### To Determine Hay Moisture

Determining moisture content may be done with a microwave oven or Koster moisture tester before baling or an electronic moisture meter at baling. When using an electronic moisture meter, probe from the end of rectangular bales and through the rounded diameter of round bales.

Dr. Marvin Hall, Penn State Agronomist, recommends at least five probes of each bale should be taken and the readings averaged. If the readings vary more than three percentage points, more probes should be taken and the average recalculated. Many factors may affect the meter's accuracy, such as bale density.

Tightly packed bales will give the most accurate readings. The use of chemical preservatives is another factor that may affect the accuracy of electronic moisture meters. Some chemicals, such as propionic acid, may increase readings as much as four

percentage points. If preservatives are used and the instruction manual does not provide information about the effects of chemicals on meter performance, you should contact the manufacturer for additional information.

### To Ground Electric Fences

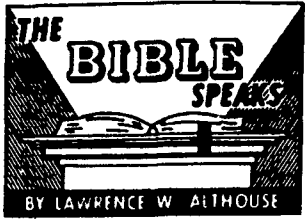
When utilizing electric fencing, you cannot have too many ground rods, according to Chester Hughes, Lancaster County Extension Livestock Agent.

When an animal touches the fence, the electricity must travel through the animal into the soil, then through the soil to a ground rod. The current then travels from the ground rod to the

fence charger, where the circuit is completed. Only then does the animal feel the shock. Therefore, the more ground rods, the more electricity gets back to the fence charger.

That is why the best ground system consists of three galvanized ground rods, at least six feet deep and spaced 10 feet apart. For best results, install your ground rods where soil moisture is constant. Always use clamps to attach the ground wire to the ground rods. Remember, your electric fence is only as good as its ground system.

*Feather Prof's Footnote "Do it right the first time" Dad*



### ANOTHER COUNSELOR

May 23, 1999

### Background Scripture:

John 1; 16:4b-15

### Devotional Reading:

Hebrews 2:10-18

Intellectually, there is little more difficult for the Christian to sort out and understand than the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. Contributing to this difficulty is the variety of terms that seem to be related: *Spirit, Spirit of God, Spirit of Christ, Spirit of the Lord, Holy Spirit*, and the term that is peculiar to the Gospel of John, *Counselor*. When we speak of the "Spirit of God," do we mean the "Holy Spirit"? How is "Holy Spirit" different from "the Spirit of Christ"?

I frankly do not know. I assume that all these terms point to the same reality, a reality that is virtually impossible to define and explain. By the very nature of what 'spirit' represents—a non-material reality—it defies tangible analysis. It is a lot easier to experience the Holy Spirit than it is to explain him. (Even the term "him" causes some difficulties in understanding.) I have personally experienced God in Christ on a non-material level, a level I choose to think of as "Spirit."

When I was doing my graduate work at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, I wrote an extensive paper on the "Doctrine of the Trinity." In preparing that paper, I found that this has long been an area of theological confusion and doctrinal combat, primarily because of the questions concerning the Holy Spirit.

### EXPERIENCING THE SPIRIT

But the disciple of Jesus Christ is not called so much to explain or define the Holy Spirit as he or she is called to experience the Spirit in his or her inner life. The knotty questions need not prevent us from knowing the Holy Spirit first-hand. I cannot adequately define or explain God either, but that need not keep God out of my life.

Actually, if I could give you a very precise definition, then it would not be the Holy Spirit I had captured on paper. Jesus likens the Spirit to the wind: "The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8). The Holy

Spirit cannot be captured by our minds, although the Holy Spirit can capture us.

Jesus promises us, "And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth..." (14:16). And again: "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you" (14:26).

*Parakletos* is the Greek word which the RSV and some other versions of the Bible translate as "Counselor." But there is really no one English word that adequately translates *parakletos*. Most translations render it as "Advocate" and the *Twentieth Century New Testament* spells that out as "one who pleads our cause." Other translations include "Comforter," "Helper," "Counselor," "One who is called," "someone to stand by you," and "he who is to befriend you."

### BUT HOW?

Jesus knows that his physical demise is immanent. He will no longer be able to be with his disciples—at least on a permanent basis—in the flesh. He promises them, however, I will not leave you desolate: I will come to you" (14:18). But the disciples are understandably confused and one asks: "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" (22). How indeed?

It is then, that Jesus makes the promise concerning the coming of the *parakletos* and, however this word is translated, it is obvious that this non-material presence will do all the things for and with them that Jesus has been doing in the flesh: teaching, counseling, helping, comforting, consoling, befriending, and standing by them. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we today who follow Jesus Christ are brought the same abiding presence that powered early Christians and the Church.

It is also the Spirit that is able to make and keep this promise: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" (27). These words were spoken almost 2,000 years ago and the warranty has never expired!

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