



OPINION

Ag Progress Is For Kids, Too

We often get caught up in concerns about the severe drought, about making monthly expense payments on the farm, on sick animals, and all the worrisome chores of farming.

Many of us decide we need a break. Those who can often take advantage of August's "dog days" and head to the mountains or the shore.

Some decide to attend the biggest statewide agricultural showcase event of them all — Ag Progress Days next week in Rockspring.

What many of us forget when we attend Ag Progress is there are lots of things for kids. More so than ever before, Ag Progress is becoming child- and family-oriented with an array of programs to delight the littlest and oldest ones in the family.

New this year is the "Farm Safety and Health Challenge Game," a contest which tests the farm safety knowledge of children. The contest is scheduled Tuesday, Aug. 17, in the College Exhibits Building Theatre. Youth will be competing for slots at the championship at next year's Pennsylvania Farm Show.

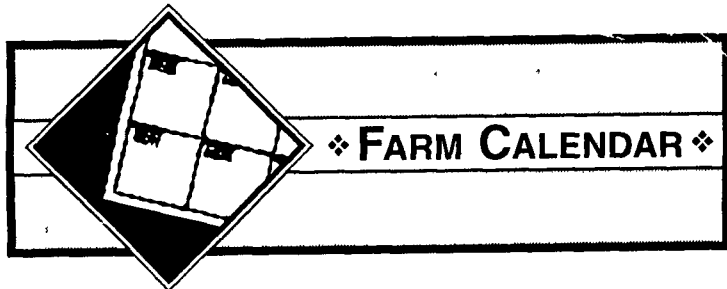
For the second year in a row, the Junior Livestock Exhibit Tent will be open for the annual Ag Progress Lamb Skillathon and Live Lamb Show Wednesday, Aug. 18 at 10 a.m. Watch youth test their sheep know-how and compete for prizes. The Skillathon tests knowledge in quality assurance, feed and nutrition, meat cuts, equipment, and management. The lamb show rewards contestants for their animal and showmanship skills. Prize money and savings bonds will be awarded to outstanding youth.

For the whole family, a new exhibit is the A Maze N Corn maze. Come in and get lost in Penn State's corn! Spend a few minutes, or even hours, with your kids in the fun corn maze.

4-H and FFA youth will compete for prizes in the Horse Show and Skillathon on Thursday, Aug. 19 at 11 a.m. at Ag Progress.

As usual, there are other annual events that make Ag Progress such a mid-summer tradition, including the SciQ and SciQ junior contests, which test children's "agricultural IQ." Contestants and audience members alike can win prizes, including SciQ T-shirts and Penn State University Creamery ice cream. SciQ is scheduled in the College Exhibits Building Theatre Wednesday, Aug. 18 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. SciQ Junior, for kids between 8-12, will be played Tuesday, Aug. 17 at 10 a.m. and Wednesday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

There are lots of other events for the whole family, so come on out!



Saturday, August 14

Pa. Holstein South Central Championship Show, Fairgrounds, Shippensburg, 9:30 a.m.

Tioga County Holstein Show, Whitneyville Fairgrounds, Wellsboro, 9 a.m.

Washington County Ag Fair, Washington, thru Aug. 21.

York County 4-H Fair, 4-H Center, Bair Station.

Sunday, August 15

Bullskin Township Fair, Wooddale, thru Aug. 21.

Cameron County Fair, Emporium, thru Aug. 21.

Franklin County Fair, Chambersburg, thru Aug. 21.

Fulton County Fair, McConnellsburg, thru Aug. 21.

Huntingdon County Fair, Huntingdon, thru Aug. 21.

McKean County Fair, Smethport, thru Aug. 21.

Monday, August 16

Dayton Fair, Dayton, thru Aug. 21.

Harford Fair, Harford, thru Aug. 21.

Lawrence County Fair, New Castle, thru Aug. 21.

Venango County Fair, Franklin, thru Aug. 22.

R&T Reunion, Waterloo Boys Two-cylinder Club of Southeast Pennsylvania, Kinzers, thru Aug. 19.

Tuesday, August 17

Ag Progress Days, Rockspring,

thru Aug. 19.

Blue Valley Farm Show, Bangor, thru Aug. 21.

Perry County Fair, Newport, thru Aug. 21.

Grazier Twilight Walk, Ron Mansell Farm, Elysburg, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, August 18

Annual PFGC picnic, Harpster's Evergreen Farm, 6:30 p.m.

Pa. Performance Tested Boar Sale, State College.

Middletown Grange Fair, Wrightstown, thru Aug. 22.

Ephrata Area Young Farmers bus tour to Moyer Packing, leaves from Elite Coach, Ephrata, 7:15 a.m., returns 8:45 p.m.

Pa. Ag Republicans annual fundraiser chicken barbecue, VFW Pavilion, Rt. 45 approx. three miles east of Ag Progress Days site, social 5:30 p.m., meal 6 p.m.

Rough and Tumble Engineers 51st Annual Threshermen's Reunion, Kinzers, thru Aug. 21.

Thursday, August 19

Findlay Township Community Fair, Clinton, thru Aug. 21.

Mount Nebo Fair, Mount Nebo, thru Aug. 21.

Wye Field Day, Wye Research and Education Center, Queenstown, Md., 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

No-Till Pumpkin Production, David Zook's Farm, New Holland, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Friday, August 20

Bucks County Holstein Show,



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Monitor Water Supplies

Several farmers have seen their water source dry up because of the draught. Now would be a good time to be monitoring your well or other water sources. You should be developing contingency plans if your water source diminishes or dries up. You may want to line up alternative sources of water, securing temporary water storage facilities, developing different water use patterns, storing water and have a rationing plan. Also, look for ways to conserve water, recycle water and control water leaks. If you run low or out of water, contact your county emergency management office. They may be able to help you find alternative water sources and temporary water storage. Through proper planning and taking precautionary steps, you should be able to avoid a disaster.

To Consider Herbicide Residue - 1

Two issues arise with the current draught situation in the Northeast, according to Dr. William Curran, Penn State Agronomy Department. One issue is the potential for herbicide residues in soil and subsequent carryover to rotational crops. Herbicide re-crop restrictions are based on susceptibility of potential rotation crops to herbicide residues or are based on limits set by EPA for potential residue in feed or food crops. In draught conditions, several herbicides have the potential to persist longer in the soil and injure susceptible crops. In corn, pay particular attention to atrazine and simazine (Princep) which may cause problems in a normal year. Most of the other corn herbicides with a few exceptions should not limit the ability to establish a fall forage crop if necessary. Soybean herbicides may be another matter. Several of our commonly used soybean herbicides limit planting of fall seeded crops as well as normal rotational crops. However, with the introduction of Roundup Ready soybeans and the use of

Bucks County Fairgrounds, Wrightstown, 11 a.m.

Westmoreland Ag Fair, Greensburg, thru Aug. 28.

East Central 4-H/FFA Dairy Show, Beaver County Fairgrounds, Beaver Springs.

Saturday, August 21

Pa. Holstein Central Championship Show, Fairgrounds, Huntingdon, 6 p.m.

Warren County Holstein Association Sale, Fairgrounds, Pittsfield, noon.

Pond Management Seminar, Honey Hollow Environmental Edu-

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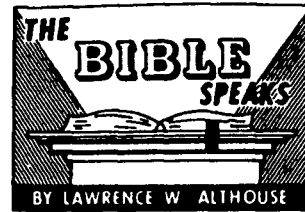
Roundup, herbicide residues and rotation restrictions are less of a concern. Make sure you read and follow label directions.

To Consider Herbicide Residue - 2

Two issues arise with the current draught situation in the Northeast, according to Dr. William Curran, Penn State Agronomy Department. The second issue is grazing and forage restrictions following the use of herbicides if early harvest or emergency forage is needed. As for grazing and forage restrictions, most corn herbicides allow grazing or harvesting of corn for silage following their use. However, almost all products have some time interval or waiting period ranging from zero days up to 85 days following

herbicide application. Other products specify a certain crop maturity being necessary before harvest. Many soybean herbicides are more restrictive. In fact only Basagran, FirstRate, Lexone, Sencor, Lorox, Liberty, Micro-Tech, Poast or Poast Plus, Prowl, Trellan and Roundup allow feeding of soybean forage following herbicide application. The Roundup label specifies a 25 day pre-harvest interval following an in-crop application of Roundup. Check specific product labels for the correct time interval necessary before harvesting either corn or soybean for forage or silage and for more detailed information.

Feather Prof's Footnote "If you care enough for a result, you will most certainly attain it"



WHEN LIFE IS 'THE PITS' August 15, 1999

Background Scripture:
Genesis 37:1-35
Devotional Reading:
I Samuel 18:1-9

I can identify with Joseph, can you?

One day everything is bright and sunny and life is really good; and the next day the sun is hidden by thick clouds and life is in "the pits." In Joseph's case this was true both figuratively and literally. How quickly we can fall from the "king of the mountain" to the "bottom of the pile."

As terrible as those pits are, have you noticed that we are more likely to find God there than anywhere else? When all is going well, we tend to forget about God, forget even to thank him that things are going so well.

I can also identify with Joseph in two other ways. First, he was a victim of his brothers' intense jealousy. Sometimes when we're in "the pit," it is because others have been jealous, resentful or contemptuous of us. I never had any brothers and sisters, but when I was a child I remember that some of my cousins were obviously jealous of me because I was an only child and did not have to share as they did. It didn't matter that I had never done anything to them.

ARE YOU 'SELF-ABSORBED'?

Secondly, Joseph, despite his innocence — or maybe because of it — contributed to the animosity, perhaps unconsciously but just as surely, Joseph was perhaps conceited, exasperatingly self-assured and self-absorbed. If Joseph had tempered his superior status as Jacob's favorite with a little humility, some awareness of his brothers' feelings, things might have been different. Some people cannot help being a favorite or blessed with superior circumstances, but they can carry this with some humility and sensitivity.

If, as a "slightly spoiled" only child, I had been more sensitive to my cousins' feelings, perhaps things might have been different. I think I was rather oblivious to their sensitivities — just as Joseph must have been to his brothers. Innocently, it seems, he blurts out his dreams to them. But, as one who was later to save his life, all Egypt and his family with the interpretation of dreams, shouldn't he have realized that these dreams — true or not —

would be offensive to them? Should he not have been more careful of flaunting his long-sleeved coat, which was much superior to those of his brothers?

What Joseph did or didn't do helps us to understand but not justify the brothers' actions. Genesis tells us, "... when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him" (37:4). Note that he says "could not" instead of "would not." Their hatred was so intense that they were barely able to restrain themselves. Can you identify with that?

PLAYING FAVORITES

Despite Joseph's insensitive behavior, their hatred was not just the result of what he did or didn't do, but what their father did. It was their father's blatant favoritism that helped to poison this family. So Jacob also bore responsibility for this sorry state of affairs. Having experienced the tragic consequences of his own mother's favoritism toward him, he made the very same mistake in his own family. This is something else with which many of us can identify.

So Jacob's tragic family — today it would be called "dysfunctional" — was attributable, not just to one person or situation. Jacob, Joseph and his brothers all shared in it — just as in our family problems and tensions today. We'd like to think that it is all someone else's fault, but that is rarely true, I find. It takes two or more to tangle.

When the episode closes, Joseph has been sold off into slavery, first to the Midianites and then to Potiphar in Egypt. Psychologically, he was still in the pit. Situationally, he did not seem to be any better off. But what we know and what he could not see then was that his life was entering a recovery stage. Eventually, his being sold into slavery would fulfill the grandiose but accurate dreams of his youth. God had not put him in the pit — that was the work of Jacob's family — but God took him out of the pit and was already at work turning this tragic experience into something good.

Can you identify with that?

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