



OPINION

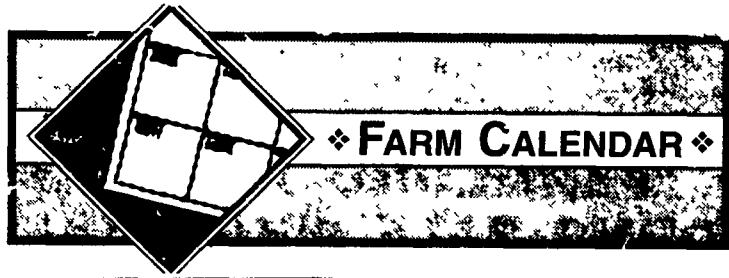
Hungry In The Next Century

By the time you finish reading this editorial, the world's population will have increased by the size of Penn State's freshman class, says a natural resources expert in the College of Agricultural Sciences. Larry Nielsen, director of the School of Forest Resources says October 12 has been designated by the United Nations Population Fund as the Day of Six Billion (D6B). This is the day the world's human population will officially reach 6 billion.

"These people will need food, resources, and safe, healthy places to live," Nielsen said. "--For the first time, people are witnessing the tripling of the world population in one lifetime. The world population was 2 billion in 1930. Food demands will double in the next 20 years, yet arable land will remain constant. The demands on science and cooperative extension programs to make food production more efficient will be enormous."

Not only will science and extension be on demand, the actual farmer will become increasingly important, if the world is to be fed. But from our point of view, the real problems to be faced will come from distribution and political restraints.

As important as research and extension is, unless farmers are allowed to farm, and food is allowed to reach the people in the world who need it, all the good intentions come to naught. Let's hope environmental restraints and land taxation obstacles do not cause the demise of agriculture to the extent that we all go hungry in the next century.



Monday, October 11
Columbus Day

Poultry Management and Health Seminar, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, noon.

Tuesday, October 12

Ephrata Area Young Farmers Mentor Meeting, Ephrata High School, 7:30 p.m.

Dillsburg Community Fair, Dillsburg, thru Oct. 16.

Dairy Lea Cooperative Annual Meeting, Holiday Inn, Liverpool, N.Y., thru Oct. 13.

Sustainable Greenhouse Systems Short Course, Arena Restaurant, Bedford, also Oct. 19 and 26.

ADADC Dist. 6 meeting, Club 211, Middletown, N.Y., 7:45 p.m.

Wednesday, October 13

Pa. Veterinary Medical Association Annual Meeting, Lancaster Host Restort, thru Oct. 17.

Thursday, October 14

Pa. National Horse Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Oct. 23.

ADADC Dist. 12 meeting, Sennett Federated Church, Sennett, N.Y., 6:30 p.m.

ADADC Dist. 17 meeting, Gibson Grange, Gillette, 8 p.m.

Carroll County, Md. pesticide training and exam, extension office, training 7 p.m.-9 p.m., exam Oct. 21, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Friday, October 15

Uniontown Poultry and Farm Products Show, Dunbar, thru Oct. 17.

Saturday, October 16

Ayrshire Golden Milk Sale, Empire Livestock, Dryden, N.Y.

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

Monday, October 18

Berks County Open House and 85th Anniversary Celebration, 3:30 p.m.-9 p.m., Berks County Ag Center.

ADADC Dist. 14 meeting, Tally-Ho Restaurant, Kanona, N.Y., 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 19

Wyoming County Extension 8th Annual Dinner Meeting, Eldred Township Fire Hall, Warrensville, dinner 7 p.m.

Forest Management Program, Cambria County extension office, Ebensburg, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Lancaster County 4-H Recognition Night, Historical Revere Tavern, Paradise, 6:30 p.m.

Solanco Young Farmer Corn Silage Meeting, Solanco High School, Quarryville, 7:30 p.m.

Fulton County Agribusiness Breakfast, McConnellsburg American Legion Post 561, 8 a.m.

Hands-On Computer Workshop Series, York 4-H Center, York, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., also Oct. 21.

ADADC Dist. 9 meeting, Tally-Ho, Richfield Springs, N.Y., 7:45 p.m.

Wednesday, October 20

National Poultry Meeting on Poultry Health and Processing, Ocean City, Md., thru Oct. 22.

Food for Profit, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 6:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., also Oct. 27.

ADADC Dist. 2 meeting, Inn Through The Woods, Copenhagen, N.Y., 8 p.m.

ADADC Dist. 3 meeting, American Legion, Chateaugay, N.Y., 7:30 p.m.

ADADC Dist. 16 meeting, Mainsburg Community Center, Mainsburg, 7:30 p.m.



Now Is
The Time
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Learn About Hay Assistance Program

On September 15, 1999, Governor Ridge initiated a \$5 million hay assistance program for drought stricken livestock producers. The hay assistance program has two components. First, 1,300 tons of donated hay and second, a rebate plan based on the \$5 million allocation from the governor.

The rebate program is for farmer purchased hay and long distance hauling costs. The rebate is only for hay purchased after October 1, 1999. Within the financial limits of the allocation, the rebate plan will cover \$60 per ton for hay purchased in Pennsylvania. A \$50 per ton rebate will be provided for hay purchased out of state. In addition, a \$25 per ton rebate will be provided to help defray long distance hauling costs for hay purchased from areas outside

Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Ohio. Also, the Pennsylvania legislature is considering bills that will offer addition relief to farmers. Keep informed as relief packages are developed and make applications in a timely manner.

These programs will probably have short sign up times in order to provide financial help in a timely manner.

To Register for Hay Assistance Program

To be eligible for consideration for the Pennsylvania Hay Assistance

Program, you must be a Pennsylvania resident with a farm that lost a minimum of 30 percent of the crops intended for livestock feed including pasture as a result of the 1999 drought. If you want to participate in the program, you must return the Livestock Hay Assistance Program Application to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) with a postmark no later than October 20, 1999.

Completion of this application does not guarantee eligibility. This program is for dairy, beef and sheep producers. There will be a review of all applications to determine the degree of loss and animal units required for participation in the hay assistance program. PDA mailed a letter and application to livestock producers they had on record. If you did not receive an application in the mail, contact your county.

Penn State Cooperative Extension office or call PDA at 800-423-6912 between 7:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. Additional information is available at the PDA web site at www.pda.state.pa.us

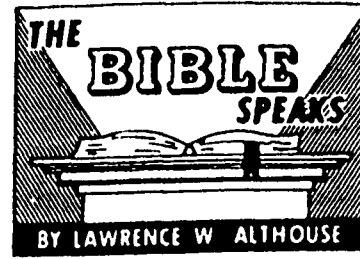
To Operate Generator Safely
Dr. Dennis Buffington, Penn

State Agricultural Engineer, reminds us when using a portable generator be sure to follow these safety procedures. They are important for your safety and the safety of any utility company personnel working on the lines. Report the power failure. Do not assume the power company knows. Turn off or disconnect all electrical equipment. Place your generator and power unit in the proper position. Be sure to maintain a level, firm base for both.

Ensure the exhaust fumes are vented to the outside. Even small portable generators placed in basements must have exhaust fumes vented to the outside. Bring generator up to speed before activating a transfer from power company lines. Use voltage and frequency meters to monitor generator performance. Connect electrical loads one load at a time.

Start with the largest motor first, followed by the second largest, etc. Do not load too fast.

(Turn to Page A31)



BEYOND
'JUST THE FACTS'
October 10, 1999

Background Scripture:

Numbers 1:1 through 14:25

Devotional Reading:

Numbers 14:5-19

Perhaps you may remember *Dragnet*, the popular TV police drama of more than a few years ago. Questioning witnesses of this crime or that, the detective, played by Jack Webb, would frequently caution, "Just the facts" when bombarded with extraneous information. "Just the facts" became a popular quip.

"Just the facts" is one of the icons of our society in this information age. We believe that there are no problems that cannot be solved if we are in possession of the right data. But, although data may help us solve problems, often the solution may be dependent upon other facts that are not self-evident.

My college professors of business statistics, told us, "You can prove almost whatever you want with statistics." Facts are never as objective as they may appear to be. Just as on *Dragnet* the 'facts' sometimes turned out to be colored by personal perception and interpretation, so the facts of daily life may be equally deceptive and partial.

'TOO MUCH FOR US'

Look at what happened when Moses sent twelve men to scout the Promised Land in Canaan. The report of the spies—one from each of the twelve tribes of Israel—was overwhelmingly (10 to 2) negative: cancel your plans for the Promised Land; the inhabitants there are too much for us.

This negative majority report was full of facts, their recommendations were convincing and the twelve tribes quickly decided that they must return to the land of Egypt. Having come so far and survived so well at God's hand, they were ready to call off the mission and go back to the slavery of Egypt. We should not be too quick to condemn them; this was a majority report and we expect majorities to be right. Sometimes, however, we have to listen to minorities, even minorities of one or two.

From our vantage point today we know that there were other facts of which the ten spies were unaware. They reported exactly what they had seen—or *thought* they had seen. They were not evil men who gave a false report, but men of little faith who

believed every negative fact they reported. What was wrong with their report was that their 'facts' were distorted by their fear which was greater than their faith in God. So they chose to trade the promise of the future under God for the painful but familiar rut that had been their lot in Egypt.

WRONG CONCLUSIONS

Near the turn of the last century, Milton S. Hershey decided to sell his successful caramel candy business in Lancaster, PA. His advisors tried to talk him out of it, but he was convinced that he should devote himself to the manufacture of chocolate. He also decided to relocate his factory to an obscure agricultural area of Derry Township, halfway between Lancaster and Harrisburg. Again, his advisors told him it was not a good move. Hershey built his factory and the town of Hershey around it and soon he was on his way to becoming the "Chocolate King." Then, while the Depression threatened the whole nation, Hershey decided to build a luxury hotel and a school for homeless boys there. This time even his mother thought his plans were foolhardy. But Hershey went beyond 'just the facts' and proved them all wrong. The facts of his advisors were not wrong, but the conclusions they had drawn from them were.

Soren Kierkegaard tells the story of a wild goose who one day flew into a barnyard of domestic geese. Perching on the fence, he began to talk to them. "Did you know that you, too, are geese and, like me, were created to fly far and wide?" In dramatic tones he pointed to the sky and the glorious freedom and far horizons that awaited them if they would use their God-given wings. The geese were very impressed with this visitor and they began to long to be like him. Some applauded enthusiastically. But the corn was so plentiful and the barnyard so cozy and warm that when he flew away, they all remained where they were.

Moses asked God to forgive the people of Israel and He did. There were, however, consequences for those who had not obeyed God. They themselves would not see the Promised Land. God will forgive our failures to trust him, but there will be consequences when we choose to live by 'just the facts.'

Lancaster Farming

Established 1955

Published Every Saturday

Ephrata Review Building

1 E. Main St.

Ephrata, PA 17522

- by -

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A Steinman Enterprise

William J. Burgess General Manager

Everett R. Newswanger Editor

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