



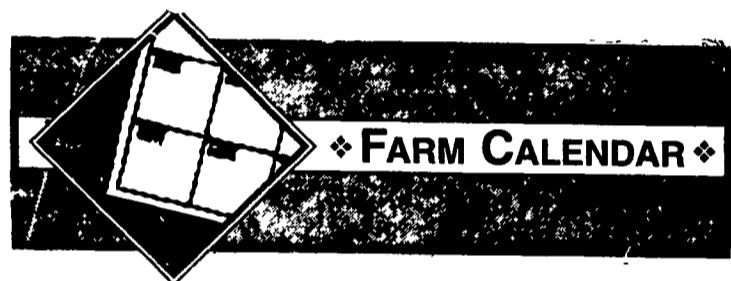
# OPINION

## No Chance To See The Beauty Of Fall Foliage In These Forests

President Clinton hopes to make as many as 40 million acres of federally owned forest off-limits not only to development and lumbering, but he also wants to make them visitor free by making them roadless areas. According to a recent Associated Press news article the president was traveling to George Washington National Forest in Virginia to announce that the forest's Little River area, comprising 27,248 acres was to be off limits to people. This forest is known for high ridges and knobs that offer stunning views of the Shenandoah Valley, and is home to hardwood trees such as oaks, hickories, poplar, and mountain ash.

Clinton is said to want this because he wants to leave a permanent environmental legacy. This self-serving effort totally refuses to recognize that federal forests are owned by the American people and not by the president. In addition, if a forest is left to it's own evolvment without proper management it self-destructs and this powerful natural renewable resource is lost to the wealth of the nation and in the end is lost to the enhancement of the environmental.

We believe it would be much better to provide scientific forest management to protect the trees from disease and decay, use the wood from some of the trees to increase the wealth of the nation, plant two trees for every one we use, and let the people enjoy the beauties of the national forests.



**Saturday, October 30**  
 Nittany Lion Fall Classic Sale, Ag Arena, State College, 11 a.m.  
 Dynamic Duo Spotlight Sale, Frederick Fairgrounds, Frederick, Md., 7 p.m.  
 Fall Harvest at Pepperbox, Laurel, Del., 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Sunday, October 31**  
 Halloween Daylight Saving Time Ends

**Monday, November 1**  
 Octorara Area Young Farmers' meeting, Octorara High School, 7:30 p.m.  
 Professional Dairy Heifer Growers Association Northeast Regional Conference, Grantville Holiday Inn, Grantville, thru Nov. 3.  
 Computer Seminar for Dairy Farmers, Corry Higher Education Council, Corry, 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m.  
 Computer Seminar for Dairy Farmers, Kost Computer Lab, Meadville, 7 p.m.-10:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 2**  
 Lebanon County Holiday Program, Expo Center, thru Nov. 3, 8:45 a.m.-2:45 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.  
 Computer Seminar for Dairy Farmers, Kost Computer Lab, Meadville, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, November 3**  
 Lehigh Valley Horse Council meeting, American Legion Post 367, Fullerton, 7:30 p.m.  
 Beef Cow Nutrition Seminar, Maryland State Fairgrounds, 7 p.m.  
 Dairy Practices Council Annual Conference, Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel, Scranton, thru Nov. 5.  
 Passing On The Farm Workshop, Bradford County extension

office, Towanda, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.  
 Montgomery Agricultural Center Annual Meeting, Fairgrounds, Gaithersburg, Md., 7 p.m.

**Thursday, November 4**  
 Lebanon County Cooperative Extension Meeting, Schaefferstown Fire Hall, 7 p.m.  
 Adams County Extension Annual Meeting, Heidelberg Fire Hall, 6:30 p.m.  
 Armstrong Conservation District Dairy Grazing Field Day, Marlin Stitt's D&S Dairy Farm, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
 Leadership and Communication Skills Workshop, Franklin County extension office, Malone, N.Y., noon-4 p.m.

**Friday, November 5**  
 Lebanon County 4-H Dairy Club Banquet, Myerstown Church of the Brethren, 7:30 p.m.  
 Food Animal Husbandry and the New Millennium: Ethical, Environmental, and Societal Impacts, Auditorium, The Wistar Institute, Philadelphia, 10:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
 Warren County Holstein/DHIA Annual Meeting, Lander Fire Hall, Lander, 8 p.m.  
 Bucks County Holstein Annual Meeting, St. Matthews Lutheran Church, Kellers Church, 7 p.m.

**Saturday, November 6**  
 NAILE, Kentucky Fair and Expo Center, Louisville, Ky., thru Nov. 19.  
 Lancaster County Farm Women Convention, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster.  
 Crawford County Holstein Annual Meeting, Vernon Central Fire Hall, Meadville, 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, November 7**  
 Pennsylvania Farmers Union State Convention, Uniontown Holi-



**Now Is The Time**  
 By John Schwartz  
 Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

### To Be Y2K Ready

Farmers need to understand how the millennium bug could affect their farm equipment. Pork, dairy and poultry operations need to develop contingency plans.

Electronic scales, moisture testers, grain drying equipment and crop storage ventilation systems used in grain elevators, can all be affected by the millennial bbug. Owners of pork, dairy or poultry farms need to be sure their climate control devices will not collapse on New Year's Day

Farmers with livestock feeding or milking systems, environmental control mechanisms in barns or confined feeding operations are advised to contact manufacturers to find out how they might be affected. By doing some planning now could save you a lot of problems on January 1, 2000.

### To Set Farm Benchmarks

Benchmarks help you evaluate how well you are doing in comparison with other similar farms, according to Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County Extension Dairy Agent. There are a variety of data bases that may be used as benchmarks.

The agricultural service people you deal with including accountants, veterinarians, feed industry representatives and other consultants may have summary information for farms they work with that are similar to yours. In

day Inn, thru Nov. 10.

**Monday, November 8**  
 Northampton County Cooperative Extension Meeting, Star Grange, Moorestown, 7 p.m.  
 Poultry Management and Health Seminar, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, noon.  
 Dauphin County 4-H Achievement Night, Extension Center, 6 p.m.  
 Turf and Ornamental Meeting, Lebanon Agriculture Center, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

**Tuesday, November 9**  
 Fayette County Holstein Annual Meeting, Fayette County Fairgrounds, Uniontown, 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, November 10**  
 Ephrata Area Young Farmers Meeting, Growing Vegetables, Ephrata High School, 7:30 p.m.  
 Bradford County DHIA \$s In Your Pocket, Edgewood Restaurant, Troy, 7:30 p.m., also Nov. 10.  
 Ag Services School, Meadville Days Inn.  
 PC Dart Training, Crawford County extension office.  
 Odor Research Field Day, Jeff Frey Swine Farm, Willow Street, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
 Growing Your Dairy Facility and Financial Planning for 21st Century, Holiday Inn, Altoona, 9 a.m.-5:30 n.m.

addition land grant universities, cooperatives and businesses have excellent data bases. Some of these are on the internet.

Benchmark brackets include profit per hundredweight of milk sold, total farm profit, return on investment, output per worker or cow, etc. Look at the results of dairy producers in the top 25 percent bracket. This can help you see what it might take for you to get to that level. It also gives you the opportunity to compare your business with your stiffest competition.

### To Be Better Than Average

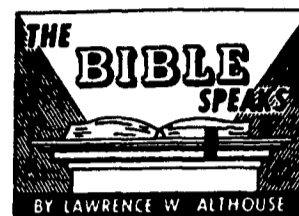
When you compare your farm business with averages of other farms, keep in mind that you should strive to be better than average if you intend to stay ahead of the pack, according to Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County

Extension Dairy Agent. Also, the average farm may bear little resemblance to your farm.

Thus, you may want to focus on data for farms that are similar to yours and to farms that are in the top 25 percent performance category. What makes other non agricultural businesses successful? Can we learn something from them?

You may want to consider benchmarking with some of them as well. By keeping data you are able to compare yourself with other businesses while monitoring trends in your own business. The question is: Are you making progress?

*Feather Prof's Footnote: "A bump in the road is either an obstacle to be fought or an opportunity to be enjoyed. It is up to you."*



**WHEN BAD MEMORY IS A SIN!**  
 October 31, 1999

**Background Scripture:**  
 Deuteronomy 8  
**Devotional Reading:**  
 Psalms 85

"I forgot" is one of the most frequent excuses we hear today. Often, bad memory is an acceptable excuse if it is evident that there was no intention not to do what we were supposed to or to do what we were not supposed to do. We may not be pleased that someone "forgot" but we are much less liable to hold it against another person because we all suffer from bad memory from time to time.

At the same time, "I forgot" is not likely to be acceptable when the consequences are hurtful to others. "I forgot" is no justification for an airplane pilot whose forgetting jeopardizes his or her passengers. Nor is it acceptable for a doctor whose bad memory impinges upon his patients' health. Forgetting your spouse's wedding anniversary is not likely to be easily overlooked either.

Forgetting God has even more serious consequences. He warns the people: "Take heed lest you forget the Lord your God..." (Deut. 8:11). How does one "forget" God? It is not a matter of forgetting that there is a God. We all know that and are likely to remember it. If we forget an obligation, it isn't because it is no longer in our memory, but because we give our attention to something else. That is the key to the bad memory problem: we fail to remember something because we have not judged it important enough to keep it in our consciousness.

### "SHOW ME!"

Moses explains what constitutes "forgetting" the Lord: "Take heed lest you forget the Lord your God, by not keeping his commandments, and his ordinances and his statutes" (8:11). Failing to keep these is the equivalent of "forgetting" him. You can't possibly remember God if you live in a way that is contrary to his commandments. "Remembering" is more a matter of "doing" than "thinking." Words that acknowledge "I remember you," are no match for deeds that say the same thing. As Eliza sings in *My Fair Lady*, "Don't speak of love, SHOW ME!" God sings that same song.

Moses gives the people of Israel

a timely warning: "lest when you have eaten and are full, and have built goodly houses... and when your herds and flocks multiply, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then... you forget the Lord your God..." (8:13,14). In the wilderness, as we noted last week, it is fairly easy to remember God because we know that we are dependent upon his grace. But when we are on Easy Street in the Promised Land it is easy to forget the Lord who put us there.

The abundance of things can easily become a false god. In those days when the "free world" contended with the Soviet Union for the minds and hearts of people, we frequently spoke of "godless Communism." Communism does have a god, but it is not the God of Jesus Christ. Communism's god is materialism, the conviction that happiness and fulfillment come with an abundant supply of material things.

### MORAL LEAVENING

Yet, does not our free capitalistic society offer the same recipe for happiness and fulfillment: things! I was educated in the Wharton School of Finance & Commerce of the University of Pennsylvania. Capitalism, I concluded, is the best economic system the human race has yet devised, but it did not descend from heaven and it needs the moral leavening of Christianity to keep it from corrupting our souls. The gospel of Jesus Christ proclaims that there are values that transcend materialism. Consumerism may make some people a lot of money, but it will not satisfy people's hungry spirits. The so-called "laws of the market" shall not supersede the Ten Commandments of the Old Testament nor the Great Commandment of the New Testament.

Material prosperity is seductive, leading us from humility in the face of God's goodness to inordinate pride in our own efforts. "Beware lest you say in your heart, My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth" (8:17). At that point we have truly forgotten God's grace and have wandered away from him. For what we follow, pretty much determines where we go.

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