

Lancaster Farming OPINION

Other Nonpoint Sources Of Pollution

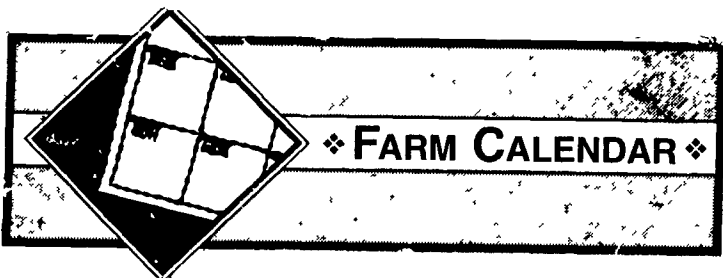
The Susquehanna River Basin Commission monitors and submits an annual report on the water quality of the 83 interstate streams in the basin that flow across the New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland State lines. They assess compliance with state water quality standards, identify streams for reporting to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and identify areas for restoration and protection, among other things.

In the latest report, the commission admits that the water quality in most interstate streams continues to meet designated use classes and water quality standards. Of the 2,329 total observations, only 34 exceeded water quality standards. The parameter that most frequently exceeded water quality standards was total iron. This is a metal most often associated with industrial waste not agriculture. Even in the Pennsylvania-Maryland border streams where concentrated agriculture abounds, three streams were not impaired at all, six were only slightly impaired, and one was called moderately impaired and none in the severely impaired category.

But the Commission still had to get in a disparaging remark about agriculture. Elevated nutrient levels they said, in the Pennsylvania-Maryland border streams "possibly due to agricultural runoff" affected the water quality of streams in this region.

We say, since the source of the nutrients is not known, it is "possibly due to the discharges from municipal sewage plants."

Overall, we're pleased the streams in the Susquehanna River Basin are improving in quality. We know many farmers and agribusiness enterprises work hard to insure that agriculture does its part to keep the streams clean. We can only hope the other nonpoint sources of pollution do the same and are taken to task if they don't.



Saturday, December 4

Sunday, December 5

Maryland Farm Bureau Annual Meeting and Convention, Ramada Inn Convention Center, Hagerstown, thru Dec. 8.

Monday, December 6

Lehigh County Holstein Association Annual meeting, Bake Oven Inn, Germansville, 7:30 p.m.

Chester County Holstein Club Barn Meeting, John Hostetter Farm, Oxford, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 7

Ag Service School, Williamsport Holiday Inn, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Regional Vegetable Conference, Days Inn, Butler, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Berks County DHIA annual Awards Presentation and Dairy Records Workshop, Berks County Ag Center, 10:45 a.m.

Lancaster DHIA annual meeting, Good 'N Plenty Restaurant, Smoketown, 11:30 a.m.

14th Regional Meeting on Practical Biosecurity For Poultry, University of Delaware, Newark, Del.

N.Y. Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, Crowne Plaza Hotel (formerly Omni Albany), Albany, N.Y., thru Dec. 9.

Cost of Production and Budgeting For Farms, Clarion County Extension, Shippensburg, 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Valley Expo Center, opens 6 p.m., dinner 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 8

National Young Farmers Association Educational Institute, Hershey Convention Center, Hershey, thru Dec. 11.

ACE Expo, Holiday Inn Baltimore North, Timonium, Md., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Ag Service School, Berks County Agricultural Center, Leesport.

Regional Agronomy Meeting, Ohio State University, Lima, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Thursday, December 9

ADADC Dist. 21 meeting, Timber Wolf Restaurant, Darien Center, N.Y., noon.

Ag Service School, Lancaster Farm and Home Center.

Greenhouse Design Short Course, Cumberland County Extension Office, Carlisle, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Crop Insurance Satellite Video-conference, Penn State Ag Science downlink to various sites, 7 p.m.

Lancaster County Holstein Association Annual Meeting, Bird In Hand Restaurant, 7 p.m.

Regional Agronomy Meeting, Butler County, Ohio, Extension, Dayton, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Friday, December 10

Ag Service School, Embers Quality Inn, Carlisle.

Regional Agronomy Meeting, Champaign County Community Center, Urbana, Ohio, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Saturday, December 11



Now Is The Time By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Protect Venison Quality

Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent, reports venison quality depends on how it is handled. The deer hunter is the key person responsible for the quality of his venison. Preserving the carcass quality starts with the right tools.

Sunday, December 12

Schadler Retirement Banquet, Lebanon Valley Expo Center, Lebanon, 2 p.m.-5 p.m.

Monday, December 13

Tuesday, December 14

New England Vegetable and Berry Conference and Trade Show, Sturbridge Host Hotel, Sturbridge, Mass., thru Dec. 16.

Ephrata Area Young Farmers Christmas Event, Ephrata Middle School, 7:30 p.m.

Lancaster Pork Producers Seminar, Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Solanco Young Farmers Farm Safety Meeting, Solanco High School, 7:30 p.m.

Agribusiness Economic Outlook Conference, Cornell University, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 15

Pa. Dairy Stakeholders Conference, Holiday Inn, Grantville, thru Dec. 16.

Crop Planning Workshop and Pesticide Update, Hugo's Restaurant, Brownsville, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Pa. Seedsmen's Association Annual Meeting, Comfort Inn, Centerville, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Farm Computer Records Workshop, Walker Township Building, Hublersburg, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., also Dec. 22.

Hay Marketing and Handling Conference, Carroll County Ag Center, Westminster, Md., 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Pa. Tobacco Marketing Association Auction at Orton Industrial Park, New Holland, 9 a.m.

Thursday, December 16

Hay Marketing and Handling Conference, Caroline County 4-H Park, Denton, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Passing On The Farm Workshop, Mifflin County Extension Office, Lewistown, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Friday, December 17

Saturday, December 18

Sunday, December 19



and an understanding of what to do.

The best venison quality is obtained with proper field dressing. Excessive blood should be removed along with the digestive tract and other internal organs while still in the field. 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 and avoid transporting on the hood of a vehicle where it will warm up. During warm weather, keeping the carcass cool is critical in avoiding meat spoilage.

To Avoid Antifreeze Poisoning of Pets

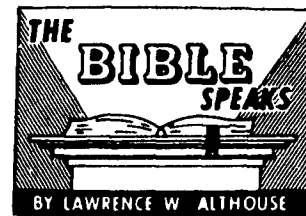
Watch for spills of antifreeze anytime you check your car's radiator this fall, warns Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent. Do

not leave spills without cleaning them up. Do not leave open containers of antifreeze sitting around that pets could drink from.

Many pets may find water hard to get in the winter months or they may enjoy the sweet taste of antifreeze. Ethylene glycol, the main ingredient in antifreeze, is very toxic to humans and pets when ingested. Always clean up spills of antifreeze. Antifreeze will not evaporate.

Never leave old antifreeze sitting around in buckets or other containers. Pets could drink from it. Always keep antifreeze in original containers with the safety caps in place.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "In matters of style, swim with the currents. In matters of principle, stand like a rock." Thomas Jefferson



IS ABRAHAM ENOUGH? December 5, 1999

Background Scripture:

Matthew 3

Devotional Reading:

Matthew 21:23-27

I have had more than one friend tell me that the thing that turns them off from Christianity is the call to repentance. "It's demeaning" one told me. "I would rather focus on God's image within me," said another. I can appreciate that their early experience of Christianity were weighted on the side of sin, guilt and repentance. Teaching and preaching that only emphasizes human depravity, I believe, presents a very one-sided gospel.

At the same time, to believe that human nature is essentially good with just an occasional mistake or failing is also woefully one-sided as well. My seminary professor, Reinhold Niebuhr said that "Few things are worthless as those for which people have not felt a need. This is particularly true of mercy; when we know we are in need of it, nothing is more precious; when we do not know we are in need of it, the offer of it may appear as the worst kind of insult." Many people do feel insulted by the call to repent. The very fact that they do not know they need to repent is proof of their need. It was Niebuhr who said, "...not much evil is done by evil men... most of the evil is done by good people who do not know that they are not good."

Everybody?

The story of Jesus begins with John their Baptist's clarion call: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Does that mean everybody? Yes, everybody. Without acknowledgment of our imperfection, our self-centeredness, our failures, we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. Only the redeemed can enter and only those who repent can be redeemed. No one enters the kingdom because he or she qualifies; it is always a matter of grace.

This, however, does not mean that we are to be obsessed with our sins. Christianity offers the perfect way to be rid of sins: recognize, confess and accept forgiveness. Then get on with your

life, leaving behind all the stains and regrets that rob life of its vitality. Unfortunately, some would make a transaction out of this process; I sin, I say I repent, God forgives and I start over again. But John says that the repentance cannot be a ritual or device—it must be real. John warned the Pharisees and Sadducees: "Bear fruit that befits repentance" (3:8). Repentance that doesn't bear fruit, that does not issue in a better life is not repentance. Going through the motions is not enough.

Jesus would adopt this same rule-of-thumb. In Matthew 7:20 he says, "By their fruits you shall know them." In John 15:16, he says to his disciples "I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit." And in John 15:8: "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples."

Abraham's Children

Some of those who heard John's call to repentance were smug because they believed as sons of Abraham they did not need repentance. They belonged to the 'right' church and therefore they had nothing of which to repent. But John, knowing full well what they were thinking, says: "...and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire" (3:9, 10).

The modern equivalent of having "Abraham as our father" is "But we are Methodists," "We are followers of Luther," "disciples of John Calvin," "Menno Simon," and you can fill in the rest. Maybe it is not a matter of our denomination, but our particular theological bent — liberal, conservative, neo-orthodox, biblical literalists, charismatics and so on. But both John and Jesus made it clear that labels counted for nothing. Only fruit.

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—by—

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