

Lancaster Farming

OPINION

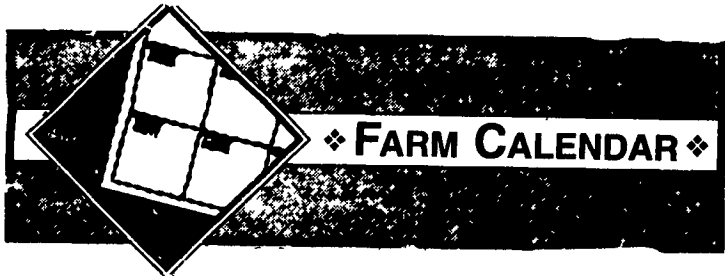
In The Hands Of Enemies

We saw in the news this week, that truck drivers are taking convoys of their rigs into Washington D.C. to protest the high price of fuel. Diesel and gas prices have skyrocketed almost overnight, and truckers want government to do something about it. They say they can't make a living at these prices. Last week, many of the independent truckers simply let their trucks set because it didn't pay to work.

To anyone who follows the farm scene, this kind of cry is all too familiar. Farmers use a lot of fuel too. But they have had to cry for at least the last 10 years. Milk prices are at 1978 lows. Hog and beef prices are so low, farmers are going out of business. We suspect that every small business, and that includes farmers, has a tough time with the bottom line these days. In the publishing business, the rise in paper and postage costs almost takes your breath away.

Many business enterprises are being forced offshore and into Mexico. For food production, this means our dinner tables are more and more filled with food that comes from places where sanitation laws and food safety requirements are nil. The American consumer should receive a warning lesson here from this sudden rise in oil prices and the threat to our economy and our livelihood. We depend on oil that touches the lifeblood of every American enterprise in commerce and industry. And we depend on foreign sources for that oil. Our enemies control many of these foreign sources.

You don't need to be a rocket scientist to figure out this is not a good way to run a business, or fill our dinner tables. But with the anti-farming regulations and taxation laws that are quietly being put into place in America right now, it will not be long before our food sources will come from the same sources as our oil, controlled by our enemies. Don't be surprised if America is taken over by a foreign power in our lifetime, an enemy who controls our food source. If they control both our oil and our food they will be able to do the job without a shot being fired



Saturday, February 26
Marketing Food for Profit Seminar, NEIR Facility, Mayfield.
Northeast Regional Christmas Tree Meeting, Chateau Resort and Conference Center, Tannersville, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Sunday, February 27

Monday, February 28
Northwestern Pa. Grazing Conference, Clarion University, Gemmill Conference Center, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Lebanon County Livestock Banquet, Lebanon Valley Expo Center.
Corn Silage Processing Preserving, Fermentation Quality Program, Ag Room, Penn Valley High School, Spring Mills.

Tuesday, February 29
Dairy Research Analysis Workshop, Harrisburg, thru March 1.
Mounting A Successful Reproduction Program, Westmoreland County Cooperative Extension Office, Greensburg
Tri-County Agronomy School, Gratz.
Tri-State Conservation Tillage Conference, Radisson Hotel, West Middlesex, 9:20 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Commercial Tree Fruit Grower's Meeting, Carriage Corner, Mifflinburg, Union Co., 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Is Dairy Expansion For Me? Edgewood Restaurant, Troy, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 1
Pa. Grazing & Forage Confer-

ence, Holiday Inn, Grantville, thru March 2.

Mounting A Successful Reproduction Program, Bedford County 4-H Center Fairgrounds, Bedford.
Southeast Regional Potato Meeting, Schnecksville Grange, Schnecksville.
Bucks-Montgomery County Crop Day, Family Heritage Restaurant, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thursday, March 2
Perry Co. Holstein Association Banquet, Messiah Lutheran Church, Ellitsburg, 7:15 p.m.
Poultry Progress Days, Farm & Home Center, Lancaster, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
National Potato Council Chip Seminar, Buffalo, NY, thru March 4.

Mounting A Successful Reproduction Program, Walker Township Building, Pleasant Gap.

Blair County Weed Service School, Morrisons Cove Memorial Park, Martinsburg, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Crop Master's Farming After The Drought, Holiday Inn, Phillipsburg, NJ, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Central Susquehanna Valley Turf & Ornamental Meeting, Best Western Country Cupboard Inn, Lewisburg, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Computer Basics, Huntingdon Co. Cooperative Extension Office, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Photoperiod Management Meeting, New Franklin Ruritan Community Center, New



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

To Look At Corn Maturities

Pennsylvania corn farmers experienced extremes in heat and dryness last year. Early projections for the 2000 growing season suggests last year experience will be repeated again this year. Extreme heat and dry conditions during corn pollination can sizzle corn yields. Corn specialists suggests that to protect against weather stress, poor pollination and to ensure the highest yields, farmers should plant several different corn hybrids of varying maturities. By planting several varieties which mature at different times, the corn will silk at different times avoiding the possibility of all the corn pollinating at times during adverse weather conditions. This strategy will also spread the harvest period over a longer time period.

To Utilize Corn Maturities

In extremely hot weather, silks will emerge later than the tassel with the possibility of missing pollination. Pollen may die in hot weather before it reaches the silks. It is best to plant different maturing varieties in different fields.

Mixing varieties in the same field will only help the pollination of the early one. The later variety will not be helped. In 30 years of study, University of Wisconsin research by Paul Carter has found no advantage of mixing two or more hybrids together. In his studies, the yields of each variety grown alone was almost always better than when grown in a mixture.

To Prune Tree Branches

Warm days in February and March send many homeowners outdoors to start preparing the yard for spring, according to Dr. Tim Elkner, Lancaster County Extension Horticultural Agent. One chore for this time of year is

Franklin, 9:45 a.m.
Potato Day, Schnecksville Grange Hall, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Maryland/Delaware Peach School, Wye Research and Education Center, Queens-town, Md., 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Friday, March 3
Maryland Cattle Industry Convention, Four Points Sheraton, Hagerstown, Md., thru March 4.

Saturday, March 4
Maryland Jersey Cattle Club Awards Banquet, Libertytown Firehall, 10 a.m.
Philadelphia Flower Show, Philadelphia Convention Center, thru March 12.
Northeast Forest Landowner Conference, PP&L East

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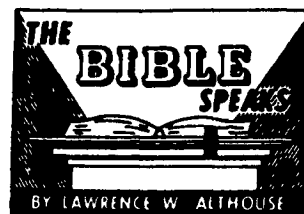
pruning trees in the landscape. Whether you are removing branches damaged by this year's snowfall or just improving the overall appearance of a tree, be sure to make your pruning cuts the proper way.

A properly made cut will result in rapid healing and decrease the chances of disease infection of the wound. Trees resist the entry and spread of disease and wood rotting fungi by forming protective barriers that isolate injured wood. Contained within the branch collar (the wider base of most branches) is an important barrier or protection zone that prevents the spread of decay.

The branch collar and the raised strip of bark, called the branch bark ridge, mark this important boundary between the branch and trunk. Pruning cuts that injure or eliminate the collar destroy the protection zone, leaving vulnerable tissues open to infection.

Therefore, the proper pruning cut is a cut made to the outside of the branch bark ridge and collar. Flush cuts must be avoided because they destroy the protection zone and leave large wounds that are difficult for trees to defend.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Clarity of purpose exposes the foundation of the inner heart."



THE SAME, BUT DIFFERENT!

Background Scripture:
Matthew 27:62 through 28:20.
Devotional Reading:
John 20:19-31.

A man challenged me, saying: "Surely as a preacher you must know that the resurrection accounts in the New Testament are unreliable. They don't agree about who did what, when they did it, what was said and done. They don't agree as to whether the Risen Christ was a flesh and blood person or a ghostly apparition. The gospel accounts sound like four or more different experiences!"

Yes, I do know that the resurrection experiences in the four gospels are really in disagreement about many of the details concerning the resurrection. Matthew, for example, mentions an earthquake, no minor detail, (28:2), while Mark, Luke and John do not. Matthew says that, on the way to tell the disciples the angel's message that Christ was risen, the women encounter the risen Jesus. John records the encounter but tells us that only Mary Magdalene was present. Luke and Mark say nothing about this incident.

Diverse Forms

Yet, even apart from these details, the risen Jesus they encounter appears in diverse forms: a recognizable physical body in Matthew 28:9, a seemingly physical Jesus who goes through solid walls and disappears in John 20:19-29 and Luke 24:13-25, an unassented body that Mary Magdalene is instructed not to touch (Jn. 20:17), a physical presence they are invited to touch and in which he joins them in eating some broiled fish (Lk. 24:36-43). Matthew, Mark and John agree that the resurrected Christ instructs them to go to Galilee, while Luke speaks of his farewell charge and ascension on the Mount of Olives (Lk. 24:44-49).

Even more troubling for some people is the fact that, although the risen Christ is for the most part represented as the Jesus they knew and followed, there are some who do not recognize him right away—Mary Magdalene in Jn. 20:11-17, the two disciples on the Emmaus road in Lk. 24:13-35 and some unnamed disciples of whom we are told in Mt. 28:17—"And when they saw him (in Galilee) they worshiped him; but some doubted."

Yes, I acknowledge all these discrepancies and others we do not have space to pursue. But, unlike the skeptic who concluded that these discrepancies make the gospels "unreliable," I reach an entirely different conclusion. If each of the four Evangelists had written virtually identical accounts of what Jesus said and did, I would be inclined to regard them as contrived and therefore unreliable. As a contemporary illustration, I submit that, although millions of people were either present or watching on television on the day that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, there is a wide divergence of opinion as to what happened when he was shot down.

A Paradox

More than that, however, the gospel discrepancies demonstrate that, although this event took place in history, it was much more than an historical event. All the cameras, recording devices and scientific instruments in repertoire could not have nailed down the details of these experiences of the risen Christ. In each of them there was a faith element that cannot be captured on film or recorded by computers. Some people encountered the risen Christ and their lives—as well as the world itself—were changed forever. As a result of this encounter, some ordinary men and women became extraordinary disciples of Jesus Christ. But some, whose doubts were more powerful than their apprehension of the risen Lord, "doubted" and from their freedom to doubt I gain the capacity to believe in the one who was the same Jesus they had known, yet different.

Actually, that is a demonstration of one of the key paradoxes of Christian belief. The historic church has declared that Jesus of Nazareth was fully human and yet fully divine. That is a paradoxical formula that allows us to hold two apparently contradictory beliefs in a creative unity that describes but does not define the nature of our risen Lord. The risen Christ was both the same as Jesus of Nazareth and yet different. It is that difference that has changed the world and us.

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—by—

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