



## Not A Farmer vs. Hunter Situation

We may see some objective deer management practices put into place in the near future if the report from a Lancaster hunter's meeting is any indication of a new trend in thinking about the subject. Dr. Gary Alt, who heads the Pennsylvania Game Commission's new deer management section, told the more than 300 hunters in the meeting to get ready for fewer deer. The reason? Too many deer are eating Pennsylvania's forests to death.

Ad Crable, New Era staff writer, reports that unless hunters are willing to tolerate fewer deer in the short term and join together to rebuild healthy woods, they stand to lose their beloved sport to a non-hunting public on the verge of an uprising.

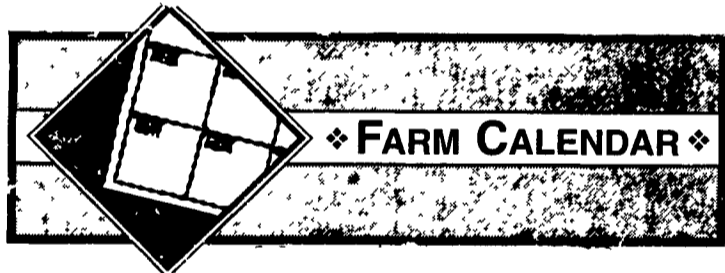
Motorists are fed up with crashing into deer. And environmentalists want to see native plants and woods-loving birds and an ecosystem in balance. But it's farmers who really lose financially when they have as many deer in their pastures, hay fields and cornfields as they have cows in the milking barn.

Up until now, the farmer's voice has been largely disregarded. The general public doesn't care how much the farmer loses in crop production as long as the beautiful white tail can get fat and multiply on alfalfa and corn. But now that hunters can't find buck in the woods because they don't have enough food, thinning the deer herd seems more palatable.

"The expectations go way beyond hunting," Dr. Alt warned. "We have very damaged forests. We are either going to fix this problem, or it's going to fix us."

We suspect that many of the deer have left these damaged forests for the hay-field feeding grounds many miles away from the woods. And to be successful, any plan to bring the deer population into balance with nature will need to take into consideration this crop-predator phenomena that is also part of the deer management equation. We hasten to say that many farmers are hunters and they like to show off the big trophy buck they bagged the first day of hunting as well as anyone.

This is not a farmer vs. hunter situation. It's about the need for proper conservation management of a wild animal specie that has been deprived of its natural enemies to keep its numbers in control. It's gratifying that we may now have someone in the proper place in the state game commission who has a vision to do something about it.



### 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 Mountain Business Center, Wilkes-Barre.

Fellowship of Christian Farmers Luncheon, Wilhelm LTD, Westminster, Md., 11:30 a.m.

Agritourism: A Farm Alternative, Nixon's Farm, West Friendship, Md., 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

### Sunday, March 5

2000 Philadelphia Flower Show, Pennsylvania Convention Center, thru March 12.

### Monday, March 6

Northwest Pennsylvania Cattlemen Meeting, Mercer County Extension Center, 7 p.m.

Nutrient Management Workshop, 4-H Center, Bedford, 10 a.m.-noon.

Octorara Young Farmers meeting, Forage Management, Octorara High School, 7:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, March 7

Solanco Young Farmer Computer Education, Solanco High School, 7:30 p.m.

Horse Pasture Management School, Lehigh County Extension, also March 14 and 21.

Dairy Day, Limestone Firehall, Limestone, 9:30 a.m.-3:30

p.m.

Penn Manor Ag Department Pesticide Use Meeting, Penn Manor High School, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

p.m.

Forest Landowner Workshops, Warren Public Library, 6 p.m.-9 p.m., also March 9.

Chester County Holstein Tour To York County and Maryland, leave Sam Stoltzfus, Parkesburg, 7:45 a.m.

### Wednesday, March 8

Mounting A Successful Reproduction Program, Edgewood Restaurant, Troy.

Field Crop IPM, Weed, Insect, and Disease Management, Lebanon Valley Ag Center, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Pa. Ag In 21st Century Second Annual Conference, Holiday Inn, Grantville, thru March 9.

Pasture Management School, Holiday Inn, Phillipsburg, N.J., also March 15 and 23.

### Thursday, March 9

Schuylkill County Crops Clinic, Penn State Schuylkill Campus, Schuylkill Haven, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Southwest Pennsylvania Dairy Day, Mountain View Inn, Greensburg.

Cooperatives: An Inside Look, Morrison's Cove Memorial Park, Martinsburg, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Labor Management On The Farm, Penn State Lewistown Center, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

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

### To Form Agricultural Security Areas

In 1981 Pennsylvania passed the Agricultural Area Security Law.

Agricultural Security Areas are a tool for strengthening and protecting agriculture in Pennsylvania. These are areas in which agriculture is the primary activity. Participating farmers are entitled to special considerations from local and state government agencies, thus encouraging the continuing use of the land for productive agricultural purposes. The local government unit may not impose ordinances that unreasonably restrict farm structures or practices within the Area, nor may normal farming operations and practices be deemed "nuisances" in a nuisance ordinance. If we are to maintain farming in townships, local farmers must take steps to insure local officials support modern farming operations. Local citizen groups opposed to modern farming practices are hiring attorneys and consultants to help them encourage township supervisors to enact ordinances to protect against new "factory farms". The future of your farm business could depend on you being in an Agricultural Security Area with township ordinances that support agricultural development and growth in these Areas.

### To Have The Right Attitude About Vegetable Production

Many farmers are considering growing vegetables as a way to increase farm income or an alternative crop to tobacco. However, many farmers have the wrong perception what it takes to grow vegetables. Many are approaching vegetable growing as an extension of the family garden.

This will probably lead to failure. If you are considering growing vegetables, you need to approach this farm enterprise the same way as any other farm enterprise. Jeff Stoltzfus, Eastern Lancaster County School District Adult Farmer Instructor, gives these tips to new vegetable growers. Use plastic mulch. Use drip irrigation. Spread out your plantings. Have a plan as to how you are going to market your crops. Learn the spray and culture program for your crops. and

Concentrate on a few crops. Remember, to be successful in vegetable production you will need to invest your time in learning about vegetable production, labor to produce crop and market the crop and money to buy the necessary equipment and supplies to produce a marketable crop. If you are not willing to make these investments, you

should not consider vegetable farming.

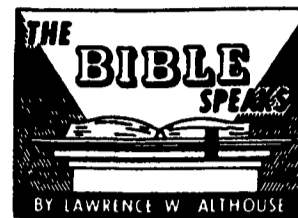
**To Grow Vegetables Correctly**  
Jeff Stoltzfus, Eastern Lancaster County School District Adult Farmer Instructor, offers the following tips for farmers starting out in vegetable production.

1. Use plastic mulch and drip irrigation. In addition to better yields and more uniform fruit, they provide some weed control, disease control and optimum moisture throughout the season.
2. Know your market. If you are growing for the auction,

know the varieties the buyers like. Unpopular varieties are heavily discounted. Roadside market customers may like some varieties that are hard to sell at the auction.

3. Concentrate on a few crops. Many new growers start out with too many crops and have difficulty managing them. Pick a couple of crops to start with. Add other crops as your expertise grows.
4. Learn all you can about the crops you are growing.

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### IS CHRIST DIVIDED?

March 5, 2000

Background Scripture:

1 Corinthians 1:1-17

Devotional Reading:

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth is probably one which he would have preferred not to have to write. It is a deeply concerned letter to a "problem church" courting disaster. The situation is doubly disturbing because this church was clearly one of Paul's favorites. He himself had founded it and labored diligently to nurture it. Now, however, the Corinthian church was struggling, not only within itself, but also with Paul. So, we might expect him to begin this crucial letter in a somber or even angry tone.

Paul, however, begins with thanksgiving because he finds both good news and bad news reaching him from Corinth. The good news was that the church in Corinth was spiritually gifted, advanced in their understanding of Christ, and eloquent in proclaiming the gospel. For all of this Paul is deeply thankful to God and he begins his letter with praise, instead of reproach: "I give thanks to God always for you because the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you are enriched in him with all speech and all knowledge... so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift..." (1:4,5,7). Paul is saying in effect, you people are wonderfully blessed with spiritual riches.

Now, is Paul merely buttering them up before he gets down to brass tacks? Is this just a clever technique for winning them back to his leadership? Or is it indicative that Paul sees some things in this church that the people there have been missing. Is Paul trying to help them see some strengths and graces that they are overlooking?

### Focusing on the 'Bad News'

Perhaps you have noticed that, when there are difficulties and disappointments in life, we seem able to concentrate only what we are losing or have lost.

Because we focus on failure, defeat and hopelessness, that is all we see. If you believe you are going to hear only 'bad news,' that is exactly what you are going to hear. The problem is not whether there is any bad news, but whether that is all the

news there is.

I have known some 'problem churches' over the years and I have found that Paul is right: every church has assets as well as liabilities. If we can't find those positives, it is most likely because we are just focusing on the negatives. You will never solve problems and conflicts in the church so long as you fail to take your eyes off the negatives.

Having begun with the good news, Paul turns to the bad news which can be viewed now from the platform of the good news. In other words, the problems of the Corinthian church can now be seen from the perspective of what is right with the Corinthian church. Paul says, "For it has been reported to me by Cloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren." This quarreling has caused the Christian community to split into factions; Paul's people, Apollo's people, Cephas's people and some who haughtily call themselves "Christ's people."

### We Can Over Come

Note that Paul doesn't regard this as a hopeless situation. He still thinks that there is an opportunity to overcome the factions. "I appeal to you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you may be united in the same mind and the same judgment" (1:10).

Then he asks a question which is just as necessary today as it was then: "Is Christ divided?" (1:13). If we base our discipleship on Jesus Christ and him alone, then we cannot, must not, be divided, because Christ himself is undivided.

Whenever there are factions in the church, we must ask: "Is Christ divided?" Whenever barriers keep us from greeting, embracing and joining ourselves in witness and service with other followers of Christ in his name, we must ask ourselves: "Is Christ divided?" When we identify ourselves and our faith, not primarily in the name of Jesus Christ, but of John Wesley, Martin Luther, John Calvin and you fill-in the blanks—we must ask that question and be obedient when God thunders or whispers—"NO!"

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