

Lancaster Farming

OPINION

4-H, A Great Asset

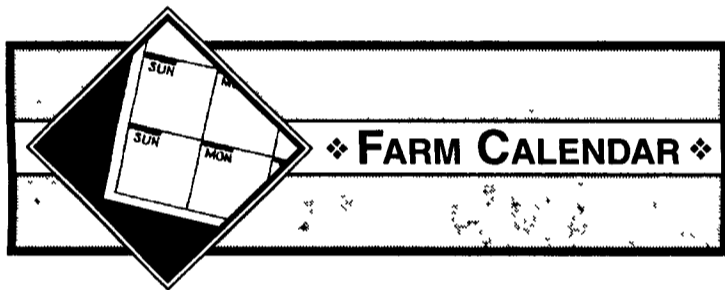
Pennsylvania celebrates 4-H Awareness Week from March 12 to 18. Young people between the ages of 8 and 19 develop leadership, citizenship, interpersonal, and workforce skills in a wide variety of 4-H programs. These programs fall within four major academic disciplines: biological sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities, and physical sciences.

The 4-H program across the nation runs on "To make the best better". And so they do. More than 6,512,600 youth are involved in pledging their heads to clearer thinking, their hearts to greater loyalty, their hands to larger service, and their health to better living.

Because of the large number of minority youth and youth that live in cities, 4-H has become a unique opportunity for extension, the 4-H clubs, and their volunteer leaders to acquaint the future generation with the positive story of agriculture. Only 11 percent of 4-Hers live on farms, but the Philadelphia Cooperative Extension of the Pennsylvania State University also subscribes to Lancaster Farming. As this only one example of city involvement in 4-H, we are sure this helps to bridge the gap between farm and city.

In all, 625,486 volunteer leaders worked directly or indirectly with youth. The average 4-H volunteer spends approximately 220 hours per year with 4-H, and drives an average of 300 to 400 miles in a personally owned car. With an average of \$50 personal money spent in service as a volunteer, this contribution to the program amounts to approximately \$1.9 billion per year. Private sector partners invest almost \$100 million annually through local, state, and national 4-H youth development programs.

All this to say that the organization founded in 1902 has grown to include the wide-range of interests of today's young people. The agriculture heritage is still alive and well. But today's 4-Hers also design web pages, participate in mock legislature, organize community clean up, and deliver speeches. What a wonderful asset 4-H is to American society. Keep up the good work.



Saturday, March 11

- Garden Wise — Conference For Gardeners and Green Industry Employees, York 4-H Center, Bair, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- New and Beginning Farmer Workshop, Paxtonville United Methodist Church, Middleburg, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Woodland Owner Conference, Penns Inn, Pa. College of Technology Campus, Williamsport.
- Home Gardener's School, Mifflinburg High School, Mifflinburg.
- Pequea-Mill Creek Water Quality, Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project, Spring Frolic, Meet Lions Park, Intercourse, 9 a.m.
- Eastern Bison 4th Annual Show and Sale and Winter Conference, Pa. Farm Show Complex, noon.
- Wyoming County Annual Winter Lambing School, Department of Ag Building, Tunkhannock, 10 a.m.-noon.

Sunday, March 12

- New and Beginning Farmer Workshop, Holiday Inn, Grantville.
- Wineries Unlimited 2000, Lancaster Host Hotel, thru March 16.
- Turf and Ornamental Pest Control Seminar, The Chadwick, Wexford, 1 p.m.
- N.Y. Stone Fruit In-Depth School, Ramada Inn, Geneva, N.Y., thru March 14.
- Poultry Management and Health Seminar, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, noon.

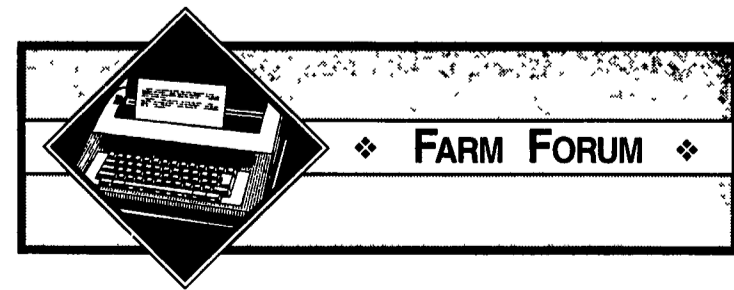
Monday, March 13

Tuesday, March 14

- Labor Management On The Farm, Arena Restaurant, Bedford, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Appalachian Fruit Growers Annual Winter Meeting, Arena Restaurant, Bedford.
- Penn State Milking School, Morrisons Cove Community Center.
- Bradford County Agronomy Day, Wysox Fire Hall, 9 a.m.
- Solanco Young Farmers Association Annual Tour, meet at Smith Middle School Parking Lot, 8 a.m.
- Calf Raising Workshop, Hoss's Restaurant, Belle Vernon, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Wednesday, March 15

- DHIA Meeting With George Cudoc, York Extension Office, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Commercial Vegetable Meeting, Schaefferstown Fire Hall, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Calf Raising Workshop, Browns Country Kitchen, Portersville, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.



Editor:

The article about dairy farms, Get Bigger-Better-Or Out, wasn't worth printing. Us farmers are big enough and good enough to supply the demand so



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Avoid Soil Compaction

According to Dr. Doug Beegle, Penn State Extension Soil Scientist, when a soil is compacted by a heavy load, such as a manure spreader, the structure of the soil is destroyed. The compaction decreases the amount of pore space in the soil. Adequate pore space is important for air, water and nutrient movement in the soil. It is also important for root growth. For example, a 10 percent reduction in pore space may result in a 4 times increase in root resistance, meaning the plant roots will not be able to penetrate the soil to receive water and nutrients needed for optimum growth.

To Avoid Soil Compaction When Applying Manure

During the past decade, many articles have been written emphasizing the importance of applying nutrients in amounts which match closely the nutrient needs of the crop being grown. Robert Anderson, Lancaster

County Extension Agronomy Agent, reminds us an area on manure application which has been forgotten and may have a negative effect on crop yields is the effect application equipment has on soil structure.

Anderson has observed soils seem much more compacted on dairy farms with manure storage than do dairy farms without storage. The major contributors to soil compaction are heavy loads like manure spreaders on wet soils. As manure storage becomes more popular, the period of time used to spread manure becomes shorter and the equipment gets bigger. The two most popular times to spread manure is fall and early spring. These are also times when soils are most often wet. Compaction may be minimized in

Gypsy Moth Suppression Program, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, Md., 6:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 16

Dairy Employee Milkier's Training (Turn to Page A39)

several ways. Avoid driving heavy loads on wet soils. Spread out the weight as much as possible with multiple axles and tires. Use radial tires. Do not overload when soils are wet.

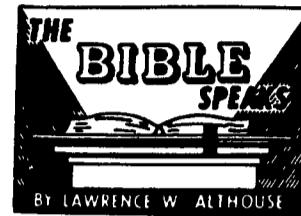
To Be Safe With Electricity

Chester Hughes, Lancaster County Extension Livestock Agent, reminds us that electrocutions rank among one of the top hazards that claim farm lives every year. The more obvious incidents include making repairs on electrical equipment without disconnecting the circuit or not locking out the circuit so someone may accidentally turn it back on while you are repairing

the equipment. Also, unexpected contact with power lines claims victims. Raised truck beds, grain augers and raised tractor loaders can contact power lines with fatal results. Electrical safety tips on the farm include: Keep all farm wiring in good condition.

Disconnect circuits and label them before attempting repairs. Do not attempt electrical work beyond your abilities. Avoid contacting power lines with equipment such as grain augers, raised truck beds and tractor loaders.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "Always use the word impossible with the greatest caution."



WISDOM WITHOUT POWER

March 12, 2000

Background Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2 through 3
Devotional Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

At the turn of the new year, century and millennium, there have been an unusual number of newspaper stories, magazine articles and television programs about Jesus Christ and the Christian faith. Of course, I have joined with others in welcoming this spurt of interest in the person and message of Jesus Christ.

Yet, among the things I read and saw on television, I found that, for all their interest, they never came close to the meaning of Jesus Christ. Often, he was treated as one more of history's celebrities in whom people then and now either believe or disbelieve. None, it appeared to me, explored what it means to follow him.

Believing in Jesus Christ is not enough—you can measure that with a public poll. Jesus did not ask for people to believe in him, but to, "Follow me." The writer of the Epistle of James says, "Even the demons believe and shudder" (Jas. 2:19). Of course James is using the word "believe" in the intellectual sense—to believe with the mind. There are hundreds of things that I believe with my mind, but do not necessarily believe with my being, my life. Faith is not simply a mental proposition to which we give mental assent, but a conviction that can transform us and our lives. So it is quite possible to believe in Jesus Christ, but not live as his disciple.

Demonstration of the Spirit

I am an avid reader and have loved books since I first began to read. Many authors and books have had a profound effect upon my life, especially the Bible itself. The wisdom of the spoken and printed word is awesome, but Christian discipleship is not based primarily upon twenty centuries of Christian wisdom, helpful as that wisdom may be. If I had never witnessed that wisdom incarnate in others, in what they are and do, if I had not experienced it in my own life, I would have neither the motivation nor power to be a follower of Jesus Christ. As Paul says to the Corinthians: "my

speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power, that your faith might rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God" (1 Cor. 2:4,5).

The seductive danger of human wisdom is that it all too easily becomes a substitute for the power of God. Many people would rather argue about Christ than actually follow him. Human wisdom, wonderful as it is, is always a wide open door to human arrogance, for when we think we have been able to entrap the essence of God into our human words and formulations, we blaspheme the God revealed in Christ. Any encounter with the Lord ought to turn us in the direction of abject humility, not arrogant pride. How we believe and how we explain what we believe ought never to take the place of following Christ.

Words and Deeds

But, isn't it enough to 'believe' in Jesus Christ?, you may ask. My answer—yes it is, so long as the beliefs go beyond mere mental ideas and assent. Confessing Jesus Christ as Lord with your lips is only the beginning of discipleship, for we must also confess Christ with our lives. Words must not become more important than deeds. When Paul says, "And we impart this in words not taught by the Spirit" (2:13), he is testifying once again to superiority of power over mere words. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God is the source of that power.

Paul is not putting down wisdom per se, nor am I. He is simply pointing out the limits of human wisdom and contrasting "the wisdom of this age" with the "secret and hidden wisdom of God," mediated not so much in ideas as in the power of the Spirit. Jesus both taught and demonstrated the need for repentance, the power of love, the imperative for forgiveness, the redeeming sacrifice of the cross, and the transforming force of the resurrection—all or most of these still regarded by the world as so much foolishness, so contrary to the wisdom of the world.

Yet it is the words of human wisdom without power that are the true foolishness.

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—by—

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