

Lancaster Farming

OPINION

Another Hard Decision

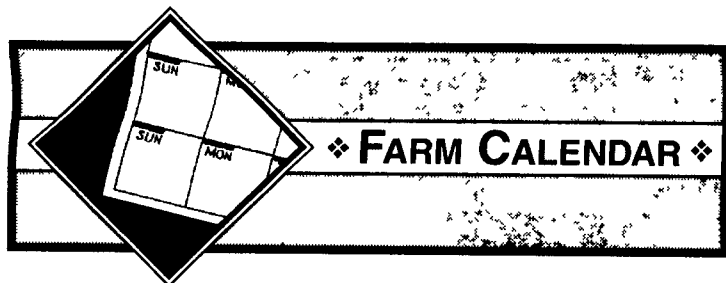
Cornell University scientists have demonstrated that creating a refuge in a crop field reduces the chance of insects developing resistance to transgenic insecticidal plants. Researchers report on their findings in the current issue of the journal "Nature Biotechnology."

When trials were done with a random mix in the rows, or with a separate refuge in which the non-Bt plants were grown next to the Bt plants, the trials indicated a separate refuge would be more effective in keeping the insects from becoming Bt-resistant. This is just more evidence that those in charge of biotechnology are working to find the best and safest way to use the new methods of farming. We admit they have an economic stake in finding the best way to use their products. But economics has always been the American way of life.

Unfortunately the facts of biotechnology are often not accepted by consumers and the market place. Genetically engineered plants have been developed that allow farmers to use considerably fewer chemicals in production of the crop. This is good for the environment, any way you look at it. But now, farmers are in a quandary. They know the biotech crops produce more with less and safer inputs and answers one of the main complaints about agriculture by the environmentalists.

But the refusal of the export markets to accept these products has farmers wondering if they should take advantage of this new production advantage. According to a recent survey study done by Farm Progress Companies, 80 percent of grain elevators throughout the corn belt have said they are planning to accept biotech corn grain containing Bt and LibertyLink traits in the fall of 2000. And 88 percent will accept biotech soybeans. Most of them do not export any grain.

But the question has been raised. And some farmers, we have no idea how many, will take the option to not grow biotech grains this year, to be sure of a market. That's a shame, because the farm must be run by the whims of the opponents of agriculture rather than run by good management and environmental practices.



Saturday, March 18

Grape Expectations — A Viticultural and Enological Symposium, Forsgate Country Club, Jamesburg, N.J.

Garden Symposium, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 8 a.m.

University of Maryland Ice Cream Course, Dept. of Animal and Avian Sciences, College Park, Md., thru March 21.

Food For Profit Seminar, Mountain View Inn, Clifford, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Maryland Department of Agriculture 13th Open House, Annapolis, Md., 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sunday, March 19

Monday, March 20

National Association Applied Food Service Sanitation Certification Course, Penn State Berks County Ag Center, Leesport, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., also March 27 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and April 10 9 a.m.-noon.

Using Microsoft Word For Business Workshop, Technology Training Center, County Annex Building, York, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Rally For Rural America, U.S. Capitol Building, Washington, thru March 21.

Barn Meeting, The New John's Control Program, Kevin and Gerada Burleigh Farm, Pleasant Mount, 1:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

Tuesday, March 21

South Central Pa. Cattlemen's Association Banquet, Dover

Fire Hall, 7 p.m.

Mercer County Sheep and Wool Growers Annual Meeting, Mercer County Extension Center, 6:30 p.m.

Marketing Livestock Products Workshop, Cambria County Extension Office, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Farmers Market Planning Workshop, Corning In-Town Promotions Office.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization, Campus Center, Allegheny College, Meadville.

Capitol Region Pasture Management Workshop, Lebanon County Ag Center, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Northwest Athletic Field Turf and Ornamentals Conference, Allegheny College, Campus Center, Meadville, 8 a.m.

Cooperative Resources International Meeting, Syracuse, N.Y.

Wednesday, March 22

Lehigh Valley Horse Council Meeting and Lecture, American Legion Post 367, Fullerton, 7:30 p.m.

Twin Valley FFA American Ag Day Breakfast, Twin Valley High School, 6:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 23

Pesticide Update Meeting, Lebanon Valley Ag Center.

Employee and Nutrition Meeting, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster.

Training Dairy Feeding Employees, Brubaker Farms,

Now Is The Time
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Control

Winter Annual Weeds

Winter annual weeds create many management problems and reduce yields in alfalfa fields, according to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent. Winter annual weeds germinate in the late summer and early fall, grow during the winter and go to seed in late spring. Their life cycle allows them to compete aggressively with perennial forage crops like alfalfa by producing a dense ground cover by early spring which crowds the crop. In addition, with a heavy growth of winter annual weeds like chickweed and henbit in the first cutting, alfalfa dries much slower, making the cutting more susceptible to field losses and reducing its feeding value.

To Select

Winter Annual Weed Control Products

Winter annual weeds are not extremely difficult to control, according to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent. However, the number of herbicides which will control winter annual weeds are limited and each has some restrictions. The most commonly used product is Gramoxone. Gramoxone works extremely well on winter annual weeds provided spray coverage is good. If weeds become too large and coverage is inadequate, control will be less successful.

Gramoxone may not be applied to alfalfa after one inch of growth in the spring. A second herbicide is metribuzin, which includes both Lexone and Sencor. They are effective on winter annual broadleaves and some grasses. However, they must be applied before any spring re-growth. Sinbar is another product. It must be applied during dormancy and before weeds are two inches high or wide.

Sinbar also has a two year rotational restriction along with a restriction to not use on grass mixtures. Another product is Velpar. Velpar is effective on winter annual broadleaves and some grasses and will suppress dandelions. It must be applied after dormancy and before two inches of spring re-growth. It also has a rotational restriction for 12 months for certain crops. As always, make sure you read, understand and follow all label instructions before using any pesticide.

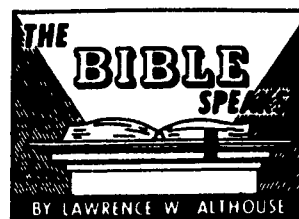
Mount Joy, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Maryland State Holstein Convention, Grantsville Holiday (Turn to Page A11)

To Develop First Aid Kit

Most kids will not escape childhood without a few bruises, scraped knees or cut fingers. According to National SAFE KIDS Campaign, the most important thing an adult can do when a child suffers an injury is to act fast. The following list of first aid essentials should be on hand in every household.

1. Sterile gauze pads.
2. Sterile adhesive bandages in different sizes.
3. Rolls of stretchable sterile gauze to hold dressings in place.
4. Sterile adhesive tape.
5. Cotton balls.
6. Large sterile triangular bandage to use as a sling or for applying pressure to a wound.



WHO'S GOT THE 'RIGHT' LEADER? March 19, 2000

Background Scripture:

1 Corinthians 4:1-13

Devotional Reading:

1 Peter 5:1-11

Sometimes I surf the TV channels to look in on one or more of the various televangelists. I am often fascinated with the sheer power of these charismatic men and women. I use the word 'charismatic' here in its general sense as "gifted by God." I am happy to hear and see the Gospel preached to so many people. Sometimes within the name-brand denominations we also find gifted leaders who have the power to draw large numbers of people to come to their churches.

The tremendous powers of gifted preachers and teachers can be both positive and negative. While many people will hear from them the gospel in a most convincing manner, there is always the danger that people will come to believe in the preacher rather than what is preached. I don't mean that it is dangerous to believe in the preacher as a channel of God's revelation, but it is dangerous to believe that he or she is therefore the sole channel or one that is infallible. They are still human beings with all the limitations and weaknesses of human nature.

The "Right" Faction

Paul was the father of the Corinthian church. After Paul left Corinth, the church gradually broke down into factions, each headed by a leader or leaders who apparently claimed special revelation from God. These leaders each claimed the most authentic gospel. Some of this resistance was even directed against Paul and obviously some of the other Corinthians wanted Paul to tell them which faction was the 'right' one.

How does Paul meet this crisis? First, he reminds these leaders that they are all "servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God" (1 Co. 4:1). Just because they are teachers and leaders does not mean they are anything more than Christ's "servants" and "stewards." The gospel is entrusted to them temporarily to preserve and transmit. So, they work for Christ, not themselves. All of us who are so quick and

7. Antibiotic ointment such as Neosporin.

8. Antiseptic wipes or antiseptic solution such as Betadine.

9. Blunt tipped scissors for cutting bandages, and

10. Tweezers for removing splinters. For bleeding that does not stop after five minutes of direct pressure, animal bites, gaping cuts more than 1 1/2 inch deep, injuries caused by dirty objects, deep puncture wounds or wounds on your child's face, neck, head or the palm side of hands, parents are advised to seek prompt medical treatment.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: 'Small opportunities are often the beginning of great achievements.'

ready to do battle with those whose ideas differ from ours or who worship and serve differently need to remember that all of us are no more than Christ's humble servants.

Secondly, Paul tells them that "with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court" (4:3). Is Paul saying that he doesn't care about their judgment of him? No, he is saying that, compared to the judgment of God, their judgment of him is "a very small thing." We wish that everyone liked us and approved of us, but we must always remember that pleasing God is what really matters.

Clean Slate vs. Clean Conscience

Paul goes on to say what, at first look, may sound smug and self-righteous: "I do not even judge myself. I am not aware of anything against myself . . ." If he had stopped there, Paul would definitely be arrogant, but he goes on to say, "but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me" (4:4). Paul is not bragging about his righteousness, but reminding us all that it is not our own judgment, but that of God that is final and foremost. A "clean" though faulty conscience is not the same as a "clean slate."

Called to be disciples of Christ, we all too often become judges of others. yet, none of us—without exception—have the qualifications to be judges of others. Put simply, it means we are not God and judgement of the souls of others belongs strictly to him. "Therefore," warns Paul, "do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes" (4:5). Some of the Corinthians are acting as if Christ had already returned. Paul uses sarcasm here: "Already you are filled! Already you have become rich!"

Paul, however, is sarcastic for only a moment. He will persevere, not with painful words but a witness that is much more powerful: "When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate . . ." (4:13). That is the way of Christ, the only "right leader."

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—by—

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