



Lancaster Farming

OPINION

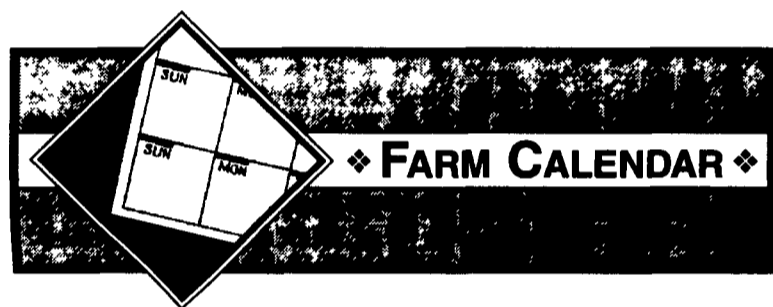
Pennies On The Dollar

Have you ever thought about how small the part of what the consumer pays for food really goes to the farmer? In a recent issue of Western Livestock Reporter, the real food dollar was revealed under the title "Farm Share Pennies of Food Dollar."

Based on Washington-area food prices and the U.S. Department of Agriculture figures, the farmer's share of a box of cereal that costs \$3.71 in the grocery store is 4.6 cents. In a loaf of bread, the farmer gets 5 cents out of \$1.39; 68 cents out of the \$4.39 for a pound of sirloin steak; \$1.05 from \$5.91 for a pound of cheddar cheese; 3.3 cents out of \$1.99 for a package of potato chips; 9 cents of \$1.29 for a head of lettuce; and 40 cents of the \$3.29 the consumer pays for a pound of bacon.

The dramatic difference between prices paid to farmers and retail food prices was the focus of a "Farmer's Share Luncheon" held recently in conjunction with National Agriculture Day. More than 1,500 farmers and ranchers from around the country attended. The price of the meal was 39 cents—the amount the farmers received for a beef sandwich, baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw, milk, and a cookie.

Between depressed commodity prices and anti-competitive agricultural markets, farmers and being squeezed to the financial breaking point. Participants at the meal called on Congress and the administration to change farm policy to ensure farmers and ranchers receive a fair price for their commodities. It is just as important to let consumers know what a really good buy they get each week when they figure the family food budget. Therefore, we recommend all farmers reading this editorial make copies and send them to every city person they know. We're sure most of the people who eat have no idea what their food dollar pays for.



Saturday, April 29
 University of Delaware Ag Day 2000, Newark, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Sheep Foot Trimming Clinic, Buffalo Mountain Hampshires, Buffalo Mills, 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
 Wayne County Holstein Sale, Wayne County Fairgrounds, Honesdale, 12 p.m.
 Sheep and Wool Day, Springton Manor Farm, Downingtown, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 4-H Forestry Field Day, Rockspring, 10 a.m.
 International Highland Pen Sale, Empire Livestock barns, Bath, N.Y.
 Regional Alpaca Show, Pa. Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru April 30.
 Spring Garden Kickoff, Penn State Master Gardeners, Donehoe Center, Greensburg, 9 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
 Del Val College "A-Day," college campus, Doylestown, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday, April 30
 4-H Capitol days, thru May 2.
 Wissahickon Day Parade, begins at Northwestern Equestrian Facility, Harpers Meadow, near Phila.

Monday, May 1
 11th Annual Dauphin County Envirothon, Dauphin County Ag and Natural Resources Center, Dauphin, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, May 2
 Lancaster/York Fruit Growers Twilight Meeting, Kauffman's Orchard, Bird In Hand, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 3
 Solar Pump Demo Day, Rocky Acres Polled Hereford Farm, demo at Fisher Farm, near Green Lane Park, tours 10 a.m., 2 p.m., and 6 p.m.

Thursday, May 4

Saturday, May 6
 Regional Highland Cattle Show and Sale, York 4-H Facility, 10 a.m.
 Spring Fling Scavenger Hunt, Ludwig's Corner Riding and Driving Club, Marsh Creek Park, Glenmoore, 9 a.m. (rain date May 7).
 Forensic Forestry, Florence Lockhart Nimick Nature Center, Rector, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sunday, May 7

Monday, May 8
 Poultry Management and Health Seminar, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, noon.

Tuesday, May 9
 Regional Twilight Fruit and Small Fruit Meeting, Blyler Orchards, Spring Glen, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 10

Thursday, May 11

Friday, May 12
 Pa. Fair at Philadelphia Park, thru May 29.

Saturday, May 13
 Western Pa. Sheep and Club Lamb Sale, Mercer County 4-H Park, Mercer, 6:30 p.m.
 Northeast Production Select IX Sale, Hereford Sale, Cooperative Extension, Morrisville, N.Y., 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 14
 Willowdale Steeplechase, Kennett Square.

Monday, May 15
 PennAg Industries Spring Poultry Banquet, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey.

Tuesday, May 16
 Current Advancements and Issues In Equine Health, Holiday Inn, Phillipsburg, N.J., 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.



Now Is The Time
 By John Schwartz
 Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Monitor Alfalfa Weevil
 We are receiving reports concerning injury from alfalfa weevil in the southern parts of Pennsylvania. According to Dr. Dennis Calvin, Penn State Entomologist, it appears that the damage that is being observed is from larvae that hatched from over wintering eggs or there is a very high number of early instar larvae from eggs laid by over wintering adults.

This year has a high potential for significant injury by alfalfa weevil. Last year was very dry, which prevented a fungal pathogen of the weevil from causing high mortality. Also, the relatively mild winter means there may have been good survival of both eggs and adults. Given the current observations of injury, it is important to monitor the weevil's development closely to make sure the alfalfa is not injured beyond ability to recover.

To Determine Alfalfa Weevil Threshold
 Typically, damage symptoms from alfalfa weevil begin to show around 300 degree days when larvae reach the third instar, reports Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent. It is during this period that 80 percent of their feeding occurs.

Local weather statistics show that the Lancaster area has only accumulated 75 to 80 degree days as of April 23. Therefore, we are about one week away from reaching 300 degree days. Typically, alfalfa outgrows early damage from the larvae that result from over wintering eggs. However, it can look bad because alfalfa is growing slowly at this time.

Dr. Dennis Calvin, Penn State Entomologist, states unless at least 75 percent of the foliage is being removed, it typically does not pay to apply an insecticide. However, if there is the possibility

Wednesday, May 17
 Horse Pasture Management Workshop, East Hanover Township Municipal Building, Shellsville, also May 24.

Friday, May 19
 Gettysburg Fair, thru May 21.

Saturday, May 20
 Lebanon County Rabbit Convention, Lebanon Fairgrounds.
 Capitol Area Beekeepers Short Course on Basic Beekeeping, Milton Hershey Farm Conference Center and Apiary, Hershey, noon-5 p.m.

Tuesday, May 23
 Horse Pasture Management Meeting, Westmoreland County extension office, 7:30 p.m.
 PennAg Industries Divots For Degrees Golf Tournament, Foxchase Golf Club, Stevens, 7:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. (double shotgun).

that the larvae will feed on the new shoots, then a treatment is warranted.

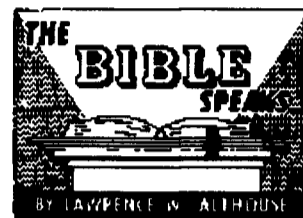
Insecticide applied at this time will miss larvae from eggs laid by over wintering adults. If an insecticide is chosen, it would be best to apply Warrior, Baythroid or Furdan because of their long residual. Another option would be to spray with a short residual, cheaper material and retreat later if necessary.

To Lift Properly

Lifting is an everyday occurrence and essential activity for a farmer, yet many are limited in what lifting they may do because of a sore or injured back. Back injuries may be prevented if the lift is completed in a safe and controlled manner.

To prevent the occurrence of back injuries a few simple principles should be followed. 1. Avoid bending at your waist by bending at your knees. 2. Keep your head and shoulders up to help prevent bending your back. 3. Tighten your stomach muscles to brace your back. 4. Keep the object you are lifting close to your body and avoid reaching when retrieving or placing the object. 5. Avoid twisting your back by stepping with your feet. and 6. Make larger jobs simpler by breaking a big task into smaller ones. By following these steps, you will help prevent back injuries from occurring.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "On the road to success, you can be sure of one thing - there is never a crowd on the extra mile."



NO WAY TO SAY IT
 April 30, 2000

Background Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:31 through 13:13.

Devotional Reading: Romans 1 John 4:17-21.

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul has been speaking of the gracious spiritual gifts which God bestows upon his children "for the common good." Among these gifts are the utterance of wisdom, the utterance of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, the working of miracles, prophecy, the ability to distinguish between the gifts, various kinds of tongues, the interpretation of tongues, helping, administration and apostleship (12:8-10, 28). All of these gifts are given to us to share in the body of Christ and all are important and needed. Paul ends his list with this admonition: "But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way" (12:31). Paul goes on, then, in chapter 13 to show us this "higher" gift, this "more excellent way." The answer, of course, is love. (Please remember that, when he wrote this letter to Corinth, he did not write it in chapters and verses, so that what he says in 1 Cor. 12 simply flows on into 1 Cor. 13—just as your letters are probably written. The chapters and verses were put in hundreds of years later to help people in reading and remembering what Paul wrote.) Actually, although this passage flows like poetry, Paul addresses himself to three tasks: the superiority of love (vs.1-3), its nature (vs. 4-7) and its permanence (vs. 8-13).

Christians often are confused by the meaning of the word which is translated into English as "love." Paul, of course, is not writing in English, but Greek, and while there is but one English word for 'love,' there are three in Greek. Paul could have used the word eros, which means 'affection for an adorable object.' But Paul did not use eros because this would so greatly reduce the scope of love. One of the reasons we have difficulty in bestowing Christian love is that we find so many who need it 'unadorable objects'!

He might also have used the word philia, often translated as "brotherly love" or "friendship." Yet, obviously this word would not do either, because Christ called us beyond the sentimentality of kin and kindred to love those who are NOT our "friends." Nor is this love common charity. The King James version translators were influenced by the Latin word caritas, which they translated in the

KJV as 'charity.' But this, too, is inadequate for Paul is not talking about the human quality of benevolence, but of the divine graciousness revealed in Jesus Christ.

Against Our Feelings So, Paul used agape, the undeserved, unreturnable love which we have received from God, a love to which we can only respond by bestowing that same kind of love on our undeserving fellow men, women and children. This greatest and most enduring love is to be bestowed with no qualifications whatsoever and with no expectations of reward, even from the recipients. We do not have "feel" loving in order to bestow this love, in fact, we are often called to be loving even though it goes against our "feelings."

This is not to say that eros and philia are not love, but that they fall short of Christlike love. They are fine, so far as they go, but they are not everlasting as agape is. They are transactional love—I will do this if you do that. I will be this if you will be that. But agape is non-transactional, it is not a deal, it is not quid pro quo, but grace, the love that is not merited, nor meritable. It is at this point that we humans are called by God in Christ to transcend our human nature of limitation and fulfill the divine potential that God has placed within each of us. 'If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing,' says Paul (13:3). Does Paul mean that unloving people who do charitable deeds do not really help anyone? No, people in need may benefit from unloving charity, but we the givers do not, because our charity expects something in return: social approval, reputation, the ease of guilt, respect, and so forth. You may get all of those, but unless your love is grace-love undeserved and unpayable—you will rob yourself of the one gift that endures forever. In human language there is no word that can adequately express it, but you can experience and you can give it.

Note: In the Steps of Paul to Rome & Greece, an 18-day tour conducted by Larry & Valere Althouse, is scheduled for April, 2001. If interested, please contact us: 4412 Shenandoah Ave, Dallas TX 75205/e-mail: althouse-s@aol.com; fax: (214) 521-9312.

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