



## OPINION

### Ethanol Answer

"Rather than being part of the problem, ethanol is, in fact, a solution to today's skyrocketing gas prices," Plainfield, Ill., corn grower Floyd Schultz told members of Congress today at a hearing held in Chicago to examine the factors contributing to the recent rise in gasoline prices. Schultz testified on behalf of the National Corn Growers Association and the Illinois Corn Growers Association.

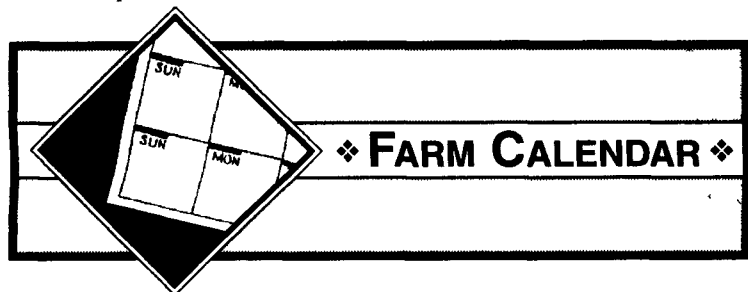
While Chicago and Milwaukee are at the center of the controversy right now, consumers nationwide are paying inexplicably high gas prices. In recent days, the American Petroleum Institute has shamelessly attempted to blame ethanol and the costs of complying with federal clean fuel guidelines, particularly in areas like Chicago and Milwaukee where ethanol is used to make cleaner-burning reformulated gasoline (RFG).

"However, let me stress that blending ethanol into gasoline reduces the cost of the gasoline," Schultz stated. "If we were not using ethanol in Chicago RFG, gasoline prices could be even higher than they are today."

A gallon of ethanol delivered to the Chicago and Milwaukee markets, including state and national taxes, is selling for \$1.28 to \$1.32 per gallon — well below the current price of gasoline. And ethanol is plentiful and readily available.

"It is clear that gasoline supplies are tight in the Midwest market. However, there is no shortage of ethanol. The ethanol industry currently has about 300 million gallons of idle production capacity. If that much ethanol — about one percent of the total gasoline pool in the Midwest — were added to the market, there would be lower prices," Schultz explained.

"Ethanol is both abundant and affordable. It cleans up the air without polluting the water. It boosts farm prices and stimulates rural economies. And it's a renewable fuel source that can help reduce our dependence on petroleum," he said. "When you add it all up, ethanol is not the problem. It's the answer. And that's the secret the oil companies don't want America to know."



### ◆ FARM CALENDAR ◆

#### Saturday, July 15

Draft Horse Show at Mason-Dixon Fair, 10 a.m.  
Pa. Hereford Association and Pa. Cattlemen's Field Day, Blossom Valley Farm, Amity.  
Sheep Field Day, Max Dehart Farm, Milton, noon.

#### Sunday, July 16

Natural Resource Conservation School For Youth, Northern Lancaster County Game and Fish Protective Association, thru July 22.  
Allegheny County Agricultural Expo, Md., thru July 23.  
Jefferson County Fair, thru July 22.  
Rural Safety Fair 2000, Wyoming County Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

AFGC Conference and North American Alfalfa Improvement Conference, Madison, Wis., thru July 19.

#### Monday, July 17

Hoss's Fore FFA Golf Tournament, Shotgun Start, Fox Chase Golf Course, Stevens, noon.

Forest Resources Institute for Teachers, Bradford County extension office, Towanda, also July 19, 24, and 26.

#### Tuesday, July 18

Jacktown Fair, thru July 22.  
Plainfield Farmers Fair, thru July 22.  
State Horticulture Association of Pa. Summer Tour, starts at Strite's Orchard, 10 a.m., thru July 19.

Penn State Agronomic Field Diagnostic Clinic, Russell E. Larson Ag Research Center, Rockspring, thru July 19.  
York 4-H dairy Roundup, York County Fairgrounds, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Dairy Farm Open House,

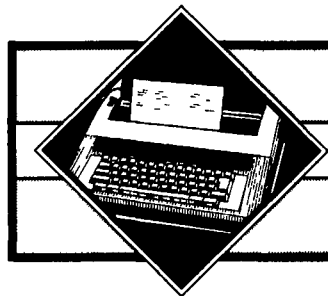
Stoner's Hijos Hill Inc., Mercersburg, 7:15 pm.-9 p.m.

Farm Tour, Earth's Harvest Farm, Paul and Julie Koch, Morris, N.Y., 1 p.m.-3 p.m.  
Southeast District Dairy Show, Lebanon Area Fairgrounds.  
Solanco Young Farmers Barn Meeting, Harnish Farm, 7 p.m.

#### Wednesday, July 19

York County Holstein Show, York County Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Biotechnology and Genetic Enhancement — Bringing the Sciences to the Discussion, College of Ag Sciences, Penn State Ag Arena, State College, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
Lycoming County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Hughesville, 10 a.m.  
Black and White Show and Plainfield Fair, 10 a.m.  
Northampton County Holstein Show, Plainfield Grove,

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### ◆ FARM FORUM ◆

#### Editor:

On behalf of the membership of the Progressive Agriculture Organization (Pro Ag), I want to thank Governor Tom Ridge, Secretary of Agriculture Sam Hayes and the Pennsylvania Legislators for making disaster funds available for agriculture producers all across the Commonwealth.

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## Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

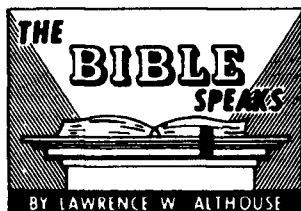
Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent

#### To Look At Antibiotic Use

A recent survey by the Animal Health Institute on antibiotic use in animals found that 64 percent of antibiotics are used in human medicine and 30 percent are used by veterinarians and animal owners for therapeutics and prevention of disease in animals.

Only 6 percent of the antibiotic use was for growth promotion.

Naturally, in the few cases where antibiotics are used for growth promotion, it may also be indicated as a joint use in disease prevention.



#### GROW UP!

#### Background Scripture:

Ephesians 4:1-16.

#### Devotional Reading:

Ephesians 3:14-21.

The writer of Ephesians desires that the Ephesians — and us — "may no longer be children." He is speaking not of our chronological age, but our degree of spiritual maturity.

Physically, socially, and mentally we look and sound like adults. Spiritually, however, we may still be children.

When we first became Christians it was understandable that we begin in the faith as children. Spiritually speaking, we must first learn to crawl before we walk, and walk before we run. In 1 Cor. 3:1,2, Paul confesses that he "could not address you as spiritual men, but as babes in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food; for you were not ready for it; and even yet you are not ready". Beginning our life in Christ it is anticipated that our faith will be like that of little children, but we are expected to grow in our spiritual faith.

Unfortunately for many of us, it is not that we begin as spiritual

Anti-animal agriculture activists have claimed the vast majority of antibiotics are used in food animals, especially to promote growth. This survey shows that a little more than one-third of antibiotic use in the U.S. is for animals, including both food animals and companion animals with a very small amount used for growth promotion.

#### To Look At Organic Standards

USDA recently released a proposed rule to establish a National Organic Program (NOP) under the direction of the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).

These national standards would include rules for the production and handling of organically produced products, including a national list of substances (approved and prohibited) for use in organic production and handling.

The proposal establishes a national level accreditation program to be administered by AMS for state officials and private persons who want to be accredited as certifying agents. The proposal also establishes the requirements for labeling products as organic and containing organic ingredients.

The rule also provides for importation of organic agricultural products produced under equivalent requirements.

Under the proposal, to be organic, animals must be raised organically from birth, or in the

case of poultry, after the second day of life. Animal feed must be 100 percent organic and use of hormones and antibiotics is prohibited.

All organically raised animals must have access to the outdoors. Processors, manufacturers, and repackers of organic food are covered by the NOP handling standards. Irradiation and some contact between organic and non-organic food is prohibited.

#### To Look At Size Of

#### Organic Farming

Organic food sales in the U.S. have risen dramatically from just \$78 million in 1980 to an estimated \$6 billion this year.

There is a projected annual growth of 20 percent per year.

There are 12,000 organic farms in the U.S. The number of farms is increasing by 12 percent per year.

The increasing demand for organically produced foods of all kinds and the premium prices that organic foods can command have attracted many mainstream companies to enter this sector.

When the National Organic Program takes effect and organic food finally comes under USDA national standards, the stage will be set for even faster growth in this market niche.

*Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation." — Plato.*

#### The Olive Branch

Maybe your personal experience of Christianity is different — and I truly hope it is — but I have observed all too often that for many Christians the essence of following Christ is to do battle with those who believe differently than we do.

Unfortunately, the "sword of truth" (read "our truth") is more popular than the olive branch of peace. Christ calls us, not to do battle for him, but to bear crosses and witness to him.

There is yet another evidence of spiritual childishness — the witness to our separateness rather than our oneness in Christ. Our witness to the world is too often to that of a dysfunctional and alienated family. That is not mature Christian discipleship, for Ephesians tells us: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to you all, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all" (4:4-6).

The mature, grown-up Christian will build up the body of Christ rather than seeing how many pieces into which it can be divided. That's what "mature manhood" and Christian womanhood mean — growing "to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (4:14).

We may enter Christian discipleship as children, but we are meant to "grow up in every way unto him who is the head, into Christ" (4:15). Having challenged us to "Follow me!", Christ also calls us to "Grow up!", so that we may no longer be children.

#### Lancaster Farming

Established 1955

Published Every Saturday

Ephrata Review Building  
1 E. Main St.

Ephrata, PA 17522

—by—

#### Lancaster Farming, Inc.

A Steinman Enterprise

William J. Burgess General Manager  
Everett R. Newswanger Editor

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