



# Lancaster Farming

## OPINION

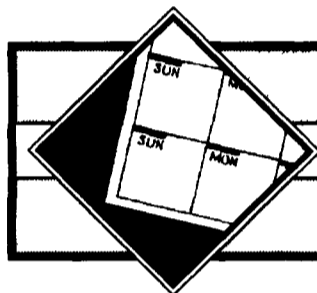
### Taste Of Agriculture

The state, county, and local fair season is under way. What a great time of fun for farmers and city cousins alike. Farmers go to the fair to see their neighbors and compare the exhibits, both animal and vegetable, with what they have at home. The farm equipment and service dealers play a large part of what's to see at each local fair, too.

We think the 132 fairs listed in Pennsylvania in addition to all those listed in Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Delaware, Virginia, and West Virginia, provide a good opportunity for the entire urban population to get a taste of agriculture under show conditions. Agriculture is dressed up to go to the fair, and this provides the opportunity to bridge the gap between farm and city.

We know and lament the fact that some local farm fairs have de-emphasized the farm part of the exhibits in favor of the midway and stadium entertainment. Nevertheless, farmers should support whatever part of your local fair still caters to agriculture exhibits. And we should work to restore more farm contact at the fairs.

At this time of year, plan to go the fair. You will have a good time with friends. And you will help provide a window into agriculture for all the urbanites in your local community.



### FARM CALENDAR

**Saturday, July 29**

- Lebanon Area Fair, Lebanon Valley Expo Center, thru Aug. 5.
- Southwest Championship Holstein Show, Fayette Fairgrounds, Uniontown, 10 a.m.
- Lebanon Area Fair, Lebanon Fairgrounds, thru Aug. 5.
- Aquaculture Field Day, Piketon Research and Extension Center, Piketon.
- West Central District Junior Dairy Show, Grange Fairgrounds, Centre Hall, 9 a.m.
- Carroll County 4-H/FFA Fair, thru Aug. 5.

**Sunday, July 30**

- Clearfield County Fair, thru Aug. 5.
- Goshen County Fair, thru Aug. 5.
- Morrison Cove Dairy Show, thru Aug. 5.
- Potter County Fair, thru Aug. 5.
- PDCA Judging Conference, Memorial Park, Martinsburg.
- Eastern Apicultural Society Conference, Salisbury, Md., thru Aug. 4.
- Farm Tour, Dough Dietz, Little Valley, N.Y., 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
- North Central District Dairy Show, Troy, 10 a.m.
- American Jersey Cattle Association Field Day, begins at Pleasant Valley Jerseys (Lester and Doug Martin and Paul Holderman families), Chambersburg, 9 a.m.

**Tuesday, August 1**

- 4-H State Achievement Days, Penn State, thru Aug. 3.
- Pa. Feeder Calf Roundup.
- Ephrata Young Farmers Summer Bus Tour, thru Aug. 5.
- Farmers Market Tour, Warnersville, N.Y., 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

**Wednesday, August 2**

- State 4-H Days Livestock Judging Contest, Penn State.
- Ohio Vegetable Crops Field Day, Fremont.
- NRCS Pasture Walk, Phil Ott Farm, Windber, 1 p.m.

**Thursday, August 3**

- Morrison Cove Dairy Show, Memorial Park, Martinsburg, 9 a.m.

- Northern Tier Holstein Championship Show, Meshoppen Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.
- South Central District Dairy Show, Shippensburg Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.
- Frederick County Holstein Meeting, Libertytown, Md., 6:30 p.m.
- Mastitis Meetings, Levi Esh, Quarryville, 9 a.m., Nelson Weiler, Manheim, 7 p.m.
- Regional Fruit Growers Meeting and Pig Roast, Sunny Hill Orchards (Slaybaugh's), Biglerville, 4:30 p.m.

**Friday, August 4**

- Greene County Fair, thru Aug. 12.
- Wayne County Fair, thru Aug. 12.
- Fellowship of Christian Farmers International Conference, Comfort Inn, Sherwood Knoll, Lancaster, thru Aug. 6.
- Southwest District Dairy Show, Morrison's Cove Memorial Park, Martinsburg.
- Mastitis Meetings, Neffdale Farms, Paradise, 10 a.m. and E. Reiff, Mount Joy, 7 p.m.
- Eastern Arabian Horse Show East Coast Championship and Country Fair, Quentin Riding Club, Quentin, thru Aug. 6.
- Eastern Shore Threshermen and Collector's Association Inc. 4th Annual Old Time Wheat Threshing, Steam and Gas Engine Show, Denton, Md., thru Aug. 6.
- Lebanon County Holstein Show, Lebanon Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.

**Saturday, August 5**

- Pennsylvania Holstein Association Summer Picnic, Pennwood Holsteins, Berlin.
- Clinton County Fair, thru Aug. 12.
- Washington County, Md. Fair, Washington County Ag Ed Center, thru Aug. 11.

**Sunday, August 6**

- Bedford County Fair, thru Aug. 12.
- Transfer Harvest Home Fair, thru Aug. 12.
- Union County West End Fair, thru Aug. 12.
- Adams County Farm Bureau



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

**To Consider Expanding Forage Production**

Many Pennsylvania livestock producers may find it to their advantage to produce additional forages to feed to livestock.

As livestock producers consider their alternatives for forages to plant, August seeding of several crops could be especially beneficial.

Following are some suggestions from Dr. Marvin Hall, Penn State extension forage specialist.

Forage Brassica (rape or turnips) and small grains (wheat, barley, rye, or triticale) offer some opportunities for the production of late fall and early

winter pasturing. Interested farmers who can take advantage of grazing should contact their county Penn State Cooperative Extension office and obtain a copy of Agronomy Facts 33, "Use of Brassica Crops to Extend the Growing Season," and Agronomy Facts 41, "Strategies for Extending the Grazing Season." These fact sheets contain a lot of information related to growth characteristics of these plants, method of establishment, fertility, and grazing management.

**To Consider Small Grains For Grazing**

During last year's drought, many livestock and dairy farmers found that fall-seeded oats also make an excellent pasture for late fall grazing.

Robert Anderson, Lancaster County extension agronomy agent, reports that oats planted in mid to late September will grow until almost Christmas most years in Lancaster County. During this time, the crop will often reach a height of 14 to 16 inches. Rye, wheat, and barley may also be used in this manner.

However, their growth is less vigorous in the fall and total production for fall grazing is less. This is because these crops do not tiller until the following growing season. All of these make an excellent winter cover crop if the forage is not needed. In addition to reducing erosion during the winter, they will add organic matter to the soil.

**To Consider Small Grains For Silage**

According to Dr. Marvin Hall, Penn State extension forage specialist, small grains (oats, rye, and wheat) should be planted as soon as possible and harvested for silage in the milk to soft dough stage.

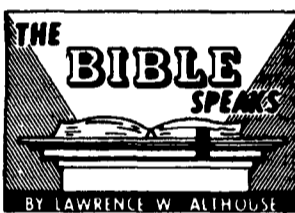
Generally, the milk stage is less desirable than the early dough stage because it is less palatable and studies indicate that animal performance is reduced. Moisture levels should be between 60 to 70 percent for best ensiling of small grains.

Small grain silage below 60 percent is difficult to pack and excessive heating and nutrient loss may occur. In addition, make sure the theoretical length of cut is less than 1/8 of an inch long. Minimizing length of cut helps prevent heating and maintains forage quality of small grain silage.

In Pennsylvania, a study was conducted at Landisville comparing several crops planted on Aug. 5 and then harvested for silage. Corn was harvested on Oct. 5 and yielded 1.5 tons per acre with 61.2 percent TDN. Oats was harvested in the soft dough stage and yielded 2.1 tons per acre with 75.8 percent TDN. Rye was harvested in the soft dough stage and yielded 2.1 tons per acre with 68.4 percent TDN.

*Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious."*

— Albert Einstein



**STRONG ENOUGH?**

**Background Scripture:** Ephesians 6:10-24.

**Devotional Reading:** John 14:15-27.

The world in which we live is a dangerous place. Daily, it is filled with temptations, snares, and trials. Even in one day's time, how often we find our commitment to Christ being put to some kind of test?

In a book I use for my daily devotions there is a prayer, the Mozarabic Sacramentary, "Grant us, O Lord, to pass this day in gladness and peace, without stumbling and without stain, that, reaching the eventide victorious over all temptation, we may praise you, the eternal God, who dost govern all things and art blessed evermore; through Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. Amen."

When I first came across this prayer, I thought it a bit overdramatic or pessimistic. It seemed that my normal days were not burdened with "stumbling" and "stain" — at least not on a daily basis. Over the years, however, I have become more realistic about the subtle pitfalls that lie in wait for us each day. When I go to bed, if I truly examine my day in the light of Christ's presence, I find that almost always I have done what I ought not to have done and not done what I should have done.

**Living The Love**

Sin is not just a matter of not living up to a set of rules, but of failing to live the love of Christ in every situation. I may keep all the major rules, but fail to truly follow Jesus in the myriad of ev-

eryday choices and challenges: the time I give to others, the ways in which I respond to them, my willingness to give my attention to those who want it, the way I drive my car, my attitude when I'm shopping — well, you get the idea.

Every day of my life — and yours — is chock-full of challenges to my Christian discipleship.

Life requires an enormous amount of spiritual strength. Ephesians recognizes that need: "... that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (6:11b,12). This evil is of cosmic proportions, a potent force in every life and, if we despair our lack of sufficient spiritual strength, we are half right.

But we do not have to face it "by ourselves." God will give us the power to withstand these dangers — if we will permit him to do so. "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." As fearsomely impressive as are the forces of evil that confront us, the power God offers us is even more impressive. "Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day..." (6:13).

God offers us sufficient strength but we must seek and accept it — as Ephesians says, "... take the whole armor of God" (italics mine).

**The Whole Armor**

The author makes an analogy between the strength God offers us and the armor worn by soldiers in those days. What it means is that, when we are confronted by the challenge of evil, we must not fail to hold on to

truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, the word of God, prayers and supplications.

Evil gains the advantage over us whenever, for the sake of short-term relief, we are willing to let go of any of these — compromising the truth and adulterating righteousness, temporarily suspending the gospel of peace and replacing it with belligerence, and allowing our faith to waver and make ourselves vulnerable to "the darts of the evil one."

I have sometimes found that, when under siege, I tend to forget to rely on my God-given armor. I become so fearful that I allow my faith to waiver, being so preoccupied by the threats that I fail to resort to my best resource. So when the going is the hardest, that is the very time we need to make time to "Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints..." (6:18).

No, we do not have on our own enough strength to meet the threat of evil, but, if we open ourselves in prayer to God in Christ, we enable him to give us all the strength we will need. His answer to our prayer may not be an escape route from the danger, but the strength to meet and withstand it.

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