



Lancaster Farming

OPINION

See You At Empire Days

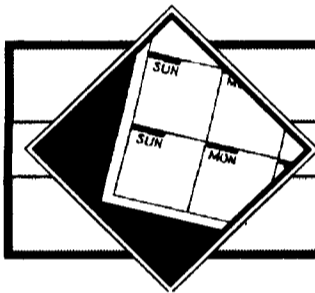
Empire Farm Days are scheduled for this week. Here is an opportunity for Northeast farmers to experience the latest in agricultural technology.

The show that runs from Aug. 8-10 is the 67th such annual event and again will be conducted at the Rodman Lott and Son Farm in Seneca Falls, N.Y. The 300-plus acre site will host 600 exhibitors, and 75,000 visitors are expected to attend.

As far back as 1931 there has been an agricultural show sponsored by the Empire State Potato growers especially for New York State farmers. But since then, the event has undergone many changes, including the regional scope of the event. However, the purpose has remained the same — to bring the farmer and agribusiness community together in one place.

Field demonstrations are a major part of the show. Farmers get a chance to see various makes and models of farm equipment and tractors all working side by side in one field. Many other demonstrations and educational events are part of the show.

Again this year, the dairy profit seminars are a major feature, and parlor tours have been added. If you are a farmer or have interest in the newest farm applications and techniques, you will want to make the trip to Empire Farm Days this week. We hope to see you there.



❖ FARM CALENDAR ❖

- Saturday, August 5**
 Pennsylvania Holstein Association Summer Picnic, Penn-wood 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 Annual Summer Picnic, South Mountain Fairgrounds, 12:30 p.m.
- Monday, August 7**
 Reading Fair, Leesport, thru Aug. 12.
 Butler Farm Show, thru Aug. 12.
 Cochranon Community Fair, thru Aug. 12.
 Dawson Grange Community Fair, thru Aug. 12.
 Schuylkill County Fair, thru Aug. 12.
 Sewickly Township Community Fair, thru Aug. 12.
 Sykesville Ag and Youth Fair, thru Aug. 12.
 Tioga County Fair, thru Aug. 12.
 Warren County Fair, thru Aug. 12.
 Chester County 4-H Roundup, Honey Brook, thru Aug. 13.
 Lancaster County Poultry Association Harrisburg Senators Baseball Game, City Island, Harrisburg.
- Tuesday, August 8**
 New York Empire Days, Seneca Falls, N.Y., thru Aug. 10
 York County 4-H Fair, 4-H Center, Bair, thru Aug. 12.
 Elk County Fair, thru Aug. 12.
 Harrold County Fair, thru Aug. 12.
 Chester County Holstein Club Field Day, John St. John and Family, Lincoln University, 6

- p.m.
 Farmers' Market Business Farm tour, Kingbird Farm, Michael and Karma Glos, Berkshire, N.Y., 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 9**
 Dauphin County 4-H Fair, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Aug. 12.
 Cumberland Ag Expo, thru Aug. 12.
 Chester County 4-H Roundup Sale, Honey Brook.
- Ohio Turfgrass and Landscaping Horticulture Field Day Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory, Columbus.
 Pasture Field Day, Foster Constable Farm, Laceyville.
- Thursday, August 10**
 Lancaster 4-H Dairy Beef Show Manheim Farm Show, 9 a.m.
 Lancaster 4-H Sheep Show, Manheim Farm Show, 10 a.m.
 Lancaster 4-H Goat Show, Manheim Farm Show, 3 p.m.
 Cambria County 4-H Family Fun Night, Duman Lake County Park, 4 p.m.-9 p.m.
 Ohio Horticulture and Crop Science Field Day, Waterman Ag and Natural Resource Laboratory, Columbus.
 Butler County Holstein Show, Farm Show Grounds, Butler, 12:30 p.m.
- Friday, August 11**
 Lancaster 4-H Hog Show, Manheim Farm Show, 9 a.m.
 Lancaster 4-H Livestock Sale, Manheim Farm Show, 6:30 p.m.
 Montgomery County Ag Fair, Gaithersburg, Md., thru Aug. 19.
 Clinton County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Mackeyville, 10 a.m.
 Tioga County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Whitneyville, 11 a.m.
 Wayne County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Honesdale, 10 a.m.

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

To Prevent Field Fires

Field fires cause more than \$20 million in equipment losses each year, not to mention crop losses resulting from downtime and personal injury.

Generally, not only does equipment become part of the loss in a field fire, it is often the source of the fire. In most cases this is because of carelessness on the part of the operator.

Equipment is designed and engineered to protect against being the source of a fire. However, sparks from a faulty exhaust system, as well as grease or oil buildup around the engine, can greatly increase the chance

of a fire.

Be prepared for a fire. Equip every tractor, hay baler, and self-propelled machine with a fully charged 10-pound ABC dry chemical extinguisher.

Two extinguishers are better: one in the cab and one that can be reached from the ground. Inspect your extinguishers regularly, checking the pressure gauge for a full charge. Even during a brief discharge, the dry chemical particles will create a small gap in the internal seal of the extinguisher. Keep a cell phone or two-way radio with each powered field implement.

To Follow These Tips

Following are some safety tips to help prevent a fire in the field.

Keep equipment clean. Remove dust, plant debris, and trash from each piece of equipment daily or more often if conditions warrant.

Pay special attention to the engine and engine compartment. About 75 percent of all equipment fires start in this area. If you notice any leaking fuel or oil hoses, fittings or metal lines, replace or repair them immediately.

Equipment fires can be caused by several heat sources. The most common is exhaust system surfaces

that contact any flammable material. Make sure your exhaust system, including the manifold, muffler, and turbocharger are in good condition and free of leaks. Clean up spilled fuel and oil.

To Perform

Routine Maintenance

Pay close attention to your machine operator's manual. Be sure to follow all instructions and schedules for lubrication and routine maintenance.

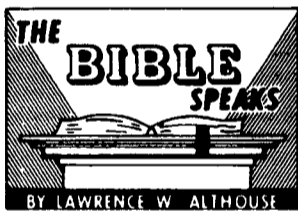
Perform routine maintenance to keep machines and hay tools in top working condition and to reduce friction among moving components.

A badly worn bearing can glow red hot. Any rubber belt subjected to intense heat from a worn part can burst into flames.

Inspect machines regularly for worn or damaged electrical components and wiring. You should replace any worn or malfunctioning electric components with parts from your dealer.

If your machine is blowing fuses or has a circuit that intermittently cuts out, find and repair the cause. Arcing electrical wires generate extremely high temperatures.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "You can recover from a financial loss, but you cannot recover from a loss of reputation."



THE MYSTERY OF LIFE

Background Scripture:

Colossians 1.

Devotional Reading:

John 1:1-5, 9-18.

When I was a high school sophomore, I tried out for the Reading Civic Opera Company (in Reading, Pa.) and became the youngest member at that time. We didn't actually do operas, but light operas — "The New Moon," "Naughty Marietta," "The Mikado."

One of my favorite songs was by Victor Herbert and Rida Johnson Young, entitled "Ah! Sweet Mystery of Life!" I was intrigued by the thought that there was a "mystery" about life and these composers thought they had found it:

Ah! Sweet mystery of life at last I've found thee,

Ah! I know at last the secret of it all;

For 'tis love, and love alone, the world is seeking,

And 'tis love and love alone that can repay!

'Tis the answer, 'tis the end and all of living,

For it is love alone that rules for aye!

— (Witmark & Sons, 1910)

But by the time I became a young man, I no longer wondered about the "mystery" of life. I lived as if there was no mystery because I thought I knew what I was doing and where I was headed.

I worked on the unspoken assumption that if I thought, worked, and prayed hard enough, long enough and intensely enough, there wasn't any problem I couldn't face.

Eventually, however, after some hard bumps along the way, I began to wonder once more about the mystery or mysteries of life. Today, periodically, I ask myself of life, "What's this all about? What am I all about?"

Joining The Pieces

Inevitably I return to the conviction that answer to the "mystery" of life is in Jesus Christ.

As Paul says in Colossians, "... in him all things hold together" (1:17). There are so many bits and pieces in life that it seems there is no way we can make sense of them. But in Christ, I have found for myself, "in him all things hold together." He puts the pieces together and makes of them, if not something I can comprehend, at least something I can apprehend.

I may not be able to understand how all of life hangs together, but I can at least experience that reality in him.

Through most of my life I have been a rationalist, in that I believed all the questions about God could be arranged in some kind of order if I could only approach the job with enough clear thought and reason. But, today, after seven decades of life, I am realizing that I will never be able to put these questions, these gaps in our knowledge of God, in an order that will satisfy others or even myself.

It is an impossible job to analyze and systematize God. I should have known that from the beginning, for how can you

put the infinite into some kind of finite system or picture? Answer? You can't!

The Possible Impossibility

That is where I need Jesus Christ, for in him this impossible task becomes possible to the extent that human beings can grasp it.

"He is the image of the invisible God... For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell..." (1:15,19). I can never define or explain God, but when I look at Jesus Christ, I can see enough, hear enough, and understand enough of what the invisible God is in his essence.

Paul speaks of the "mystery hidden for ages and generations, but now made manifest to his saints" (1:26). In Jesus Christ I can see all of the nature of God that I can grasp and in him and his life I can see all that I can appropriate of his purpose for Christ and me: "For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things... making peace by the blood of his cross" (1:20). In Christ the mystery of life is no longer a mystery.

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—by—

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