



Lancaster Farming

OPINION

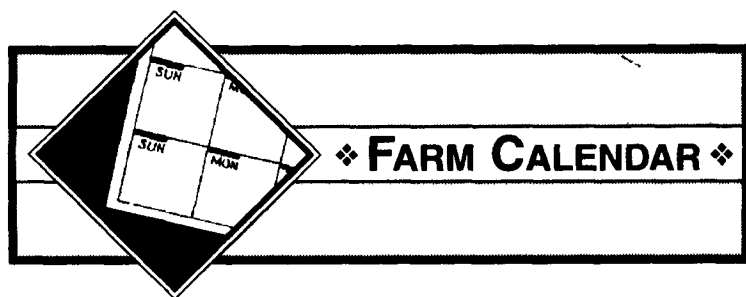
Ag Progress Progresses

The one thing you can be sure of — very sure of — is Ag Progress Days at Penn State's Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center at Rockspring will feature breakthroughs in science and technology related to agriculture.

The yearly event happens next week (see many related articles in this issue) and again the educational value of the featured research projects will be almost unlimited. It does not matter if your interest is weeds, eggshells, combines, or anything else around the farm. You will find an interesting tie presented by some of the world's best professors and researchers at Penn State.

This showcase of agriculture, especially the way Penn State relates to and supports agriculture, should be on all farmer's "to-attend" list. To see the big equipment working in the fields is fun. But to take the time to visit the educational displays is... well, educational.

Therefore, if you want to have fun, if you want to be educated, or if you want both, make this trip to Centre County Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, Aug. 15, 16, or 17.



Saturday, August 12

Southcentral Holstein Championship Show, Shippensburg Fairgrounds, 9:30 a.m.

Washington County Ag Fair, thru Aug. 19.

Lancaster County 4-H Beef Show, Manheim Farm Show, 10 a.m.

Chemsweep, Lebanon Expo Center, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Farm-City Day, Carey Farm, Groton, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sunday, August 13

Bullskin Township Community Fair, thru Aug. 19.

Huntingdon County Fair, thru Aug. 19.

McKean County Fair, thru Aug. 19.

Monday, August 14

Dayton Fair, thru Aug. 19.

Kutztown Fair, thru Aug. 19.

Lawrence County Fair, thru Aug. 19.

Venango County Fair, thru Aug. 19.

Vegetable and Small Fruit Field Day, Horticulture Research Farm, Rockspring.

Northeast District Dairy Show, Susquehanna County Fairgrounds.

Capitol Region Summer Turf and Ornamental School, Messiah College, Grantham, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Tuesday, August 15

Fruit and Vegetable Day, Rockspring.

Ag Progress Days, Rockspring, thru Aug. 17.

Erie County Fair and Wattsburg, thru Aug. 20.

Pa. Hay Show, Rockspring.

Farm Market Business Farm Tour, Peacework Organic Farm, Henderson and Palmer, Newark, N.Y., 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Wednesday, August 16

Middletown Grange Fair, thru Aug. 20.

PFGC 40th Anniversary Celebration, Wayne Harpster's Evergreen Farm.

Ag Progress Days Lamb Show and Skillathon, Rockspring.

National Christmas Tree Association Meeting, Rochester, N.Y., thru Aug. 19.

4-H Ag Science Day Camp, Dauphin, thru Aug. 18.

Pa. Ag Republicans Annual Fund Raiser Chicken Barbecue, VFW Pavilion on Rt. 45, three miles east of Ag Progress Days, 5:30 p.m.

25th Performance-Tested Boar Sale, Pa. Dept. of Ag Meat Animal Evaluation Center, State College, 6 p.m.

Huntingdon County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Huntingdon, 9 a.m.

Thursday, August 17

Findlay Township Fair, thru Aug. 19.

Mount Nebo Fair, thru Aug. 19.

Frederick County Md. Checkoff Luncheon at Ag Progress Days.

Ag Progress Days 4-H Equine Skillathon, Rockspring.

Washington County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Washington, 9 a.m.

Wye Field Day, Wye Research and Education Center, Queenstown, Md.

Friday, August 18

Northeast Championship Holstein Show, Troy Fairgrounds, Troy, 10 a.m.

Westmoreland County Fair, thru Aug. 26.

East Central District Dairy Show, Beaver County Fairgrounds, Beaver Springs, 9:30 a.m.

Bucks County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Wrightstown, 11 a.m.

Saturday, August 19

Warren County Holstein Sale, Pittsfield Fairgrounds, noon.

Central Championship Holstein Show, Huntingdon Fairgrounds, 6 p.m.

Crawford County Fair, thru Aug. 26.

Pasture Walk, Dixie and Erick Coolidge, Wellsboro.

Progressive Field Meeting, begins at Jeff Foust Farm, near Milton.

South Central District Dairy Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 8:30 a.m.

Pa. Angus Association Field Day, Octoraro Angus, Breezewood, 9 a.m.

Ephrata Area Young Farmers Ice Cream Social, Woodcrest Retreat, 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

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Now Is The Time
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Estimate Corn Yields

A good estimate of corn grain yields may be made once pollination has been completed, according to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County extension agronomy agent.

To make this estimate, first determine the number of feet of row in 1/1,000th of an acre by dividing 43.56 by the row width in feet. For 30-inch rows, the distance would be 17-feet five-inches (43.56/2.5). For 32-inch rows, the distance is 16-feet four-inches and for 36-inch rows the distance is 14-feet and six-inches.

Once you have measured the required distance, count the number of harvestable ears in that distance. Next, harvest every fifth ear. Using the ears that you have harvested, count and average the number of rows of kernels

and the average number of kernels per row.

When counting the number of kernels, do not count the smaller kernels on the tip or butt of the ear. Yield in bushels per acre may now be calculated by multiplying the number of ears you counted in 1/1,000th of an acre times the average number of rows of kernels on the ears checked, times the average number of kernels per row. Then divide this number by nine. This will be a close approximation of the number of bushels of corn per acre you may expect to harvest.

To Estimate Soybean Yields

Soybean growers may make a rough estimate of soybean yields once pods have set, according to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County extension agronomy agent.

To determine the yield in bushels per acre of soybeans, it is necessary to estimate the number of pods per foot of row.

Do this by counting the number of pods in several three-foot sections in the field. From this information, calculate the average number of pods per foot of row.

Once this is done, divide your row spacing by 7.5. By dividing the average number of pods per foot of row by the number you obtained by dividing your row spacing by 7.5, you will have an estimate of the yield in bushels per acre.

For example, if you have an average of 197 pods per foot of row and the rows are 30-inches apart, the calculation is 30-inches divided by 7.5 equals four. Then you di-

vide 197 by four to give you a projected yield of 49.25 bushels per acre.

To Wash Hands

Hand washing is a basic task we learned when we were very young. It is considered the single most important means of preventing the spread of bacteria, reported Nancy Wiker, Lancaster County extension family living agent.

Unfortunately, hand washing appears to be well on its way to becoming a lost art in this country. This is a concern to public health officials, since poor hand washing is believed to be a contributing factor to the 76 million cases of food-borne illnesses and the resulting 5,000 deaths that occur each year.

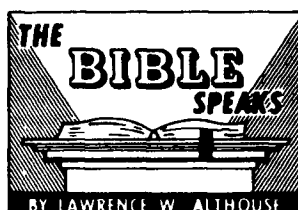
It seems that we know we should be washing our hands, but we are not actually doing it. In studies done across the country, it was found that less than 66 percent of all adults actually washed their hands after using the restroom.

Proper hand washing technique includes the following steps:

1. Use warm water.
2. Moisten hands, then apply soap.
3. Rub hands together for 20 seconds, both sides.
4. Use a nailbrush if necessary.
5. Rinse thoroughly.
6. Dry on a paper towel.

Set a good example for your children. Wash your hands before and after handling food, before meals, and after using the restroom.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "To know how to suggest is the great art of teaching."



BEWARE OF SUBSTITUTES

Background Scripture:

Colossians 2:6-19.

Devotional Reading:

Romans 8:31-39.

For 40 odd years many Christians believed that the greatest threat to the Christian faith was "godless communism." If only we could defeat and discredit communism, we thought, the Christian faith would be triumphant.

Well, communism has pretty much been defeated and discredited, but the Christian faith does not appear to be marching on to victory.

Religious spokespeople have had to admit that the 100 years just over were not, as was expected, "The Christian Century." Commentators on the world scene note that Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world.

The Christian Church is dwindling and disappearing in former strongholds: England, Germany, Scandinavia, Spain, France, and even Italy, where Roman Catholicism has been a bulwark for almost 2,000 years.

I have believed for some time that the greatest threat to Christianity is, and has always been, not the "-isms" on the outside, but those within. And not so much from those that are easily identifiable — such as liberalism,

conservatism, denominationalism, ecumenism, parochialism, you name it — but from those that bear no name and are not obvious to most of us.

These are the beliefs and practices that, instead of openly challenging the gospel of Jesus Christ, subvert it by becoming substitutes for it. We are not on guard against these dangers because we see and understand them as part of the gospel — which they are not.

Only Shadows

What are these hidden and insidious threats? Paul warned the Colossians, "I say this that no one may delude you with beguiling speech... See to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe... Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath" (2:4,8,16). These things, says Paul, "are only a shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Jesus Christ" (2:17).

Paul is speaking here about the tail wagging the dog, the trees obscuring the forest, and the trivial pursuits of religion taking the place of essential Christian discipleship. We do not see these threats as hostile to our faith because we have accepted them as part of it. I can't name them all, but some have long been apparent to me. There is the materialism of Christian life that drives out the spirit and the consumerism that set the values of our society. There are

political and economic ideologies that take the place of the gospel. There are standards of conduct that have been around so long that we hardly realize they are not part of the gospel. These substitutes clothed in Christian garb can really be unrecognized anti-Christians.

One example: I believe that the capitalist system and free enterprise (not necessarily the same things) are the best economic philosophies we have yet put into practice. But they are not part of the gospel of Jesus Christ. They are not Christian unless we make them Christian, infusing them with Christian values and undergirding them with Christlike love.

Without Christ, capitalism can be and at times has been just as oppressive as communism and fascism. Worst of all, we can make the mistake of letting them become a substitute for Christian discipleship, when we equate the so-called "law of the marketplace" with the Ten Commandments and Christ's commandments to "love one another as I have loved you."

Beware of beguiling and insidious substitutes!

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