



OPINION

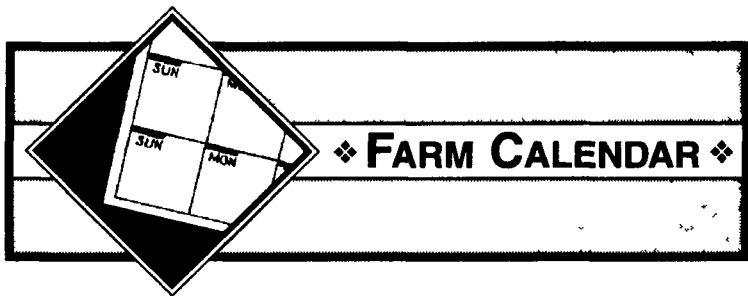
Biotech Supports Agriculture

The news hit the national wire services this week. The government is investigating whether some taco shells produced in Mexico from corn meal purchased from a Texas mill, which got the corn from farmers in five states, may contain a variety of biotech corn that isn't approved by the FDA for human consumption. Tests by an antibiotech environmental group were reported to find traces of the corn in taco shells purchased in suburban Washington. This variety of corn is the only biotech crop that isn't approved for human consumption because a scientific panel that advises EPA was unable to decide this summer whether the protein in the corn should be allowed in food.

So, this variety of corn should not be grown to be placed in human food and farmers should not put it where it might get there.

Consumers have the right to know the food farmers produce is of the best quality. On the other hand, biotechnology can improve the nutritional quality and the quantity of our food supply. Used under the proper restrictions, biotech food contains greater vitamin content, removes compounds that cause allergic reactions, and produces meat, milk, and eggs with healthier qualities.

The world's population will likely increase from six billion today to nine billion by 2050. Biotechnology can play an important role in alleviating hunger and malnutrition by making it possible to grow more food with added nutrition, on the same or less land while also sustaining the land's ability to support continued farming.



Saturday, September 30
Composting Workshop, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m., also Oct. 7 and Oct. 21.
21st Annual Falmouth Goat Race, Falmouth, 10 a.m.
Mason-Dixon Fall Harvest Festival, Mason-Dixon Fairgrounds, Delta, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday, October 1
National 4-H Week, thru Oct. 7.
Open Youth Schooling Horse Show, Northampton County 4-H Center, Nazareth, 10 a.m.
Solanco Young Farmers Family Picnic, Rick Brenneman Farm.
East Central Pennsylvania Two-Cylinder Club 6th Annual Fall John Deere Antique Tractor and Implement Show, tractor pulls, St. Peter's Church, Macungie, 9 a.m.
Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce Farm-City Tours, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Monday, October 2
Hollidaysburg Community Fair, thru Oct. 5.

Tuesday, October 3
Pa. Retail Farm Market Association "Are You Crazy?" Bus Trip, Columbia County.
Pasture Meeting, John and Dan Ferko Farm, Central City, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, October 4
Keystone International Livestock Expo, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Oct. 9
World Dairy Expo, Dane County Expo Center, Madison, Wis., thru Oct. 8.
Getting Started In Farming Seminar, Howard County, Maryland Extension Office, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m., also Oct. 11, 18, and 25.
New Holland Farmers' Fair, thru Oct. 7.

Thursday, October 5
Pasture Walk, Sal Nicosia, Spring Mills, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Selling At Roadside Markets Meeting, Seigworth's Farm Market, Brookville, 6 p.m.
Wildlife Management Confer-

ence, Nittany Lion Inn, University Park, thru Oct. 8.
Mercer County Soybean Field Day, Struthers Farm, Mercer, 1 p.m.

Friday, October 6
Wyoming County Sheep and Wool Producers Annual Meeting and Roast Lamb Banquet, United Methodist Church, Centermoreland, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 7
South Jersey Flower Growers Association 12th Annual Fall Trade Show, Salem County Fairgrounds, Woodstown, N.J.
Hereford Breeders Classic Sale, Gettysburg.
Commercial Scale Chestnut Production Field Day, Delmarvelous Chestnuts, Nancy and Gary Pettitt Orchard, Townsend, Del., 3 p.m.-dusk.
National Apple Harvest Festival, South Mountain Fairgrounds, Arendtsville, also Oct. 8 and 14-15.

Sunday, October 8

Monday, October 9
Poultry Health and Management Seminar, Kreider Restaurant, Manheim, noon.
Manheim Community Farm Show, thru Oct. 13.

Tuesday, October 10
Dairylea Cooperative Annual Meeting, Holiday Inn, Liverpool, N.Y., thru Oct. 11.

Wednesday, October 11
Grazing Series For Ag Lenders, Bankers, and Accountants, Hotel Saxonburg, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Thursday, October 12
55th Annual Pa. National Horse Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Oct. 21.
Unionville Community Fair, thru Oct. 14.

Grazing Series For Ag Lenders, Bankers, and Accountants, New Franklin Volunteer Fire Company, New Franklin, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

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Now Is The Time
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Increase Farm Income

Farmers are faced with an abundant crop that is worth very little.

Even with a super yield this year, many farmers will be hard pressed to make the income generated by the crop pay all the expenses.

However, with the USDA Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP), income from crops may be increased even if the farmer feeds the crop to his own livestock.

While final details have not been approved, farmers will be eligible for payments even if the crop is harvested as silage.

There are a few requirements for the payment. First, in simpli-

fied terms, the farmer must have ownership of the crop from the time of harvest until the LDP is requested. Second, the farm where the crop is grown must have a conservation plan or have requested a conservation plan.

To request a conservation plan, the farmer needs to contact the county conservation district where the farm is located. In addition, the farmer will be charged a filing fee. According to the Lancaster Farm Service Agency office, that fee ranges between \$30 and \$35 for most farmers.

To Learn Details Of LDP

Farmers who grew corn, soybeans, wheat, barley, and oats and were not Production Flexibility Contract (PFC) farms also known as the 7-year program are eligible for Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP).

Payment rates for LDP are based on the date the crop was sold or fed. The payment rate for crops sold or fed this week was wheat \$0.90 per bushel, barley \$0.26 per bushel, oats \$0.41 per bushel, corn \$0.38 per bushel, and soybeans \$0.75 per bushel.

If the corn crop is harvested as silage, the payment is calculated using the value of 7 bushels of corn for each ton of silage. For example, if the silage yield were 23.5 tons per acre, the corn yield would be 7 times 23.5 for a yield of 164.5 bushels per acre.

At the current payment rate, the payment for the corn crop would be \$62.51 per acre of si-

lage grown. Take time now to sign up for the LDP at your Farm Service Agency office.

To Eat Properly

Each day one in 10 Americans eats at least one meal alone.

Whether it is an adult having a quick meal from fast food drive-thru or a child microwaving macaroni and cheese, eating alone has some problems, reports Nancy Wiker, Lancaster County extension family living agent.

Diets of people who eat alone often fall short on nutrients. It is not that they eat less nutritious foods but that they tend to skip meals or consume less food because of preparation time.

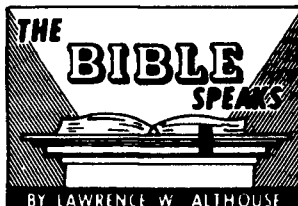
For older adults, there is a direct link between loneliness and lowered intake of calories, calcium, and vitamin A. Children who eat alone tend to eat poorer quality meals than children who dine with family.

Some suggestions if you are eating alone:

- Do not skip breakfast.
- Serve a combination of pre-packaged foods with fresh foods.
- Purchase already cut fruits and vegetables from the supermarket salad bar if you cannot use a large amount.
- If you are a senior citizen, consider community meals where you may socialize.

Whether you eat out or stay at home, make mealtime a pleasant, important time of day.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "When you are through changing, you are through."



WRONG EXPECTATIONS

Background Scripture:
1 Samuel 9:1 through 10:27.
Devotional Reading:
Psalms 119:1-8.

There are two different currents running through the Biblical account of Saul becoming the King of Israel. One of them is clearly opposed to the idea of Israel having a king, as in 1 Sam. 8:4-22 and again in 10:17-27, where God is represented as regarding the people's clamor for a king as a rejection of himself. The other point of view is equally favorable to the idea, as in 9:15-17, when God tells Samuel that he has chosen Saul to be king so that "He shall save my people from the hand of the Philistines."

Many Biblical scholars believe that two different written accounts are woven together in these passages with the two points of view remaining unharmonized. Both sources attribute their interpretations as coming from God. In one source, source A, God is favorable to both the monarchy and Saul as king, and in the other, source B, God is negative and accepts the wish of the people with great reluctance.

So which of these represents the true will of God?

I believe that perhaps both do; furthermore, God may be the source of both, even though they seem to be so in conflict. Often, that is how it is in life. On any issue there may be conflicting perspectives. Many issues are not black and white, right or wrong. We have to sift through the positives and negatives of various ideas and proposals.

Frequently we can see that fault is not always one-sided. Is that the case here?

Pros And Cons

There were definitely positive aspects of having a king to reign over them. The people wanted and needed human leadership. Perhaps judges were sufficient for both spiritual and temporal matters in the days when Israel first arrived in Canaan. But now they wanted a more centralized authority, a kingdom instead of a loose confederation of tribes. There was something to be said for that.

Our country was first governed under the Articles of Confederation, a much more decentralized and weaker form of government than that which replaced it under the Constitution. Americans realized that they would need a centralized government and ever after we have disagreed on just how strong that centralized government shall be. I believe there are cogent arguments for both more and less central government, for larger and smaller government. Despite the political slogans, truth does not reside on one side alone.

In the case of Israel, it is apparent that those who wanted a king and a kingdom won out eventually. Saul was made king of Israel. But does that mean that those who did not want a king were entirely wrong? I don't think so. There are always dangers as well as advantages in a strong central government as well as decentralized rule.

The U.S. Constitution was designed with a balance of powers. From the very first days of our republic we have struggled to keep each of those powers from becoming too dominant. One of the most important issues in the American Civil War was struggle between national power and states' rights. The war lasted only four years, but the struggle continues — probably to the everlasting advantage of our country.

A Warning

In source A of 1 Samuel, God

is interpreted as being reluctant to establish a monarchy and having Saul as the monarch. In chapter 8, God asks Samuel to spell out clearly the dangers of a monarchy: "... you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the way of the king who shall reign over them" and Samuel paints a pretty bleak picture (8:10-18). God also is interpreted as telling Samuel, "... they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them" (8:7).

I see in this a warning to us all. We have and will continue to have to choose human leaders, but the danger is that we will give to them the homage that belongs to God alone and expect from them what only God can give. The problem may not be so much with the people wanting leaders, but in virtually deifying those leaders and demonizing their opponents.

Is it not true that many Americans will go to the polls in November, giving to the human candidates the homage and expectations that belong only to the Lord? In choosing between the presidential candidates, we are choosing between two human beings and neither of them can solve many of the problems we expect them to solve and their "solutions" to these problems will still be human solutions.

In choosing one person to be our President, you don't have to hate or disbelieve the other. Saul was both a "good guy" and a "bad guy."

Aren't we all?

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