



# OPINION

## FFA Students Are Good

When you have nearly 40,000 jacketed FFA students in one place, that's a lot of blue. Last week this happened at the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky.

Membership in FFA across the nation is at its highest point since 1983. With 455,306 members in 7,226 chapters, the nation's leading agricultural youth organization is growing even stronger.

Almost everyone in the farm community knows that FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

Now a new study at Perdue University proves the point. This study compared FFA members with the "typical high school student" as reported by a national survey of the Horatio Alger Association. And they determined that ag education students who are also FFA members possess attitudes and exhibit behaviors that indicate they benefit more from their high school experience than the general student population.

And this was evident at the national convention. The FFA students we met were courteous, articulate, and acted much more mature than their age would suggest. Their behavior was a credit to themselves, their teachers, their parents, and the local schools and chapters at home.

We often hear bad news about our youth. But the good news is that FFA students at the national convention were good.

### ❖ FARM CALENDAR ❖

- Saturday, November 4**  
27th Annual North American International Livestock Expo (NAILE), Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center, thru Nov. 17.  
Berks County 4-H Annual Banquet, Kutztown Grange, 7 p.m.  
Genealogy Fair, Masthof Press and Bookstore, Morgantown, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Chester County Farm-City Tour, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Sunday, November 5**  
Standardbred Horse Sale, Pennsylvania Farm Show complex, thru Nov. 10.
- Monday, November 6**  
Dauphin County Conservation District, Nutrient Management Workshop, East Hanover Township Building,

- Shellsville, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., and Gratz Community Center, Gratz, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.  
Pasteurizer Operator's Workshop, Nittany Lion Inn, University Park, thru Nov. 8.
- Tuesday, November 7**  
Election Day.  
Northeast Greenhouse Seminar, Luzerne County Community College Conference Center, Nanticoke.  
Dairy Meeting Series, Old Filling Station, McAlisterville, also Nov. 21 and Dec. 5, and at the Arena, Bedford, Nov. 8, 22, and Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 8**  
Passing On The Farm Workshop, Mound Grove Golf
- (Turn to Page A37)

### ❖ FARM FORUM ❖

Editor:

I was very disappointed to learn recently about some of our local schools signing contracts with soda companies. I, myself, would question whether these schools are seriously looking out for the welfare of their students.

Some people do not realize how important it is to get the proper amount of calcium in their diet during their teen years, when their body is growing. Osteoporosis, a disease where bones become weak and brittle, begins during the teen years.

One of the factors in causing this disease is a lack of calcium. Osteoporosis develops slowly due to the loss of large amounts of bone mass. It causes a great deal of pain and suffering, as well as permanent disabilities. Osteoporosis affects more than 25 million Americans.

Milk and other dairy products are a delicious and easy way to get your daily amount of calcium of three to four servings.

These school's reasoning on offering this soda to students is the fact that it's available only after school. Many of these students have athletic functions after school. I don't believe offering a can of sugar-sweetened soda which has no nutritional value at all is a wise choice. Milk, on the other hand, offers a powerful package of nine essential vitamins and nutrients. How is a can of soda going to help build strong bones and muscles for these young athletes?

I certainly hope these young athletes "Rethink Their Drink" and grab one of the new Milk Chugs, instead.

— Diana Bigelow  
Blair County Dairy Princess

## Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

### To Look For Mold On Corn Ears

Now is the time farmers should be thinking about the possibilities of ear molds in corn, according to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County extension agronomy agent.

Detection of these molds before harvest is an excellent way to avoid feeding problems later. Some fungi produce mycotoxins that are harmful to livestock.

Dr. Gary Munkovold, extension plant pathologist in Iowa, suggests when checking fields for molds, the farmer should husk at least 100 plants scattered

throughout the field. It is important to check each field separately based on hybrid, tillage and rotation history, and planting date because each of these factors may affect the occurrence of ear molds.

Identifying that a mold exists is only the first step. The mold itself should be identified because their potential impact on animals is different based on the mold found.

### To Identify Molds On Corn

Gibberella ear rot is caused by the fungus *Gibberella zeae*. It can be identified most readily by the red or pink color of the mold. However, in some cases it can appear white.

It usually begins at the tip of the ear but can rot the entire ear. *Gibberella* occurs more commonly when the weather is cool and wet after silking. *Gibberella* can produce vomitoxin and zearalenone.

*Diplodia* ear rot appears as a white mold beginning at the base of the ear. The mold and the kernels then turn a grayish brown color and rot the entire ear. A very distinguishing characteristic of *Diplodia* is the appearance of raised black bumps called pycnidia on the moldy husk or kernels. *Aspergillus* ear rot is generally more of a problem for corn in storage. It appears as gray-green powdery mold. In the field it is more common in hot, dry years. It can grow at temperatures above 90 degrees and with corn moisture as low as 15 percent. It

is easy to detect under a black light because it produces compounds that are fluorescent. However, a positive detection does not directly result in the presence of aflatoxins. If the presence of toxins is suspected, testing of the corn should be done. Remember, corn that is moldy going into storage will not store well.

### To Control Rodents In Corn Cribs

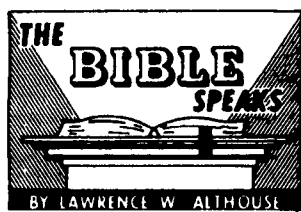
Mice and other rodents take a heavy toll on corn stored as ear corn in wooden and metal corncribs, according to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County extension agronomy agent.

The corncrib provides an ideal habitat for rodents. It provides sheltered nesting areas out of the cold winter weather along with an endless supply of food.

The control of mice and rats under these conditions is very difficult. However, several things can be done to help keep rodent populations down.

First, traps may be used to monitor the extent of the problem. Trapping alone will not eliminate the rodent population. Second, screening wherever possible to exclude rodents will also help keep their numbers under control. However, when a severe problem exists, the commercial use of tracking powder has been the most effective means of eradication.

*Feather Prof's Footnote:* "Service does not come from a manual. It comes from the heart."



## YOU ARE THE MAN!

Background Scripture: 2 Samuel 11:1 through 12:25.  
Devotional Reading: Numbers 15:30,31.

The tragic story of David and Bathsheba is never obsolete because it speaks, not only of something that happened more than two thousand years ago, but of what happens today, too.

It is difficult to read it without thinking about our nation's recent agony over the personal conduct of our some of our own political leaders. The sordid episode of King David is instructive for us. The uncompromising honesty with which it presents its characters is one of the Bible's great strengths.

Ganse Little says, "No recorded history, either sacred or secular, is so blunt in its handling of the weaknesses of its heroes."

It is not just a story about what David did, but about what so many of us do. It also helps us realize that David's terrible sin did not keep God from using him. God is able to use sinners to do what he wants accomplished. Incredible as it may seem, although David committed adultery and murder, he was still the Lord's anointed.

His sin caused great tragedy, not only to the people closely involved, but to the nation as well. But God did not take away the throne from him.

Why? Perhaps because it suited God's purposes to keep him there.

Under Jewish law, David should have lost his life. According to our sensibilities today David should have been re-

placed, thrown out of office — there was no impeachment in those days!.

### Rationalizing Sin

of his subjects probably defended him with the same kind of logic that is so prevalent today: his sin was the product of a combination of circumstances. If the Ammonites had not rejected his treaty, there would have been no war and Uriah would have been home. So, David would not have been able to follow up on his temptation and that would have ended it.

When we are pinpointed with our sin, it is remarkable how easily we can spread it around, like Adam telling God that it was because Eve offered him the forbidden fruit that he ate of it. Somebody is always offering us something to which we need to say *no!*

It begins with the temptation of the eye. David saw Bathsheba bathing on a nearby rooftop. That could have been the end of it right there, but it wasn't. Then came the lustful thought. It didn't have to follow, but most of us can understand how it did. If it had stopped there, we could say: no real harm done! But there was a next step — an inner decision to do something about the temptation of the eye and the lustful thought. David "saw," David "inquired," and "David sent." The thought became a deed.

We speak of David and Bathsheba, as if she shared the King's guilt. But the Bible does not tell us that she was a willing participant. More likely, she was the victim of David's status and power. Even today we castigate people of power who use it to intimidate others. David's sin was not only adultery, but the arrogant misuse of power.

Complications! A lot of damage was done with the adultery, but perhaps things could still have been salvaged. But there were some unanticipated complications — as there usually are.

First, Bathsheba got pregnant and her husband was away with the army at the time. Sin is like quicksand: the harder we struggle to get out, the deeper we sink. Another unanticipated complication: Uriah's loyalty to the code of honor that a soldier on active duty will not have sexual relations with his wife. When David tried to persuade him and then got him drunk, he found that Uriah was more committed to his vow than he was to personal pleasure.

Then David takes the next and biggest step down this tragic road: he plots to have Uriah killed "accidentally." How far he has come along this road from the first step when he looked upon Bathsheba and lusted after her.

The confrontation between David and the Nathan is the high point of the story. David's response to the tale of injustice was swift and forceful: "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die..." (12:5). Isn't it remarkable how quickly we identify and condemn sin when we think we are not personally involved! Our sense of justice and indignation are easily ignited when someone else is being judged. So David fell into Nathan's trap: "You are the man!"

There are always two results of sin: alienation from God and practical consequences. Eventually, when David repented, God forgave him. But some of the consequences of his sin would live on with him — as they do with us.

## 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

Copyright 2000 by Lancaster Farming