



Lancaster Farming

OPINION

A National Day Of Thanksgiving

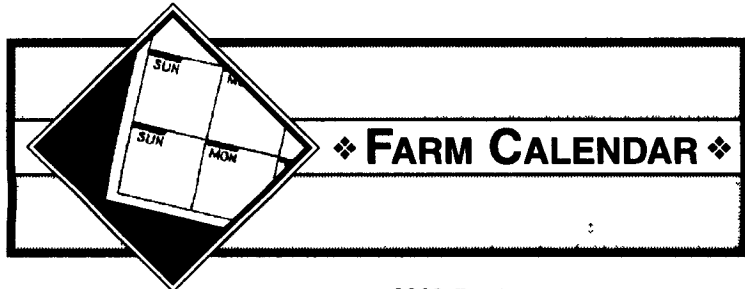
As we make plans for Thanksgiving Day, many of us have visions of family, food, and football. And those of us with young children probably have refrigerators adorned with artwork — Pilgrims, Native Americans, and turkeys shaped like a child's handprint.

I hope that we will also take time to reflect on the significance of this holiday in our nation's history. We, as Americans, enjoy so many blessings. Among these blessing is the religious freedom that the Pilgrims sought when they set out for the New World nearly four hundred years ago. They found this freedom, but with it came incredible obstacles to their survival. With help from Native Americans, they made it through their first year, and were blessed with a harvest that would see them through another very harsh northern winter. They celebrated their good fortune with the great Thanksgiving feast that we all learned about as children.

This tradition has continued for about 400 years. Beginning with George Washington, our presidents have annually called on all Americans to celebrate our great blessings. In 1795, President Washington issued a National Thanksgiving Proclamation that began: "It is our duty as a people, with devout reverence and affectionate gratitude, to acknowledge our many and great obligations to Almighty God, and to implore him to continue and confirm the blessings we experience."

We are blessed in this nation. As we join with family and friends during this Thanksgiving weekend, let us reflect on the many gifts that we, as a free people, often take for granted.

— U.S. Senator Rick Santorum



Saturday, November 25

Sunday, November 26

Monday, November 27

Introduction to Windows and Computers Workshop, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., and Nov. 28, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tuesday, November 28

Wednesday, November 29

NYFEA Institute, Wyoming, thru Dec. 2.

Introduction to Computers Using Windows, Adams County Extension, thru Nov. 30.

Southeast Grape Industry Association of Pa. Annual Meeting, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Thursday, November 30

Maryland Dairy Industry Association Annual Meeting, Westminster.

Greenhouse Food Production Workshop, Terra Community College, Fremont, thru Dec. 1.

Pre-Conference Dairy Workshop On National Dairy Info Base, Carroll Community College Annex, Westminster, Md., 8 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

Friday, December 1

Lebanon County Dairy Day, Lebanon Valley Expo Center, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Mennonite Farming History In Europe, Christian Aid Ministries Warehouse, Ephrata, 7 p.m.

2000 Buckeye Shepherd's Symposium, Clarion Hotel, Worthington, Ohio, also Dec. 2.

Berks County DHIA Banquet, Berks County Ag Center, 7:30 p.m.

York County DHIA Banquet, York County 4-H Center, 7 p.m.

Potter County DHIA Banquet, Erways Restaurant, Couderport, 1 p.m.

Dairy Calf Workshop, New Franklin Ruritan Community Center, New Franklin, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 2

Future of Our Food and Farms, Radisson, Philadelphia, thru Dec. 3.

4-H Dairy Judging, John George Farm, New York, 8:45 a.m.

Sunday, December 3

Monday, December 4

Pork 509: Meeting the Need For High Quality, Consistent Pork Products in Ohio, Animal Sciences Building, Ohio State University College Campus, thru Dec. 5.

New York Farm Bureau State Annual Meeting, Adam's Mark Hotel, Buffalo, thru Dec. 7.

Tuesday, December 5

Ephrata Area Young Farmers Christmas Event, Ephrata Middle School, 7:30 p.m.

First National Conference On Grazing Lands, Bally's Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nev., thru Dec. 8.

Western Pa. Vegetable and Berry Growers' Seminar, Days Inn, Butler.

Lebanon Valley Farm-City Banquet, Lebanon Valley Expo

(Turn to Page A30)



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Realize Manure Spreaders May Be Deadly

Three farm workers died after they climbed into a 4,755-gallon liquid manure tank (spreader) and were overcome by the fumes.

Police believe the men were killed by inhaling deadly methane gas when they climbed into the nearly empty tank to repair a faulty part. The methane gas had pushed the oxygen out of the tank. The men were using the mobile tank to spread manure on a farm.

One man entered the tank to make the repair, but failed to return. A second man went in to

rescue him and the third was then prompted to go in after the other two failed to come out. The men ranged in age from 23 to 33. Police said criminal negligence on the farm owners has yet to be assessed.

This case reminds us that manure spreaders are a safety hazard that is often overlooked. Also, there could be criminal and civil penalties if the farm owner does offer and monitor a good safety program.

To Plant Trees

You do not have to cut down trees in order to save on your fuel bill. You may do just the opposite.

Plant trees to cut your fuel bill by considerable amounts. Trees, both deciduous and evergreen, can do wonders for you if you make careful selections, locate the trees in the most strategic areas, and supply plenty of patience.

Deciduous trees can cut the cost of cooling your house. By creating shade on the south and west walls of your house, as well as on the roof, they can lower the inside temperature by as much as 18 to 20 degrees. When the temperature cools down, the trees drop their leaves, allowing the sun to come through and raise the inside temperature during the cold months.

Evergreen trees may be placed to the west and north of your house to break the force of the cold winter winds that come down from the cold arctic air

masses, usually from the northwest. Slowing the wind down makes it easier for your house heating system to do its job with much less fuel. You could reduce fuel usage as much as 20 to 25 percent with a mature windbreak.

Another ingredient is patience. If you plant conifers about four to five feet tall, it will take about 12 to 15 years for you to reap real dividends through smaller fuel bills. However, even when trees are only 8 to 10 feet tall they will already start helping to pay their room and board.

To Be Safe Around Grain Bins

Each year flowing grain takes the lives of farmers and family members. Flowing grain can quickly trap and suffocate a person working in a bin or storage area.

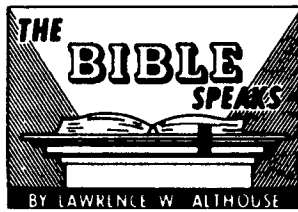
Typically the accident involves a young person less than 16 years of age. Accidents often occur when individuals are busy, in a hurry, become careless, and are taking shortcuts or simply slip.

Flowing grain can grab and pull a person under in as little as 10 seconds. It can take as little as two seconds to become helplessly caught in flowing grain.

The best defense against grain suffocation is constant attention to safety and prevention. It is extremely important to warn children to stay out of grain bins.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "Where there is no vision, the people perish"

— Proverbs 29:18



NO 'GOLDEN OLDIE'

Background Scripture:

1 Kings 11.

Devotional Reading:

Nahum 1:2-8.

If, like me, you know the full story of King Solomon, you have perhaps shared my uncomfortable feeling while, in the last two weeks, we have studied passages extolling Solomon as Israel's king of kings.

"Uncomfortable" because, despite the superlatives heaped on him in the previous chapters, I knew that 1 Kings 11 was waiting for us around the corner.

This 11th chapter is an abrupt about-face. Despite the glowing expectations of his younger days, Solomon, has another side which is far from exemplary.

It would appear that the divine dissatisfaction came late in Solomon's life, but you can bet that it didn't happen overnight. In all likelihood, Solomon's dark side had been there for a long time and only became so evident in his later years. Early on it seemed that Solomon grew only better and better, but somewhere along the line he must have stopped growing in that direction. Despite his early prospects, the end was tragic.

What happened to King Solomon?

Reading 1 Kings 11 we might conclude that the fault rests upon the fact that "King Solomon loved many foreign women." So Solomon had several foreign wives. How did that turn him in the wrong direction? We know that in his day and for long centuries thereafter in many cultures, royal marriage was a political and diplomatic act. Kings married the daughters of other kings so as to strengthen an alliance or discourage invasion. Da-

vid's many wives did not seem to inspire God's rebuke.

Those Foreign Wives

If we read on, however, we find two facts that help to explain the problem.

First, God had explicitly enjoined the people of Israel from marrying Egyptian, Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women. Why? Because the Lord anticipated that these women would be a corrupting influence within Israel. The people of Israel needed to withstand the beguiling influence of idolatry and these women would make it more difficult to keep Israel unpolluted by the worship of idols.

Secondly, we find that Solomon did not have "a few foreign wives." In fact, the sheer statistics of Solomon's harem are astounding: "seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines" (11:3). There were more than a thousand women in Solomon's harem. He could not justify seven hundred wives on the grounds of diplomacy, because Israel didn't have that many neighbors and enemies. There could be no justification for three hundred concubines as they carried no political or diplomatic clout. How could such a wise man ever be so foolish!

The writer of 1 Kings partly rationalizes Solomon's excesses by explaining that the king "loved" the women of his harem and "clung to these (women) in love." He loved a thousand women? One cannot love a thousand women if, by love, you mean he cared for them. If it means he made "love" to one thousand women, that's something else. Perhaps that is the key to what happened to Solomon over the years: he was obsessed with women; he could not have loved them.

He Loved 1,000 Women?

Also, I do not believe the problem was with the women themselves, but with Solomon. They were his obsession. Most of them probably had no choice in the matter. As women, they were merely the pawns of men, little more than property. Further-

more, they could not have corrupted him unless Solomon were corruptible. Assuming that they did represent a threat to his religious faith, it was his weakness that gave them that power.

So what was Solomon's weakness? I suspect that it was the corrupting influence of power. He knew God's commands against marrying foreign wives, but he believed he was above those commands. They just applied to others. You know the old quotation from Sir J.E.E. Dalberg: "Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Power is seductive, probably more so even than sex and sexual abuse is often really the abuse of power — imposing our will on others. It is like a drug that makes us insensitive to others and focuses us into a consistent compulsion to exercise more and more power. The son of Mussolini once remarked how much fun it was watching people run from shelter from his machine guns. Solomon's fantastic wealth and power dulled and overrode his early moral consciousness.

One does not have to be a king or president to be seduced by power. It can happen to doctors, lawyers, ministers, judges, journalists, military, business people, and labor leaders and factory workers. It can be just as real in your home and your community as well as in the seats of secular and ecclesiastical power.

Solomon's 40-year rule was long regarded as Israel's golden era. But despite his so promising youth, Solomon proved to be no "golden oldie."

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