

Lancaster Farming

OPINION

See You At The Show(s)

Can you believe it? The year 2000 is past with its Y2K anticipation and the New Year 2001 is already several days old. The coldest winter since 1989 is in progress with the last 16 days reported below normal in temperature. And we have also had snow earlier than usual. The good old days of January are back.

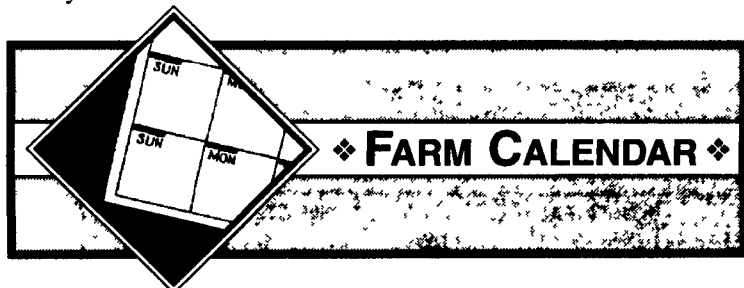
But when you talk about the New Year and winter weather in an editorial, you know it must be about Farm Show time.

This year we have two farm shows to attend. The showcase of agriculture with 9,000 entries in 33 departments is again scheduled in Harrisburg at the Farm Show Complex. This traditional trek to the capitol city for farmers is scheduled to run from Saturday, Jan. 6 to the following Thursday, Jan. 11. Not only do you have more than 325 commercial exhibitors and 11 commodity associations participating, you have family living, youth, and agricultural learning center exhibits. And don't forget the animals — 651 beef cattle, 529 dairy animals, 323 dairy goats, 148 horses, 800 poultry exhibits, 690 rabbits, 984 sheep, and 714 swine.

Of course, Gov. Ridge is scheduled to take his annual tour and preside over the official opening of the show on Saturday. And the youth livestock auction will again be a part of the final day's events.

The Keystone Farm Show at the York Fairgrounds runs concurrently from Tuesday, Jan. 9 to Thursday, Jan. 11. Here the farm community, as in past years, is invited to gather and view the commercial exhibits of agribusiness without the interference of the general public. While the public relations aspect from farm to consumer is missing, farmers can view the products and services of more than 300 commercial exhibitors.

This is the first year both shows run the same week. So you will need to decide which one to visit. *Lancaster Farming* has a booth at both of them. So either way we'll see you at the show. Or maybe you will also decide to go to both of them. In this case, we will hope to see you twice.



FARM CALENDAR

Saturday, January 6
Pennsylvania State Farm Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., thru Jan. 11.
Pennsylvania Hereford Association Meeting and Banquet, Harrisburg Marriott.

Sunday, January 7
Pennsylvania Angus Association Membership Banquet, Holiday Inn, Grantville, 5:30 p.m.

Monday, January 8
Ice Cream Short Course, Nittany Lion Inn, University Park, thru Jan. 18.
Pa. State FFA Convention, Farm Show Complex, 4:30 p.m.
Octorara Young Farmer meeting, Octorara High School, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 9
Keystone Farm Show, York Fairgrounds, thru Jan. 11.
Eastern Pa. Turf Conference and Trade Show, Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, thru Jan. 11.
Ephrata Area Young Farmers Introduction To Ephrata School District Demo Farm, Ephrata High School, 7:30 p.m.
Great Lakes Vegetable Growers' Convention and Farm Market Show, Grand Center, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Wednesday, January 10
National No-Tillage Conference, Omni Netherland Plaza, Cincinnati, Ohio, thru Jan. 13.
North American Berry Conference, Sheraton Fallsview Hotel, Niagara Falls.

Thursday, January 11
Livestock Mortality Workshop, Rescue Hose Co., Greencastle, Franklin County extension office, 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m.

Organic Grain Marketing, Kutztown University's The Blue Room, Kutztown.

Friday, January 12
Berks County Ag Conference, Inn at Reading, Wyomissing, 6:30 p.m., thru Jan. 13.
Susquehanna Regional Vegetable Meeting, Carriage Corner, Mifflinburg.

Saturday, January 13
Dauphin County DHIA Banquet, Country Buffet Restaurant, 11 a.m.

Sunday, January 14
Charting the Future of Berks Agriculture, Penn State Berks-Lehigh Valley College, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Monday, January 15
Farm Computerized Accounting Workshop, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, also Jan. 19, 23, and 26.
New Holland Vegetable Day, Yoder's Restaurant, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Association Conference and Trade show, Sheraton-Mesa Hotel and the Community Conference Center, Mesa, Ariz., thru Jan. 22.

Tuesday, January 16
2001 Trade Show and New Jersey Annual Vegetable Meeting, Taj Mahal, Atlantic City, N.J., thru Jan. 18.
Northeast Dairy Industry, Managing A Hispanic Workforce, Raddison Penn Harris Hotel and Convention Center, Camp Hill, also an. 18 at Marriott Thruway Hotel, Rochester, N.Y.

Wednesday, January 17
Annual Meeting of Farm and Home Foundation, Lancaster

(Turn to Page A42)



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Enjoy Pennsylvania Farm Show

The 2001 edition of the Pennsylvania State Farm Show opens this weekend.

The Farm Show opens Jan. 6 and runs to Jan. 11 at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. The show includes commercial and educational exhibits, livestock shows, numerous family living and agricultural products, demonstrations, and many contests.

No Farm Show would be complete without a visit to the food court to taste Pennsylvania's finest food products.

While at the Farm Show, be sure to stop by at the Penn State booth located in the main exhibit hall. This year's booth will feature Ask the Experts about home horticulture, food safety, crop production, soil management,

and accessing information over the Internet. Also there will be sections highlighting forest resources, integrated pest management, and West Nile Virus. Plan now to attend this year's Farm Show and enjoy all it has to offer.

To Prepare For Winter Storms

The recent winter storm warnings remind us we are now in the heart of the winter storm season.

A fast-moving winter storm may mean high winds, snow, icy precipitation, and falling trees. These conditions can cause unpredictable interruptions to your electrical service. Some precautions you should take include:

- Test your standby generator on a weekly basis. Make sure you have a full fuel source on hand.
- Keep a battery-powered radio, flashlight, and plenty of fresh batteries on hand and where you can find them in the dark.
- Avoid the use of candles. Mishandled or unattended candles could cause a fire when all public safety resources are strained.
- Fill a tub, several large bottles, or pots with water. Your water supply could stop if your home uses a well and pump. Additionally, power outages could affect municipal water treatment and pumping facilities.
- A fully loaded freezer can keep food cold for 36 to 48 hours if the door remains closed. Refrigerated foods spoil faster and may only be safe if used within a few hours. If you have any questions, call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at (800) 535-4555.

To Keep Calves And Heifers Healthy

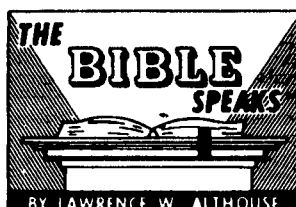
Calves and heifers experience more disease during the winter than any other time. It is important to take precautions to keep animals healthy and growing, according to Dr. Jud Heinrichs, Penn State professor of dairy science extension.

Changeable weather, cold temperatures, and dampness all conspire to make winters tough for calves. In addition, barns are closed up. With marginal ventilation, dampness, toxic gases, and disease organisms build up. All respiratory infections are reported more frequently during the winter. Diarrhea diseases also are more frequent and more severe.

Some tips to keep animals healthy are:

- Use maternity pens for calving cows only, not dry or sick cows. Do not keep cows in these pens any longer than necessary to minimize excess manure buildup. Keep the pens clean and well bedded with long stem bedding.
- Provide adequate ventilation in maternity and young stock facilities to reduce moisture and buildup of toxic gases. Avoid drafts. Ensure early, high quality colostrum intake.
- Feed three quarts of colostrum as soon as possible after birth, then feed a minimum of four quarts within the first eight hours of life.
- Plan and implement a herd vaccination program with your veterinarian. Check young stock twice daily for early signs of illness. Seek veterinary help for early diagnosis and prompt treatment of sick calves. Herd replacements are too valuable to get anything but first-rate care.

Feather Prof's Footnote:
"Effort and courage are not enough without purpose and direction."



QUITTING WHILE HE'S AHEAD?

Background Scripture:
Luke 4:14-30.
Devotional Reading:
Isaiah 61.

It was a good sermon — up to a point. The preacher began with a stirring passage from Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor" (Isaiah 61:1,2; Lk 4:18). He excited them when he proclaimed, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" (4:21). Imagine that — a portion of prophecy fulfilled this very day in their presence!

Had he quit at just this point, he would have been ahead because the people in the synagogue were bowled over by this native son. They were amazed at the "gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth" and they couldn't help asking, "Is not this Joseph's son?" They did not expect to hear this from one who had originated in their midst.

But he did not stop right there and, continuing onward, he instantaneously changed their admiration to fury. One moment they were praising him; the next, they wanted to lynch him. Once that point had been reached, there was no turning back.

Hometown People

So, what was that point upon which Jesus passed from warm acclamation to harsh condemnation? It was when he made it

clear that the prophecy which he was fulfilling that day was not a hometown-boy-makes-good event, but a warning that as Israelites they did not have God in their pockets. Hometown people want the hometown boy or girl to make them feel pride and gratification. But Jesus' appearance in his was not to gain personal popularity, but to proclaim the radical good news of God — "good news to the poor... release to the captives... liberty (to) those who are oppressed."

What they wanted was for him to speak of the resurgence of the throne of David, the restoration of the Kingdom of Israel, and the overthrow of their Roman occupiers. What they looked for was comfort for the middle class, not liberation for the underlings of their society. They wanted respectable words, not a call to change their world. They wanted him to remind them how special they were in God's eyes. Instead, he painfully reminded them that God's grace is with the very ones whom they regarded as their spiritual inferiors: the poor, the prisoners, and victims of oppression.

As they saw it, this was good news to the "wrong" people. But Jesus reminded them that often that's the way it is with God. In a time of famine, Elijah the prophet was sent to Zarephath, a lowly widow of Sidon. Although there were probably thousands of lepers in Israel, Elijah was sent to cleanse the leprosy of a despised foreigner, Naaman the Syrian. What Jesus said to them seemed a deliberate effort to insult them.

Fighting Words

The teachings and preachings of Jesus, however, are never intended to insult us, to stir us to anger — although that is often what happens. An old preacher once told me that, if over the

years my sermons didn't upset some of my people some of the time, then I wasn't preaching the gospel of Christ all of the time. The good news is intended not to make us angry, but to make us humble.

From time to time we all need to be humbled in Christ's presence. Beholding his absolute goodness in the scriptures and in the lives of others is meant to call us to repentance and transformation.

Secular judges sometimes speak of what they will or will not "tolerate in my courtroom," and I want to remind that judge that this is not his or her courtroom, but the court of the people. Similarly, let us not speak and act positively of "my church." The church does not belong to me because I am its minister, nor to a single family who make substantial financial contributions, nor to a group of "old-timers" who grew up in it.

The church belongs to Christ, as we do, too. In fact, Christ does not belong to us; it is the other way around. He includes within his embrace lots of "others" whom we would exclude. But we cannot embrace the good news of Jesus Christ without embracing as well the poor, the captives, the sick and the oppressed. Jesus never quits when and where we think he should.

Lancaster Farming

Established 1965

Published Every Saturday

Ephrata Review Building
1 E. Main St.
Ephrata, PA 17522

—by—

Lancaster Farming, Inc.

A Sturman Enterprise

William J. Burgess General Manager
Everett R. Newswanger Editor

Copyright 2000 by Lancaster Farming