



Lancaster Farming

OPINION

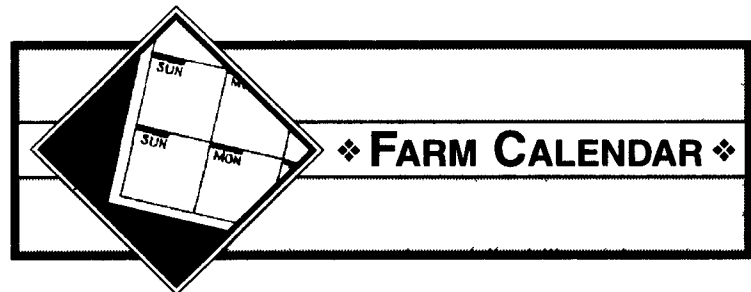
The Pennsylvania House of Representatives has approved legislation that eliminates the cap on the amount of state money counties can spend to preserve farmland. The measure proposes to eliminate the cap of \$10,000 per acre on the use of state farmland preservation money. The thinking is that some areas of the state have high land values, and this limit is making it difficult for preservation programs to purchase conservation easements.

We agree that to let the local county determine what is reasonable to pay for farmland is good. Yet we can't help but use the Lancaster Farmland Trust and the Lancaster County Preserve Board as examples of frugality in these matters. These organizations with their exceptional record of the use of financial plan-

ning to preserve farmland in "high priced" Lancaster County is the talk of the nation. We have a report this week that the Trust alone has just approved a record making eleven more farms for preservation at its February meeting.

There are two things to be considered when you pay more than \$10,000 an acre for easements against development. The high-priced land may be in an area where farming is no longer practical because it is enclosed by development. So it is simply open space disguised as farmland. Secondly, if you put so much money into one farm, a lot fewer real farms can be preserved.

Even good programs need strong fiscal management to be effective and good use of both public and private money.



Saturday, February 17

New Farm Entrepreneur New and Beginning Farmer Workshop, Holiday Inn, Grantville, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Partners For A Safer Community Pennsylvania Training Workshop, Marriott, Harrisburg, thru Feb. 18.

Local Food — Local Farming With Faith, New Covenant Mennonite Fellowship, Hinkletown, 2 p.m.-9 p.m.

International Dwarf Fruit Tree Association Annual Conference, Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Delmarva Goat Symposium, Henson Hall, Worwic Community College, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

National FFA Week, thru Feb. 24.

Sunday, February 18

Pa. Game Bird Association, Nittany Lion Inn, University Park, thru Feb. 20.

Monday, February 19

Farm Computerized Accounting Workshop, Franklin County extension office, also Feb. 21, 23, and 26.

"TEAM BEEF" Penn State, thru Feb. 22.

Franklin Covey Workshop, Mid-Atlantic Direct Marketing Conference, Virginia Beach, Va., thru Feb. 24.

Bradford County Dairy Day, SRU Middle School, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Adams County Fruit Growers Educational Meeting, Biglerville High School.

Computer Workshop, Arena Restaurant, Bedford, also Feb. 20.

Dairy Reproductive Management Seminar, Lysock View Complex, Montoursville, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 20

Franklin County Fruit Growers Educational Meeting, Savory Restaurant, Waynesboro.

Lancaster County Dairy Days, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, also March 6.

Cambria County Crops Day, extension office, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Estate Planning, Carriage Corner Restaurant, Mifflinburg, also Feb. 27 and March 6, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

Nutrient Management Certification and Plan Writing Seminars For Farmers, Kutztown Produce Auction, Fleetwood, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., also Feb. 21 and March 2, 9 a.m.-noon.

NCC Farmer Breakfast Meeting, ChesDel Diner, 7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

Cow Sense Workshop, Hamilton Brothers Dairy, Avella, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Greenhouse Growers Meeting, Penn State Center, Lewisport, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

"Stress Busters" for child care, Providers, Ext. Office Towanda 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Pesticide Credit, Neshaminy Manor Center, Bucks Co.

Wednesday, February 21

Pa. Holstein Convention, Radisson Hotel, West Middlesex, thru Feb. 23.

Christmas Tree Short Course, Penn Stater Conference Center, University Park, thru Feb. 22.

Allegheny Society of American Foresters winter meeting, Tropicana Hotel, Atlantic City, N.J., thru Feb. 23.

Lebanon County Winter Vegetable Meeting, Schaefferstown Fire Hall, Schaefferstown, 9:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Pork Quality Assurance Meeting, Seipstown Grange, Allentown, also Carlisle Livestock Auction, 7 p.m.

Milking School For Dairy Employees, Operators, Walker Township Building, Zion, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., also Feb. 22.

York County Fruit Growers Educational Meeting, York extension office, 9 a.m.

Mid-Atlantic Direct Marketing Conference and Trade show, Cavalier Oceanfront, Virginia Beach, Va., thru Feb. 24.

Computer Workshop, Blair extension offices, Altoona, also Feb. 22.

Northwest Grazing Conference, DuBois Ramada Inn.

Agribusiness Breakfast, Wil-

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Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Use ATV's Safely

ATV's have become very popular for work and recreation on many farms. Along with their popularity has been a reported increase of serious injuries and deaths. Make ATV safety a priority on your farm.

The following are some safety ideas for ATV's:

1. An ATV is not a toy. Children should not be permitted to operate ATV's without specialized training.

2. Wear appropriate riding gear: DOT-, Snell ANSI- approved helmet, goggles, gloves, over the ankle boots, long sleeved shirt and long pants.

3. ATV's are not made for extra riders. Never carry anyone else on the ATV.

4. Any added attachments affect the stability, operating and braking of the ATV. Just because an attachment is available does not mean that it can be used without increasing your risk of being injured.

5. Do not operate the ATV on streets, highways or paved roads, and

6. Read owner's manual carefully.

To Look At Moisture In Homes

Moisture levels inside homes in winter may be high enough to cause mildew and other problems while dryness, on the other hand can also be a problem, reports Dr. Robert Thee, Penn State Extension Housing and Financial Management Agent. Dry air is often associated with wood burning stoves and fireplace inserts.

Forced hot air central heating systems may also add to drying conditions. Simple techniques to add moisture include placing containers of water on wood stoves, adding a humidifier to central heating systems or installing a separate humidifier. Relative humidity of 30 to 50 percent is recommended for the health of the house and 40 to 60 percent for the health of the occupants. An inexpensive hygrometer can indicate the level of the relative humidity in your home.

To Control Excessive Moisture

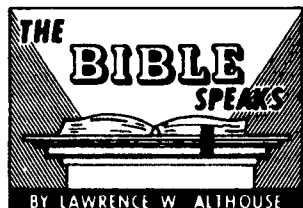
Often moisture will condense on windows causing wetness and dripping even while the relative humidity in the house is low enough to cause nasal and breathing problems. Dr. Robert Thee, Penn State Extension Housing and Financial Management Agent, reminds us that temperature and moisture are related.

Condensation on windows is more likely to be a result of a cold window than excessive moisture in the room. You can prevent condensation by warming the window surface above the dew point by adding storm windows and/or placing heated air vents below the window so that the warm air will remove the moisture from the glass much like the defroster works on the windshield of a car.

In cases where mildew is appearing on ceilings and at edges near the outside walls (not just in poorly ventilated corners of rooms), it is possible that the ceiling insulation is not properly installed. Insulation must extend over the top plate of the wall and be fitted tightly to the top plate.

Cold wind may blow under the insulation and chill the ceiling where vapor will then condense. Alternatively, the wall insulation may have settled allowing cold spots to occur at the top of the walls. In either case, insulation must be reposition or filled in.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "Our lives are not determined by what life brings to us, but by the attitude we bring to life."



SAVE YOURSELF!

Background Scripture:

Luke 23:13-49.

Devotional Reading:

Luke 23:50-56.

The basic primal urge is to save one's self. We may hold out bravely for fidelity to others, devotion to a cause, and the fulfillment of a mission, but the insidious voice inside us keeps pleading with us to "save yourself!" Christianity does not deny the existence and persuasiveness of that voice within, but it does call us to hear a voice that calls us beyond saving ourselves.

Jesus taught us about those voices, not so much with what he said, as with what he himself did. After his baptism, when he went out into the wilderness for 40 days and nights, he heard the primal voice that called him to save himself: "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread" (Lk 4:3). Jesus recognized this voice as that of the devil. In both the wilderness and at Calvary that voice spoke to him three times.

The first time at Calvary this voice came to him through the "rulers" who scoffed, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" (23:35). Notice that, as in the wilderness, the devil said, "If you are the Son of God..." on Calvary the rulers say "if he is the Christ of God." The devil seeks to undermine Jesus' understanding of who and what he is. Do not our temptations come to us in much the same way?

Self-Doubt

The next challenge at Calvary comes from the soldiers: "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself" (23:37). The greatest temptations sometimes come to us through self-doubt and that is the thrust of the challenges to Jesus on Calvary. None of those challenging him expected Jesus to respond to their taunts. They didn't believe he could save others, nor did they believe that he was King of the Jews and could save himself.

One of the criminals who was being crucified at the same time, delivers to Jesus the third challenge: "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" (23:39) Once again this was not a sincere request. When the criminal called to Jesus, "Save yourself and us!", he is not really asking Jesus to save him; he is mocking him.

The other crucified criminal knows this and replies: "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?"

The other criminal continues: "And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds...but this man has done nothing wrong." Turning to Jesus, he says: "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingly power" and Jesus replies, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise" (23:42,43).

Although most of those who stood at the cross taunted and reviled Jesus, this criminal made the most important decision of his life and committed himself to the crucified Christ. In doing so, he saved himself — not from death on the cross, but from the weight of his sins and the evil power of the cross.

Avoiding Crosses

Committing ourselves into the hands of Jesus does not mean that we will be saved from suf-

fering and death in this life. Jesus is the prime example of this truth.

He chose to go to the cross rather than saving himself with an eternal compromise. But, because he was faithful to that commitment, he was saved, not from the cross, but after or despite the cross. He saved himself by first giving himself, sacrificing himself. The pain of the cross and the threat of death could not break his commitment: "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit" (23:46).

Some people turn to Christianity to avoid crosses and then find that bearing crosses is what Christian discipleship is all about. In fact, the risk of bearing a cross increases when we truly follow Jesus. "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Mk. 8:35). That doesn't mean the Christian should seek a cross to bear, but neither should he or she turn away from one if it stands as an obstacle on the road to discipleship.

"For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it" (Mk. 8:35). There is nothing wrong with our basic human instinct to "save ourselves," so long as we remember that the only way to save ourselves is to give ourselves — as Christ gave himself for us.

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—by—

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