

Lancaster Farming

OPINION

Interdisciplinary

College students are required to study a wide variety of subject matter, some of which doesn't seem to have any connection to their chosen study or profession. They often ask, "Why do I have to learn about this? I'll never use this in my career."

But as we mature and learn about the world and how it works, we realize that a widened horizon contributes to the knowledgeable, well-rounded businessperson.

At my alma mater, Temple University, there was a course entitled "Freshman Interdisciplinary Studies," or FIS for short.

Likewise, with farming, many families may agree that FIS can be a good philosophy. Children who want to manage the farm are wise to initially take a job in a nonfarm area, or to take up a mission in another part of the world, simply to gain the much-needed and well-regarded perspective so essential to farm survival.

The idea is: first learn other businesses and how they operate. Then take that knowledge and bring it to the farm.

Before college, I worked on a neighbor's farm. I learned a lot of business sense from the farmer, but I also learned a lot about nonfarm business outside of farming after college. And businesses do operate much the same way.

I think having that "interdisciplinary" perspective is a good idea.

Over the years, I have spoken with many farm families who simply won't allow their children to manage aspects of the farm until those children first venture into the nonfarm world and spend some time there, taking up another occupation, or managing a nonfarm business. Certainly the experience can provide a deeper and more life-lasting commitment to the importance — the very philosophy — of farming as a business.



**Now Is
The Time
By Leon Ressler**
Lancaster County
Extension Director

To Say Hello

It is an honor to be given the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of John Schwartz and those who preceded him in Lancaster County.

I have been an extension agent in Lancaster County for the past 13 years. My efforts have been focused in programs related to environmental issues in agriculture. This has included working with nutrient management, manure marketing, composting, water quality, water rights, and nuisance issues.

I have had the opportunity to meet many of you over the years

and I look forward to many future opportunities to work with the agricultural community. Although agriculture is facing many challenges today, there are many exciting possibilities as well. I will do my best to keep you up to date with the information you need to be successful in the days ahead as our world changes rapidly.

To Apply For Crop Insurance

The final date for applying for crop insurance for spring planted crops is March 15, 2001.

Any farmer who received disaster payments for a 1999 crop is committed to purchasing crop insurance for both the 2000 and 2001 crops.

Failure to purchase the insurance will result in a \$200 penalty per crop. If your insurance agent does not handle crop insurance, contact your local Farm Service Agency office for a list of agents who carry the insurance.

To Attend The College Of Agricultural Sciences Open House

Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences will conduct an open house for future students and their families on Saturday, March 31.

This is an excellent opportuni-

ty for high school students who are considering a career in agricultural sciences to become familiar with the programs available at Penn State.

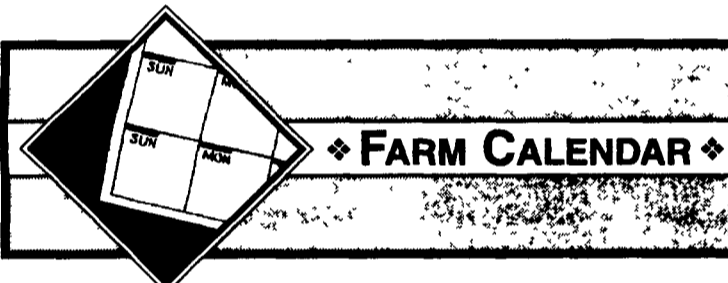
Future students will be able to interact with deans, faculty, and current students. The morning session includes an overview of majors and minors available, scholarships, clubs, organizations, and societies, internships, undergraduate research, and education abroad. Then there will be tours of agricultural research and teaching facilities for each department.

Visitors will have the opportunity to sample residence hall food with brunch in East or North halls. In the afternoon, there will be presentations on various careers in agricultural sciences and a panel discussion with recent alumni. There will also be a bus tour as well as a walking tour of campus.

A residence hall tour and a bus tour of the large animal facility will be available in the afternoon schedule. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about undergraduate opportunities at Penn State. For more information or to register, call (814) 865-7521.

Quote of the Week:

"You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist."
— Golda Meir (Prime Minister of Israel 1969-1974)



◆ FARM CALENDAR ◆

Saturday, March 3
Western Pa. Sheep Symposium, Holiday Inn, Meadowlands, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Beaver/Lawrence Holstein Club Annual Meeting, The Villa Restaurant, New Castle, 4:30 p.m.

Open House, Dauphin Co. Ag and Natural Resources Center, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Woodland Owners' Conference, Penns Inn, Alvin Bush Campus Center, Pa. College of Technology, Williamsport, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Regional Christmas Tree Growers' Meeting and Trade Show, the Chateau Resort and Conference Center, Tannersville, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Maryland Grape Growers' Association annual meeting, Clarksville, Md., 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 4

Monday, March 5
Pesticide Credit, Berks County Ag Center

"Passing on the Farm" Workshop, Aldie Mansion, Doylestown 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Select Sire Power Customer Meeting, Family House Restaurant, Mifflintown, 11:30 a.m. and Camelot Restaurant, Reedsville, 7 p.m.

Pesticide training for core credits, Berks County Ag Center, Leesport, 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

Tuesday, March 6

Pa. and Del. No-till Conference, West Middlesex, Pa. Also March 7, Hotel Magee, Bloomsburg; March 8, Carlisle; and March 9 Dover, Del.

Tri-State Conservation Tillage Conference, Radisson Hotel, West Middlesex.

Holstein annual meeting, Northern Bedford High School, Loysburg.

Select Sire Power Customer meeting, Shadowbrook Resort, Tunkhannock and Yoder's Restaurant, Mifflinburg, 7 p.m.

Hoof Trimmer Clinic, Lebanon Fairgrounds.

Franklin County Farm Management Forum, Lighthouse Restaurant, Chambersburg, phone (717) 263-9226.

Lancaster County Dairy Days Part 2, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Crops Clinic, Schuylkill County Ag Center, Pottsville, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 7

Mid-Atlantic Dairy Management Conference, Radisson Penn Harris, Camp Hill, thru March 8.

Mid-Atlantic No-till Conference, Bloomsburg's Hotel Magee.

Risk Management for Dairy Operators, Walker Township Building, Zion, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Capitol Region crop herbicide and insecticide update, Adams County Extension Office, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

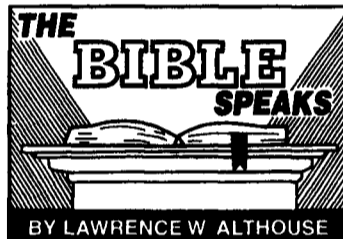
Forage Management Workshop For Dairy Producers, Berlin Community Building, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Beef Quality Assurance and Deworming Program, Cedarbrook Golf Course, Belle Vernon, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Public hearing, Milk Marketing Board, Room 202 Ag Building, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.

Northeast Ohio Dairy Management Conference, Sheraton Four Points, Beldon Village,

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THE BIBLE SPEAKS
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

THE WAITING ROOM

Background Scripture:
Acts 1.
Devotional Reading:
John 16:7-14.

What a dramatic reversal the disciples of Jesus experienced — from the gloom of Good Friday to the unbelievable joy of Easter Sunday!

We can understand their euphoria and the expectancy with which they asked the Risen Lord: "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6).

It seems to me that the experience of Christ's resurrection had not made them a whole lot more understanding: they still thought that Jesus' messianic purpose was to restore the kingdom of Israel. They were looking for a change in the secular realm: vanquish Rome and restore Israel as an independent nation once again. It seems that they expected this to take place instantaneously. Just say the word, Lord; we are ready!

So Jesus' reply may have come to them as a shock: "It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth" (7,8). The answer Jesus gave them was the very one that peo-

ple do not want to hear: Wait! Be patient!

Learn To Wait

In his poem, "The Reaper and the Flowers," Longfellow says: *Still achieving, still pursuing, Learn to labour and to wait.*

Most of us don't have to be persuaded to achieve, pursue, and labor, but many of us have never learned to wait. Patience may be our poorest subject. Yet the patience to wait for God to fulfill his promises is an essential ingredient of faith.

For centuries the Hebrews prayed: How long, oh Lord?. The Psalmists realized the importance of patience: "... those who wait for the Lord shall possess the land" (Ps. 37:9. See also Ps. 25:3,5; 40:1; 62:1; 130:5,6.) And also the prophet Isaiah: "... blessed are all they that wait for him" (30:18) and "... but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength" (40:31).

Impatience often clouded the understanding of Jesus' disciples. Like us, they often wanted his promises fulfilled *yesterday*. In one of his parables, he tells them to "be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the marriage feast" (Lk.12:36).

After his resurrection, Jesus tells his disciples: "And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high" (Lk.24:49), a command which he repeats, charging them "not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father..." (Acts 1:4).

Divine "Long Run"

One reason we mortals are so impatient is that we are mortals. Our sense of time is so different from that of our Creator. We know that, of course, but it is still difficult for us to see time in

terms of the divine long haul instead of the human short haul.

An old rabbinic story tells us that one day Abraham saw an old man weary with age and travel, coming toward him. In his usual manner, Abraham greeted him, washed his feet, and invited him to supper. But, observing during supper that the man did not offer a prayer of thanksgiving, Abraham asked him why he did not worship God and the old man told him that he worshipped only fire.

Upon hearing this, Abraham withdrew his hospitality and sent the man into the night. But God came to Abraham and admonished him: "I have suffered him these eighty years although he dishonored Me, and couldst thou not endure him one night?" This is reminiscent of what Jesus said to his sleeping disciples in Gethsemane, "Could you not watch one hour?" (Mk. 14:38).

We are wrong if we think that "waiting" is the equivalent of not doing anything. When we are waiting for God, we are doing something: we are actively practicing our faith. That's what the disciples did when, after the resurrection, they returned to the upper room, where they practiced the deep levels of their faith while they waited for the promise of the Father. For them and us, the upper room becomes the waiting room.

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