



Lancaster Farming

OPINION

The First Environmentalists

Sometimes the general media considers farmers less than proactive. Food producers have been falsely criticized for so-called "hiding heads in the sand," letting someone else confront the pressures put upon them by environmental groups, letting someone else distribute the message of the goodness of their products.

But criticize no more!

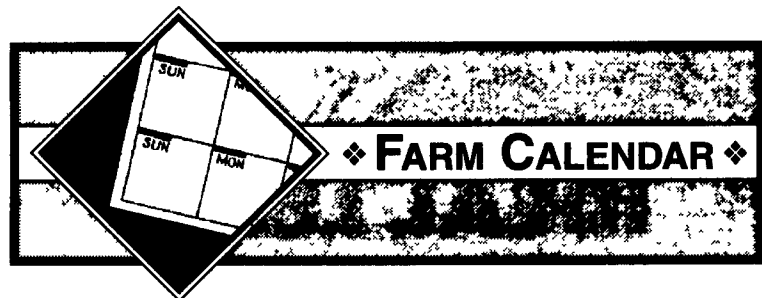
The Lebanon County Farm Bureau's "Thank A Farmer" Campaign seems like a great idea, one that was a long time coming.

The campaign, which is described on our front page story this week, will reach radio listeners in the southeast and south central parts of the state.

We at *Lancaster Farming* especially enjoy the statement made in one commercial: "Farmers have been called the 'first environmentalists.' **THEY ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES — IT IS HOW THEY MAKE THEIR LIVING**" (emphasis ours).

Maybe other farming counties can take the first "proactive" steps to bring this message to the public — before other groups present their own. Because that "other message" may not be as truthful or welcome.

We welcome your ideas on this.



Saturday, March 10

Home Gardeners School, Mifflinburg High School.
Northeast Forest Landowners Conference, Luzerne County Community College Conference Center, Nanticoke.
Garden Wise, York Suburban High School, York, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Ohio Berry Growers' School, Piketon Research and Extension Center, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Elk Auction, Majestic World Farms Auction, Blue Knob, phone (814) 643-2298.
Livestock Awards Night, Dauphin County Agriculture and Natural Resources Center, 7 p.m.
Grafting Wildlife Trees Workshop, Girard, and March 24, Findlay, N.Y., 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m., (814) 563-9388.

Sunday, March 11

Monday, March 12

Dairy Feeding Employee Training For Managers, Lebanon County extension office, also March 19 and 26.
Poultry Management and Health Seminar, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, noon.
Computer Workshops, Huntingdon County extension office, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., thru March 13.
Livestock Environmental Assurance Program Training Session, Ross County Service Center, Chillicothe, 9 a.m.-noon, and compost training, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
Fruit School in Adams County, phone (717) 334-6271.

Tuesday, March 13

Milker Training, Hershey Brothers, Manheim.
Solanco Young Farmers Meeting, Alternative Livestock Enterprises, Solanco High School, 7 p.m.
Clinton County Dairy Day and DHIA awards, Restless Oaks, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Pork Quality Assurance Certification, Lebanon County ex-

tension office, 1 p.m.
Fumigation Update, Neshaminy Manor Center.

Dairy Farm Employee Short Course, Agricultural Technical Institute, Wooster, thru March 15.

Christmas Tree Growers' Meeting, Arena Restaurant, Bedford, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Soil Fertility Workshop, Penn State, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Tractor Safety Course, Deerfield Ag and Turf, Watsonstown, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., continues Tuesday evenings until April 24.

Clarion Crops Day, Limestone Fire Hall, noon-3 p.m.

North Central Vegetable Producers Conference, Potter County extension office, Coudersport, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 14

Midwest Poultry Federation Convention, Touchstone Energy Place at River Centre, St. Paul, Minn., thru March 15.

Dairy Feeding Systems Management, Lebanon County extension office, also March 21. Conducted at Meadow Wood Farm, March 28.

Somerset County Annual Meeting, Berlin Community Building, Berlin, 7 p.m.

Manure Management Workshop, Penn State, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Central Susquehanna Valley Turf and Ornamental Meeting, Rooke Auditorium, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Berks County Conservation District meeting on Nutrient Management Act, Berks Ag Center, 9:30 a.m.-noon.

North Central Agricultural Financial Records — Ratio and Benchmarks, Jefferson County extension office, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Thursday, March 15

Southwest Regional Dairy Day, Mt. View Inn, Greensburg, 9

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Now Is The Time

By Leon Ressler

Lancaster County Extension Director

To Respond To

Deer Hunt Proposal

The Pennsylvania Game Commission seeks public comment on proposed changes to the state's deer hunting regulations.

"The goal of the proposed changes is to decrease the doe populations while increasing the percentage of mature bucks," said Gary San Julian, professor of wildlife resources. The commission will finalize their changes at their April 8 meeting.

The deer population is as high as it ever has been, San Julian explained. "Each year 40,000 carcasses are picked up off the highways and probably that many more are hit and die in the woods and fields." Deer-vehicle collisions cost lives and do tens of millions of dollars in damage.

Deer are also responsible for about \$75 million in damage to grain crops annually, according to San Julian. In addition, deer reduce the forests' ability to regenerate by eating young trees.

The proposed changes include:

- Starting the antlerless rifle season on the Saturday after

Thanksgiving followed by a two-week concurrent season for antlered and antlerless deer, starting on Monday.

- Changing the "private lands" tag so the hunters can apply for a second antlerless deer permit if available in a specific county.

- Opening the muzzleloader "antlerless-only" season earlier (Oct. 18-20) and allowing hunters, disabled hunters, and active duty military personnel to use any sporting rifle to take does if they have the proper permits.

Overall, the changes will increase the doe season by 11 days. "We kill more than 80 percent of all the bucks in the population each hunting season," San Julian explained.

"The commission wants to see if starting the doe season on Saturday will make the bucks more wary and not as easy a target. It is hoped that hunters who just want to put venison in the freezer will take advantage of the first day of doe season."

To comment on the deer hunting proposals, send written comments to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, ATTN: Deer Season Comments, Bureau of Information and Education, Harrisburg PA 17110-9797.

To Evaluate The Dairy Fairness Bill

A pending dairy bill would provide a safety net for dairy farm families when market prices are low, according to a study by two dairy economists from Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences. The study also concludes that the bill provides greater support to small and medium-sized dairy farms.

Kenneth Bailey, associate professor of dairy marketing and policy, and James Dunn, professor of agricultural economics, present these conclusions in "Economic Analysis of the National Dairy Farmers Fairness Act of 2001" published last week.

This legislation was proposed by Senators Rick Santorum of

Pennsylvania and Herb Kohl of Wisconsin to create a sliding scale of financial assistance for small and medium sized dairy operations.

According to Bailey, the bill has two unique features. The size of the supplemental payment is tied to general market conditions and the bulk of the payments are targeted to small and medium-sized dairy operations. This is beneficial to states such as Pennsylvania, which have many small family farms.

The general payment rate of 50 cents per hundred pounds (CWT) is made when the annual average Class III price of milk is below \$10.50 per hundredweight. The Class III price of milk averaged about \$9.74 per hundredweight in 2000. An additional payment of 30 cents per hundredweight would be made under those conditions if the producer did not expand production from the previous year. For a farm with 75 cows shipping 1.26 million pounds of milk annually, they would receive \$6,290 if they expanded and \$10,065 if they did not.

The study shows the bill would provide lower levels of price protection when the markets are stronger. For example, if the Class III price rises to between \$12.01 and \$12.50 per hundredweight, the general payment rate would be 18 cents per hundredweight and the additional payment rate for not expanding is 14 cents per hundredweight. Under this scenario the example farm with 75 cows would receive \$2,265 if they expanded and \$4,026 if they did not.

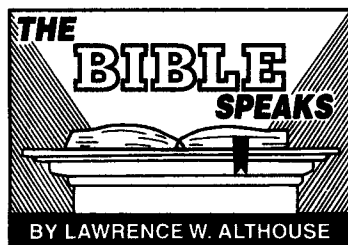
The complete study is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.aers.psu.edu/dairyoutlook/>.

Quote of the Week:

"It gives me a deep, comforting sense that things seen are temporal and things unseen are eternal."

— Helen Keller

(Helen was blind, deaf, and mute as a result of a childhood illness.)



CUT TO THE HEART!

Background Scripture:

Acts 2.

Devotional Reading:

John 3:5-8.

About 30 years ago, Marcus Bach, who wrote more than a dozen books on spirituality, told me of an incident that occurred one day when he was serving as guest speaker in a standard-brand-denomination church.

For his text he had selected Acts 1:8, "You shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you" (KJV). He began to talk about his own spiritual breakthrough and experience of the Holy Spirit. "It startled the three hundred sedate church members out of their Sunday morning complacency," he said, "and they looked up at me with astonished, unbelieving eyes."

After the service, the pastor of the church took him aside for what became a shouting match. The pastor accused him of offending the sensibilities and intelligence of his congregation and Bach replied, "That's the trouble with the church. Nobody wants to offend anybody. You preach what people want to hear. You never convict anybody of sin. You never challenge your people with their need for Christ." Eventually, they agreed to disagree and the pastor ended with, "Come on, let's go and eat." (See

Marcus Bach, "The Inner Ecstasy," World Publishing Co., 1969).

In one of my confirmation classes, a young man asked me why Pentecost happened "then" and not "now." I'm not sure what I answered him, but I have come to realize that the Church can still experience Pentecost, although not necessarily in the same way that the early disciples experienced it, nor even as some pentecostal churches experience it today. (I am not saying theirs is not a valid experience, only that the experience does not have to be the same for all Christians.)

Conviction Of Sin

I believe one reason that Pentecost is not experienced by many Christians is that, as my friend Marcus put it, we "never convict anybody of sin." Sin is not mentioned today. (I might mention your sins, but not mine!)

In the weekly "religion" section of the Dallas Morning News recently was an article by a pastor who was writing about the apparent "fall from grace" of a certain public figure. I agree with all that she said, except that she used the word "indiscretion" for what the man had done. His act, I believe, was not that of committing an "indiscretion," but a "sin." He is no less forgivable for sinning than he would be for being indiscreet, but let's call it by the right name.

We weaken our sense of responsibility when we avoid the word. A friend once told me that she didn't like the Christian preoccupation with "sin."

"We make mistakes," she told me. "Our problem is usually not evil, but ignorance, and I don't feel nearly so damned when I know that I have been ignorant instead of sinful." But that is the problem: the initial need is not to feel unthreatened by what we have done or been, but to experience the pain of knowing that we have failed our Lord.

Then You Shall Receive

In Acts 2, we are told, "Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brethren, what shall we do?' And Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'" (2:37,38).

If the Gospel of Jesus Christ does not "cut to the heart" of you from time to time, you are not listening to the message! As the Psalmist puts it: "If thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?" (Ps.130:2).

The answer is easy: none of us! We all need to be "cut to the heart", not so that we can wallow in our sin, but that we can be freed of it, for the Psalmist assures us, "But there is forgiveness with thee . . ."

As Peter told the throng at Pentecost, first seek the forgiveness of your sins and then "you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Those who had been "cut to the heart" "received his word and were baptized . . ."

The writer of Acts does not tell us how these new disciples experienced the power of the Holy Spirit, except that "they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (2:42).

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—by—

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