



Lancaster Farming

OPINION

Remain Biosecure

Mad cow disease. Foot and mouth disease (FMD). Avian influenza (A.I.).

The list of disease "concerns" for producers in this region is astounding.

At the BBC News Website (news.bbc.co.uk), the reports are that as of March 9, "it has been the worst day yet for outbreaks of foot and mouth disease, with a raft of new cases crushing hopes of an easing in livestock restrictions."

Twenty new cases, according to the BBC, were identified that Friday, bringing the total number across the United Kingdom to 127.

Apparently, 1967 was the worst year for the crisis, with 185 cases in the same length of time.

Paula Franke, in her Frankely Speaking column on Agdomain.com (www.agdomain.com), points to the "foot in mouth fiasco," about how the disease is showing up all over the globe.

It's also called hoof and mouth disease, or Aftosa. (Though, Franke writes, in the U.S., there hasn't been foot and mouth problem in a serious way since 1929).

CNN.com/World (at www.cnn.com) has a great Q & A site about the disease. They point out the acute infectious viral disease causes blisters, fever and lameness in animals with hooves. Pregnant animals, according to the site, often abort and dairy cattle may dry up.

Mortality is greater for young stock (at 75 percent) than adult stock (only 5 percent), according to information at www.Bayovac.com. FMD is highly contagious and one of the most feared diseases, and is endemic to Asia, Africa, parts of Europe, and South America.

The virus that causes FMD is resistant to cold temperatures and survives even freezing, but it is susceptible to pH less than 5, sunlight, heat and dryness, according to the Website.

Infected animals, according to Bayovac, develop fever, depression, nasal discharge, and anorexia. Blisters may appear on the muzzle, teats, udder, pili of the rumen, interdental area, and coronary band, according to the Website.

FMD affects cattle, sheep, pigs, and goats, according to CNN. But CNN is quick to point out though there is no known cure, FMD is mainly an economic rather than safety issue.

Franke, in her Agdomain column, noted that, in the past week, she read reports that "visitors to the UK are required to have their shoes disinfected before being allowed to depart American airports on arrival."

One way of looking at the fiasco: Biosecurity measures are in place almost everywhere!

Can farms afford not to be without some type of animal health monitoring program with proper biosecurity at all levels of their livestock operation?

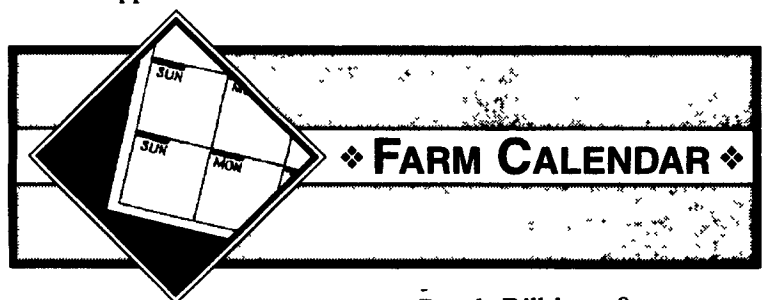
In the December 1995 issue of Agricultural Research Magazine, in July 1825, an issue of American Farmer from Baltimore noted that "bewildered farmers were finding their animals lame, the fleshy part in the division in the hoof 'sore entirely through,' and, worse still, 'the disease appears to be contagious.'"

For livestock producers, foot-and-mouth disease is still a "hot story" more than 175 years later, according to the magazine.

County extension livestock agents know about how the types of problems in the UK can be avoided here.

Though there are no reports of FMD in this country, it's best to be aware of what's happening to our neighbors across the sea.

Talk to your extension agents. Don't let what happened in Great Britain happen here.



- Saturday, March 17**
Hoof Care Clinic For Owners, Holiday Inn, Phillipsburg, N.J.
Farm Family Appreciation Day, Hamburg Field House, 7 p.m.-10:30 p.m.
Maintaining the Sound and User-Friendly Performance Horse, Inn at Towamencin Best Western, Kulpville, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Penn State Gardener Symposium, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster.
Woody Ornamental Pesticide Update, The Chadwick, Wexford, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
Regional Christmas Tree Seminar, Rustic Lodge, Indiana, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Backyard Compost Workshop, extension office, Towanda, 9 a.m.-noon.
Equine Expo, Diamond 7
- Ranch, Dillsburg, 9 a.m.**
Sunday, March 18
- Monday, March 19**
Wineries Unlimited, Lancaster
Host Resort, Lancaster.
North Central Agricultural Costs of Raising Heifers and Contract Raising of Heifers, First Citizens National Bank, Ulysses, 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
North Central Agricultural Field Crop Commercial Meeting, Potato City Inn, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Tulphehocken Ag Ed Session, High School, 7:30 p.m.- 9 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 20**
Spring begins.
National Ag Day.
Northwest Pennsylvania Athletic Turf and Ornamental Conference, Allegheny College, Meadville.
Dairy Manure Systems Equip-

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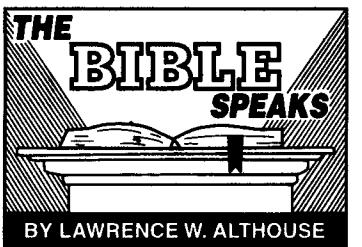
Now Is The Time
By Leon Ressler
Lancaster County Extension Director

To Participate In New Farmers Markets

Farm to City is seeking farmers to participate in new farmers' markets in Philadelphia for the 2001 season. These new markets will offer farmers the opportunity to directly market their produce to consumers in the city.

The markets will open in late May or early June and will run weekly through October or early November. In most cases, the markets will be open for four hours, one day a week.

Farmers' markets meet the large demand for locally grown produce created by the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP). Last year the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture issued more than \$1.3 million in vouchers for purchase of fresh produce to Philadelphia senior citizens and mothers with young children.



'RECOGNIZED?'

Background Scripture: Acts 3:1 through 4:13.
Devotional Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31.

The man who was "lame from birth" and encountered Peter and John at the Beautiful Gate of the temple had a classic experience with the gospel of Jesus Christ — he got a lot more than he asked for, just as do most, if not all, of us.

Lame from birth, he was carried daily to the Beautiful Gate of the temple, where he begged for alms from those who came there to worship.

We have no reason to believe that he knew who Peter and John were, or that they were apostles of the recently-crucified Jesus of Nazareth, who was believed to be a healer. No, this man wanted from Peter and John what he asked of all who came there — some coins to help him put food on the table and a roof over his head.

What happened that day, however, was something much more than he expected.

One reason, I believe, is that, instead of pushing by him as though he were not there, they gave him their attention. They could have given him a coin without even looking at him, but "Peter directed his gaze at him, with John..." (3:4). They really looked at him and they really saw him.

There are lots of people in need to whom we do not minister simply because we do not really

This year, for the first time, only farmers can redeem FMNP vouchers. The program is a major benefit to farmers selling in farmers' markets.

Farm To City is looking for growers, large and small, to sell at Philadelphia farmers' markets. In you are interested in this opportunity, contact Bob Pierson toll-free at (866) 745-6587 or by e-mail at phillymarkets@aol.com for more information about market locations and schedules.

Farm to City, a program of the Oley institute is supported in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

To Force Spring Flowers

Horticulture agent Tim Elkner suggests late winter is a good time to create an early spring in your home by forcing the flowers of spring blooming landscape plants.

Trees and shrubs that bloom in the spring set their flower buds in the fall. Once the flower buds have been exposed to several weeks of cold weather, they will bloom if brought indoors.

Flowering dogwood, forsythia, crabapple, redbud, pussy willow, honeysuckle, and magnolia are the easiest plants to force. Look for branches with plenty of flower buds and cut them with pruners just above a side bud. The length of the branch can vary from 6-18 inches. Recut the stems before placing them in water.

Place a branch in an upright container vase. Add hot water to cover about 3 inches of the stem, and allow to stand about one-

half hour. Then fill the vase the rest of the way with cool water. Buds will take one to five weeks to open, depending on the plant and how close to its natural blooming time the branches are cut. Shrub branches are easier to force than tree branches.

For longer-lasting blooms, keep the flowers in a cool location and away from direct sunlight. Always keep the vase filled with water. Floral preservatives may extend the life of the blooms as well.

To Buy Good Quality Seed

The success of any crop is dependant on many variables, many of which are out of the control of the farmer.

Agronomy agent Bob Anderson points out that seed is one variable that should be controlled. Always buy quality seeds, which are tested for germination, and weed seed content. The germination test should have been conducted no more than nine months before the seed is planted.

Seeds should have a high germination percentage. When the percentage is low, more seed is required.

Always buy improved varieties with top yield potential and resistance to common diseases. Choosing the best variety is one of the most important decisions a grower makes when planting a crop.

Quote of the Week:
"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."
— Abraham Lincoln

look at them. We have learned to look in their direction without actually giving them our attention. Often, we do this because to really look at and see these people would mean that we would have to do something about it.

Fixing Your Gaze

Another reason that something special could happen that day is that they not only gave this man their attention, but they were successful in getting him to look at them with expectancy. Looking intently at the man born lame, Peter said: "'Look at us.' And he fixed his attention upon them, expecting to receive something from them" (3:4,5).

Expectancy — in prayer, in worship, and in need — is usually a prerequisite, I have found. Go to a worship service without expectancy and you are likely to experience nothing. Pray without expectancy and it will seem your prayers are unanswered. (Except sometimes: as in the case of Abraham and Zechariah, when angels informed them that they were about to become fathers in their old age.) In my experience, our problems with prayer are usually not that we expect too much, but too little. Strangely, prayer is often a matter of both humility and audacity.

Peter then says: "I have no silver and gold, but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." In a moment the lame man was lame no longer, standing, walking and even leaping in joy. He asked for alms; he got his legs instead, a healing that would change his life forever. Unlike some who were healed in the name of Jesus Christ, this man did not take his healing and run. "While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's astounded" (3:11).

The Power To Heal

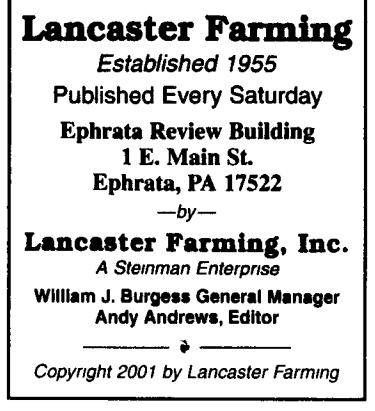
It occurs to me that Peter and John passed an important test

that day. Some would have been tempted to claim responsibility for this miraculous event. After all, a little adulation might help their cause. But Peter replied with requisite humility: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this... as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"

The power to heal this man, Peter made clear, was that of the very Jesus whom they had crucified. And when he and John were arrested the next day and brought before the high priest, Peter and John reiterated: "... be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom God raised from the dead, by him this man is standing before you well" (3:10,11).

Unwittingly, the high priest had presented Peter and John with an excellent opportunity to witness to Jesus Christ. When the religious authorities "saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they wondered; and they recognized that they had been with Jesus" (4:13).

Is that not the key to being a disciple of Jesus Christ? Not what we say or how we say it, not even what we do or how we do it, but that in the lives we live people may be able to recognize that we have been with Jesus. There is no standard of discipleship higher than that.



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