

Lancaster Farming

OPINION

Farm Safely

Wednesday this week the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau kicked off Rural Road Safety Week.

"With spring planting season under way, it is the ideal time to make drivers aware of the special precautions they should take when driving on rural roads," said Guy Donaldson, Farm Bureau president.

Recently, the state House of Representatives passed a resolution designating the week of April 23, 2001 as Rural Road Safety Week.

The message is clear: farm machinery needs to use the road, too. But tractors and combines go slower than the typical passenger vehicle. Drivers should be patient and pass with care.

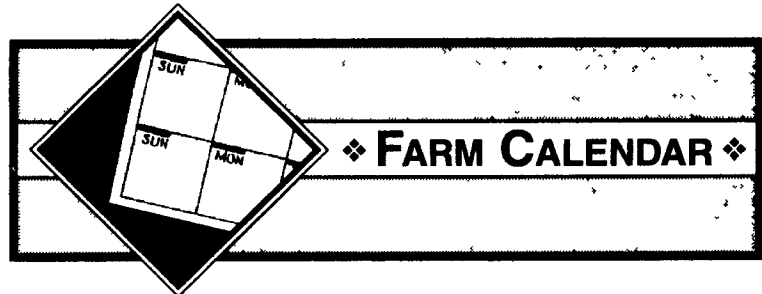
Overall, this is the time of year to know that farm safety, in all aspects, is crucial.

On page B10 of last week's paper, in the Kids Korner, we wrote about the annual Safe Kids Farm Family Safety Day, conducted April 7 at the Manheim Fairgrounds.

Farm kids learned a lot about what they should and shouldn't — do around farm equipment. There were lots of educational and fun activities, too.

The National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety has published some safe guidelines for children's agricultural tasks. Those guidelines can be viewed online at www.nagcat.org.

May you and your family have a successful, and safe, year.



Saturday, April 28
Penn State Focus On The Future Dorset Production Sale, Ag Arena, Penn State, 1 p.m.

Washington County N.Y. Sheep and Fiber Farm Tour, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., also April 29, (518) 638-6453 or (518) 747-9186.

Beef Ball and Parade of Bulls, Bonneauville Fire Hall, 4:30 p.m.

Maryland Ag Day 2001, Animal Sciences Courtyard, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Old Time Plow Boys Club Spring Show, Pa. German Cultural Center, Kutztown, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday, April 29
Open House, Schuylkill County extension office, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Monday, April 30
Grange Week Legislative Luncheon, Radisson Penn Harris Hotel and Convention Center, Camp Hill, 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 1
Pa. Wine Association Annual Meeting, thru May 2, (610) 927-2505.

Informational meeting on federal ag issues and stray voltage, Senate Majority Caucus Room, Room 156, Capitol Building, Harrisburg, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

Public Forum On Water, Lycoming County, Genetti Hotel, Williamsport.

Wednesday, May 2
4-H Family Orientation, Dauphin County Agricultural and Natural Resources Center, Dauphin, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

2nd Annual Groundwater Symposium, Clarion Hotel and Convention Center, Carlisle, (717) 787-1421.

Safe Drinking Water Clinic, Leslie N. Firth Learning Center, 7 p.m.-9 p.m., (724) 662-3141, ext. 308.

Statewide FARMER Dinner, Hilton Harrisburg and

Towers, Harrisburg, 5:30 p.m. Farm Recordkeeping and Quickbooks, Comfort Inn, New Columbia, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m., also May 3.

Thursday, May 3
American Highland Cattle Association 50th Annual National Convention, Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex, thru May 6.

Dairy Options Pilot Program III, Hoffman Building, Solanco Fairgrounds, Quarryville, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., also Country Fair Restaurant, Myerstown, 4:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

Public Forum on Water, Best Western Hotel Conference Center, Exton.

Friday, May 4
Farm and Natural Lands Trust of York County, Aldersgate United Methodist Church, York, 7:30 a.m., (717) 843-4411.

Dairy Options Pilot Program III, Cumberland and Franklin counties, Ridge Church of the Brethren, Shippensburg, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Saturday, May 5
Berks County Dairy Princess Pageant, Berks County Ag Center, (610) 926-7825.

Mason Dixon Fair Association Spring Antique Tractor Pull and Yard Sale, (717) 456-9936.

Manheim Historical Society Annual Spring Craft and Antique Show, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., (717) 665-3652.

Pa. 4-H Forestry Field Day, Laurel Haven Conservation Center, Julian, (570) 265-2896.

Spring Corn Festival, Museum of Indian Culture, Allentown, thru May 6, (610) 797-2121.

Ohio State Plant Discovery Day, Ag R&D Center, Wooster, Ohio, (330) 263-3761.

4-H Forest Resources Curriculum, Dauphin County Ag and

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Now Is The Time

By Leon Ressler

Lancaster County Extension Director

To Learn About West Nile Encephalitis

The virus that causes West Nile Encephalitis was first identified in the West Nile Province of Uganda in 1937. It is commonly found in humans, birds, and other animals in Eastern Europe, Africa, West Asia, and the Middle East.

In the summer of 1999, the first cases of West Nile Encephalitis in the Western Hemisphere were found when an outbreak occurred in the New York City metropolitan area. The virus was probably introduced into the U.S. by an infected bird or mosquito.

In 1999, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed 62 human cases of encephalitis, including seven deaths, although the actual human infection rate was much higher. The incubation period in humans of a West Nile Virus infection is usually five to fifteen days.

Most people who are infected with the West Nile virus have no symptoms or may experience mild illness such as fever, headache, body aches, mild skin rash, or swollen lymph glands.

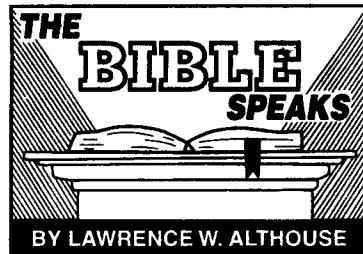
A more severe infection can lead to encephalitis. These symptoms include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, neurological damage, and paralysis, but rarely death.

All residents living in an area where West Nile Virus has been found can potentially be infected with the virus. People over 50 years of age are at greatest risk of becoming ill because of their declining immune systems. All who died in the 1999 outbreak in the New York City area were over 68 years of age. However, anyone with a compromised immune system is at risk, regardless of age.

Infected mosquitoes transmit the West Nile virus. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on blood meal from infected birds. The virus circulates and multiplies for several days in a mosquito's blood before penetrating its salivary glands.

After an incubation period of 10-14 days, these mosquitoes can pass on the virus when they feed on another blood meal. These mosquitoes usually bite and infect other birds — the natural hosts of the virus — but can also infect horses and other mammals, in addition to humans.

In October 2000, the first cases of West Nile Virus were confirmed from birds, mosquitoes, and a horse in Pennsylvania. However, in spite of extensive surveillance, the virus has not been found in Lancaster County. It was found in neighboring Chester County in two birds and one mosquito and in York County in two birds.



A LOT MORE TO 'BARNABAS'

Background Scripture:
Acts 11:19-30; 13:1-3.
Devotional Reading:
Ephesians 3:7-12.

Here and there I find a "Church of St. Barnabas," but very few in comparison with those named for St. Paul, St. Peter, and the writers of the four gospels. If Barnabas is remembered for anything, it is usually as a companion to Paul on two of his missionary journeys. But there is a lot more to Barnabas than that.

We know he was originally from Cyprus, a Jew, born of the tribe of Levi. We can deduce that he must have been one of the members of the early church in Jerusalem, perhaps early enough so that he had personally known Jesus.

We first run across him in Acts 4:36, when he sells his land and donates the proceeds to the early Church. In these days he was probably not known as Barnabas, but by his original name, Joseph or Joses. It was during his days in the Jerusalem that he went out on a limb to persuade the Christians of Jerusalem and beyond that Paul's conversion was genuine. (Acts 9:12).

Hearing disturbing reports that Greeks were becoming part of the church at Antioch, the Jerusalem church sent him there to look into the situation. It is believed that he became the leader

of the church at Antioch, one of the most important in the early Church. In the early chapters of Acts, he and Paul are listed as "Barnabas and Saul," the order of their naming indicating that Barnabas was in charge and Saul/Paul his associate.

It was possibly in Antioch that he began to be known as "Barnabas," meaning "son of encouragement." That Barnabas was compared to the god Jupiter/Zeus in Lystra suggests that he was robust and magnetic in his personality.

'He Was Glad!'

When Barnabas arrived in Antioch, he saw that that Greeks were indeed joining the church and he recognized it as a good thing. Acts tells us, "When he... saw the grace of God, he was glad... for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith" (11:23).

Good for Barnabas, he was "a good man"! He wasn't so hamstrung by tradition that he couldn't see that the inclusion of the Greeks was evidence of the "grace of God." He lived up to his new name: Barnabas — "son of encouragement."

Barnabas recognized a great potential for the gospel in Antioch and journeyed to Tarsus to persuade Saul to come to Antioch and join him. When the Antioch Christians took up an offering to help their Christian brethren in Jerusalem, "Barnabas and Saul" were selected to deliver it. Eventually the church at Antioch commissioned Barnabas, along with Saul and Mark to make their first missionary journey. An interesting thing happens along the way. The team of Barnabas and Paul eventually becomes known as "Paul and Barnabas." In other words, Paul began to eclipse Barnabas.

Dispute Over Mark

While the trio was in Cyprus, for some reason that is not apparent, Mark decided to quit the

To Clean Up Sites
Many potential mosquito-breeding sites exist on farms and around homes. Larvae can develop in watering troughs, small ponds, irrigation ditches, ruts where farm equipment passes regularly, and other areas where water is allowed to accumulate.

The close proximity of livestock, birds, and other animals to mosquito breeding areas increases the risk of transmission of animal or human disease.

There are many things which can be done to eliminate mosquito-breeding areas. Fill in ruts with stone, regularly clean out watering troughs, and remove or empty any containers that collect water. Aerate small ponds and stock them with fish.

Old tires, which are often collected to cover trench silos, can be a major mosquito breeding area if water is allowed to collect in them. During the course of one season, thousands of mosquitoes can be bred in just one tire. Covering the pile of tires with a tarp to keep out water can be a way to control the problem. Splitting the tires in half and storing them with the open side down can also eliminate the stagnant water problem.

In situations where eliminating the breeding sites is not practical, larviciding is the best alternative. Several larvicides are well suited for tire piles, including *Bacillus sphaericus*, *B. thuringiensis israelensis* (B.t.i.), Temephos, growth regulators, oils and mono-molecular films. These products can only be applied by certified pesticide applicators. An applicator can help you determine which products best suit your situation.

Quote of the Week:
"Victorian values were the values when our country became great."

— Lady Margaret Thatcher
(Three-term Prime Minister of Great Britain)

team. So, when later they began to plan a second missionary journey, Paul did not want to include Mark. However, Barnabas, John Mark's cousin, insisted that he accompany them and on this issue, it appears, Barnabas and Paul split and went their separate ways. (See Colossians 4:10).

Paul suggests in Colossians that, like Simon Peter, Barnabas wavered on the issue of associating with the Gentiles. Paul was seen as a radical on this subject, while Barnabas perhaps was more of a middle-roader like Peter. (See Galatians 2:11 ff.)

The fact that Paul and Barnabas reached a parting of the ways in no way detracts from the latter's Christian witness. Paul and Barnabas disagreed, but that doesn't mean they became enemies. Christians can disagree with one another without the kingdom of heaven going down the drain. Both made valuable contributions to the spread of the gospel. Paul later referred to Barnabas (1 Cor. 9:6) sympathetically as a "working apostle."

Barnabas's most lasting influence was perhaps in the support that he gave John Mark, whose gospel is generally recognized as the earliest of the gospel accounts and the one upon which both Matthew and Luke relied in writing their own gospel accounts.

The gospel of Jesus Christ spread because of the efforts of Paul and Barnabas, not Paul or Barnabas.

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—by—

Lancaster Farming, Inc.

A Steinman Enterprise

William J. Burgess General Manager

Andy Andrews, Editor

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