

Lancaster Farming

OPINION

Good Use Of Coupons

One legislator sees a program as a way to protect family farms while ensuring a bountiful array of fresh, healthy food for everyone.

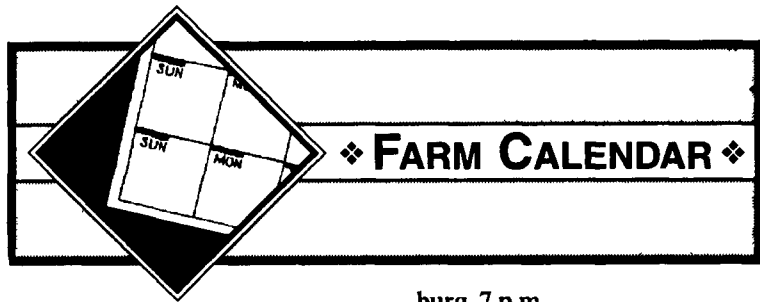
State Rep. Sara Steelman (D-Indiana), recently proposed an amendment to increase the state food coupon program by \$2.5 million, from \$1.5 million to \$4 million.

Especially notable: it expands the senior food coupon program, which provides farmers' market coupons for seniors. Seniors can use the coupons to purchase fresh, healthy food grown locally, and supports local farm markets.

"Farmers' markets are a wonderful way to market fresh, wholesome produce and meats directly to the public," said Steelman. The markets are a viable source of revenue for farmers and can be "an economic success story for the state."

Farm market popularity is soaring, perhaps to all-time highs, and the coupons work. They benefit our seniors and provide additional income for producers.

Properly guided programs such as this are what put Pennsylvania produce and our farmers on the national map. We salute these efforts.



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 Natural Resources Center, Dauphin, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

MAHA Spring Classic Show, Highland Cattle, Pa. Farm Show Complex.

Erie County 4-H Youth Public Auction, 4-H/FFA Youth Arena, Waterford Fairgrounds, 9 a.m., (717) 825-0900.

Spring Antique Tractor Pull, Mason Dixon Fair, Delta, noon.

Sunday, May 6

Penn State Arboretum Open House, 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Monday, May 7

Second Eastern Pinot Noir Conference, Chadds Ford, thru May 10, (717) 394-6851.

York County Pork Producers Pork Environmental Assurance Meeting, York County Annex Building, Pleasant Acres, 7:30 p.m., (717) 840-7408.

4-H Presentation Night, Towanda Middle School, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 8

Plan Review Workshop For All Public Nutrient Management Specialists, Pa. Dept. of Ag Room 202, Harrisburg, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Pasture, Grazing, and Livestock Direct Marketing meetings, Bill Callahan Farm, Mifflin-

burg, 7 p.m.

Sheep Meeting on Scrapie and Grazing, Berks Co. Ag Center, 7:30 p.m., (610) 378-1327.

Wednesday, May 9

Tioga County DOPP Program, Whitneyville Fairgrounds, 8 a.m., (570)-265-2896.

Thursday, May 10

Understanding 4-H Beef Projects, Clarion County Park, 7 p.m.-9 p.m., (814) 782-0033.

Lancaster County Fruit Growers' Twilight Meeting, Brooklawn (Erb's Orchard), Neffsville, 5:30 p.m., (717) 394-6851.

Careers in Agriculture Night, York County 4-H Center, Spring Grove, 6 p.m.-9 p.m., (717) 840-7408.

Grand opening of Parker Food Science and Technology Building, Ohio State University Campus, Columbus, (614) 292-6281.

Bradford County DOPP Program, extension office, Towanda, 8 a.m., (570) 265-2896.

Friday, May 11

Pennsylvania Fair at Philadelphia Park, thru May 28.

Susquehanna County DOPP Program, extension office, 8 a.m., (570) 265-4371.

Saturday, May 12

Western Pennsylvania All-Breeds Sheep and Lamb Sale, Mercer 4-H Park, 5 p.m.

Beaver-Lawrence Farm Bureau Golf Tournament, Stone Crest Golf Course, Wampum, 8 a.m.

Open Horse Show, Tioga 1 Nichols, N.Y., 9 a.m.

Westmoreland County Penn State Master Gardeners' Plant Sale, Donohoe Center, Greensburg, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., (724) 837-1402.

Sunday, May 13

Happy Mother's Day!

Monday, May 14

Poultry Management and Health Seminar, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, noon.

Wye Angus Bull Sale, Frostburg, Md.

Tuesday, May 15

Farm Succession Workshop For Maryland Farmers, Maritime

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Now Is The Time By Leon Ressler

Lancaster County Extension Director

To Monitor Your Asparagus Field For Asparagus Beetles

Asparagus is producing a significant quantity of spears after a delayed start because of cool spring weather.

Two types of asparagus beetles are also present and can do significant damage to your crop. Both the asparagus beetle and the spotted asparagus beetle overwinter as adults and begin feeding immediately following emergence. The asparagus beetle emerges before the spotted asparagus beetle.

The adult asparagus beetle has a black body with a metallic blue head. On each wing cover are three rectangular metallic yellow spots that often have red markings along the margin. The spotted asparagus beetle adults are orange with six black spots on each wing cover. The adults of both species range in length from 1/4 to 4/10 of an inch in length.

Both begin laying eggs within a week after emergence. The asparagus beetle deposits its dark brown, oval-shaped eggs on the spears in rows of 3-8, and the eggs are attached by one end to the spear. The spotted asparagus beetle lays its green eggs individually. In three to eight days the eggs hatch and the larva feed for 10-14 days as they develop through four instars.

The larvae of the asparagus beetle are dark gray with a black head. The larvae of the spotted asparagus beetle are cream-colored with a light brown head. When fully developed, the larvae crawl to the ground where they burrow into the soil and spin a silken cocoon. Here they pupate for 5-10 days before emerging as adults to complete the life cycle. Typically there are two life cycles completed in Pennsylvania each year.

The asparagus beetles cause damage to the crop in several ways. Adults and larvae feeding on the spears and tips cause scarring. Frass from both of the stages can stain the spear, and eggs on the spears are very unappealing. Any of these problems can make the spears unmarketable.

The spotted asparagus beetle larva feed on asparagus berries. This damage has little economic significance in production fields. It would be a problem in seed production, however.

To Control Asparagus Pests

In small garden patches, hand picking can control the asparagus beetle adults. The larvae can be controlled by brushing them to the ground. The larvae usually are not able to re-climb the stalks and die on the hot soil. This will not be practical, however, for commercial production.

Many beneficial insects feed on the various life stages of as-

paragus beetles. Ladybird beetles, other predacious beetles, soldier bugs, wasps, flies, and dragonflies all reduce the asparagus beetle populations.

Testrasticus asparagi is a tiny wasp 1/16 of an inch long and metallic green. It attacks the eggs of the asparagus beetle. The wasp could kill as much as 70 percent of the eggs and larvae. The wasp chews and hole in the beetle egg and drinks the liquid or lays one of its own eggs in the beetle egg. The wasp egg will hatch and grow inside the beetle larva and eventually kill it. Sometimes the wasps are so abundant that no insecticides are needed. However, the empty egg cases left by the wasp's feeding can be unsightly and make the spears unmarketable as well.

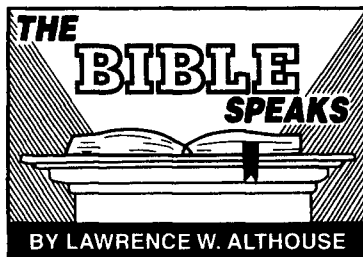
Before deciding to use insecticides, you should monitor the field for beetle activity. If 10 percent or more of the plants have beetles present, control could be warranted. However, the time of day will have a large impact on beetle activity. Beetles are much more active during the warm afternoon and evening hours. If the scouting is done during the early morning or during cool weather, a 5 percent infestation rate would be a better threshold.

The disadvantage of using an insecticide is that beneficial insect populations will be reduced as well as the pest populations. If however you determine your beetle populations require control, a number of products are labeled for use. These include Lannate, malathion, methoxychlor, Ambush, Pounce, and Sevin. Be sure to follow the label instructions especially the preharvest interval.

Quote of the Week:

"Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil and you're a thousand miles from the corn field."

— Dwight D. Eisenhower



WHEN DOORS ARE SLAMMED IN YOUR FACE

Background Scripture: Acts 13:4 through 14:28.
Devotional Reading: Psalms 90.

Recently I celebrated my birthday. In looking and thinking back over my life, I saw it as a series of doors — some open, some closed, and some locked. At the time, I rarely recognized them as doors. More often I saw them as disappointments, losses, failures, and sometimes even opportunities.

Actually, in retrospect, I realize that, whatever else they may have been, they were all of them also opportunities. Whenever one was slammed shut, God opened another one. Unfortunately, I often failed to see the door God had opened or, seeing it, did not have the faith to cross its portal. I imagine that you experience this in your life, too.

Although I had often read it, I had failed to learn the lesson Joseph imparted to his brothers: "Fear not . . . As for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring about that many people should be kept

alive" (Gen. 50:19b,20.) Joseph's brothers had slammed the door in his face, but God opened another one and Joseph had the faith to walk through it.

First Missionary Journey

We see this same truth at work in Acts 13 and 14, the account of the so-called First Missionary Journey of Paul and Barnabas.

Arriving first on the island of Cyprus and then on the mainland of Asia Minor, Paul and Barnabas, and for a time John Mark, met with a variety of responses. On Cyprus they were well-received in the synagogues. At Perga of Pamphylia, however, after an initial positive response in the synagogue, some of the Jews turned against them so that Paul and Barnabas declared: "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it from you . . . behold we turn to the Gentiles" (13:46). Eventually, they were driven from the area by force.

The same thing happened at Iconium of Pisidia. Acts tells us that the people were divided, some siding with Paul and Barnabas, and some with their Jewish opponents. Despite an initial overcredulous reception in Lystra of Galatia — "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" (14:11) — Paul was stoned by his opponents and left Lystra under duress.

What God Did, And Does

Finally the two missionaries sailed back to their home base, Antioch of Syria.

Now, how should they report this effort for which they had been sent out by the Holy Spirit? In three important cities they had met both receptivity and harsh opposition.

Their opponents had harassed and persecuted them from one town to another. Yet, for all this they had encountered, these two had left behind a series of fledgling Christian communities. So, when the church at Antioch came together to hear of their efforts, Paul and Barnabas "declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles" (14:27). The doors of the synagogues had been slammed shut against them, but the Lord had opened some Gentile doors instead.

In our personal lives as well as the life of the Church, whenever we hear or see a door being closed or even slammed, it is important for us to remember this and look for the door of opportunity that God *always* opens for us.

It is for God to open the door. It is for us to go through it and seize the opportunity the Lord offers.

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—by—

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