



Lancaster Farming

OPINION

Slow, Steady Farm Transition

Lancaster Farming has spent many months in the planning of our first-ever conference, this one about farm family survival, as outlined page one this issue.

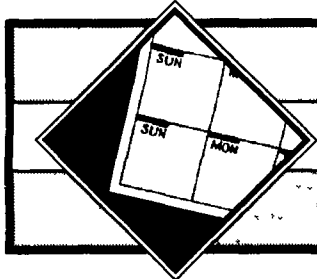
We're doing this because we recognize how important it is to start planning for transition of the farm **NOW**.

We emphasize now, because waiting and refusing to discuss the issue with your family can prove detrimental. We've heard too many stories where families refuse to communicate, and as a result, transitioning the farm to the next generation can be traumatic.

Of course there are issues to be addressed in transitioning the farm. In a multigenerational, multimember family, who will own it? Where will the responsibilities lie?

But one saying is appropriate for family farm transition planning: "early and often." Speak with your family, sit down with a professional farm transition consultant, look at the options, and plan ahead. Start the transition now — it's never too early.


And for some real advice, attend our first conference on Tuesday, Nov. 13, at the Farm and Home Center. We believe you will learn quite a bit about the realities of transitioning the farm, about what it takes to survive as a farm, and whom to contact for answers.



❖ FARM CALENDAR ❖

Saturday, September 15
 New York Goat Nutrient Field Day, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., (607) 254-6024.
 4th Annual Susquehanna Old-Fashioned Field Days, Conoy Township Park, Bainbridge, 9 a.m., thru Sept. 16.
 Maryland Wine Festival 2001, Carroll County Farm Mansion, Westminster, noon-6 p.m., thru Sept. 16, (410) 848-7775.
 Harvest Fair, Historic Schaefferstown, Alexander Schaeffer Farm, thru Sept. 16.
 Garden State Sheep and Fiber Festival, Warren County Farmers Fairgrounds, Harmony, N.J., thru Sept. 16.
 Goat Expo, Randolph Farm Pavilion, Virginia State.
Sunday, September 16
 Annual PennAg Convention, Pocono Manor Inn and Golf Resort, Pocono Manor, thru Sept. 18.

Mercer County Holstein Picnic, 4-H Park, Mercer, noon.
 Mason-Dixon Gaited Classic 2001, Mason Dixon Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.
 Gratz Fair, thru Sept. 22.
 Susquehanna Old-Fashioned Field Day, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Monday, September 17
 Beaver Community Fair, thru Sept. 22.
 Susquehanna Region Beef Producers Meeting, Hoss's Steak and Sea House, Shamokin Dam, 6 p.m.-9 p.m., (570) 784-6660.
 Manure Field Day, Mountain Breeze Farm, Shartlesville, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
 Chesapeake Bay Program, Executive Council Annual Meeting, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C., 1 p.m.-2:30 p.m.
Tuesday, September 18
 Ohio Farm Science Review, (Turn to Page A11)



❖ FARM FORUM ❖

Editor:
 Terrorism coverage, like kids' cartoons, has become addictive. Many hours of TV bring the horrors of terrorism into our home. Parents need to be concerned about the possible effect this non-stop coverage might have on children. Even more importantly, what can parents do to ease a child's fear?
 Not long ago, the National Association for the Education of Young Children issued a warning about media violence. They went on record as condemning violent television programming, movies, videotapes, and computer games.
 What is particularly dangerous in the present situation is the

apparent innocence or matter-of-factness of the TV programming. The nightly news or the network news brief carries the violent programming. It's not the hour long sitcom or weekly shoot-em-up program.
 Research has shown time and time again that violence on TV is not healthy for developing children. Three problems are associated with heavy viewing of violence on television.
 1. Children may become less sensitive to the pain and suffering of those around them. Simply put, children who view heavy doses of violence just "get used to it."
 2. Children may become more

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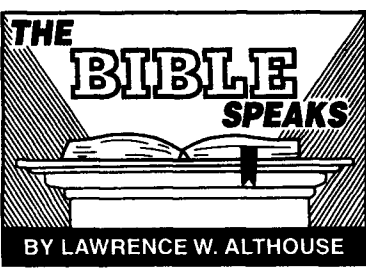
Now Is The Time

By Leon Ressler
 Lancaster County Extension Director

To Evaluate Your Pumpkin Fields For Virus Damage
 Aphid-borne viruses are causing problems in some Pennsylvania pumpkin fields. According to Dr. Alan MacNab, department of plant pathology, symptoms can be mild to severe on foliage and the fruit.
 Mild mottling can occur on both the leaves and the fruit. The major problem, however, is that normal ripening is delayed, resulting in the need to harvest over an extended period. This delay can result in the loss of opportunity to sell the fruit. If the infection is severe, new leaves will be stunted and distorted and fruit will be bumpy with distinct dark green and orange patches on mature fruit.
 According to MacNab, there are five distinct viruses that can infect pumpkins. These are the cucumber mosaic virus (CMV), papaya ring-spot virus (PRSV), squash mosaic virus (SqMV), watermelon mosaic virus-2 (WMV-2), and zucchini yellows mosaic virus (ZYMV). In Pennsylvania pumpkins, WMV-2, ZYMV, and PRSV were detected during a recent survey. WMV-2 accounted for 94 percent of infections, and was the

most prevalent and widespread virus. In addition, ZYMV was detected in southeastern Pennsylvania, and PRSV was detected in southwestern Pennsylvania.
 These viruses overwinter in biennial and perennial plants, including many weeds. Aphids are the major vectors that pick up the viruses from virus-infected weeds and other plants and then inoculate the pumpkin plants when they probe and feed on the plants. Some aphids are very efficient at inoculating plants. The time needed for an aphid to transmit a virus has been determined to be about 30-seconds! Considering the fact that aphids sometimes fly, and can be carried long distances by wind, it is not surprising that aphid-borne viruses sometimes are a severe problem.
 None of the viruses detected during the recent survey of Pennsylvania pumpkins is seed-borne. The only virus of the five listed above that is seed-borne is SqMV.
 Control programs for this problem focus on the source, the vector, and plant resistance.
 The first step is to eliminate or control the source of the virus. This can be done by controlling weeds in and around plantings. Some weeds are a source of viruses, and also harbor the aphid vectors. For some fields, where viruses are severe yearly, it may be necessary to rotate production to fields where less inoculum is present around the fields.
 The next step in a control program is to eliminate or minimize the number of aphids that land on crop leaves. Use of aphicides does not provide adequate control of the virus, presumably because at least some aphids transmit the virus before the aphids are controlled (since aphids can transmit the virus in less than a minute). In some crops, it is possible to "repel" aphids by growing plants on reflective mulch; however, this is not effective for crops such as pumpkins which produce extensive vines that quickly cover the ground. In some crops, floating row-covers can minimize number of aphids that land on plants; however, this technology is not feasible for large commercial pumpkin fields.

The best control in the future will likely be resistance. Some seed companies are working on this now and are making some progress with ZYMV. Eventually, resistance to multiple viruses should be available.
To Evaluate Feeding Value Of Your Corn Silage
 The nutritive value of your corn silage can vary greatly based on a number of different factors. According to Dr. Jud Heinrichs, the agronomic factors include soil fertility, weeds, plant population, and the plant hybrid. An additional factor which has substantial impact on the feeding value of the silage is the moisture content of the crop at harvest. This will affect both the dry matter content of the silage and the digestibility.
 The silage moisture at harvest is the biggest single factor affecting the fermentation of the crop. Provided there are ample sugars in the crop and adequate bacteria present to digest these sugars, moisture determines the type and amount of fermentation that occurs. Moisture content will also determine how well the silage packs and eliminates oxygen.
 If the silage is harvested drier than desirable, there will be a decrease in forage digestibility in addition to packing problems. This means silage that is too dry will not be suitable for high-producing dairy cows because of the lowered digestibility. However it still will be acceptable feed for far-off dry cows or older heifers, provided that it is not moldy and it is fed as a part of a well-balanced ration.
 Because your silage could vary in all these factors, have your silage tested to determine how best to use it in your program.
Quote of The Week:
 In light of the tragic events in our nation this week, I offer these appropriate words by the Apostle Paul:
"I urge, then, first of all, that prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for everyone — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."
 — (1 Timothy 2:1-2)



THE BIBLE SPEAKS

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

WHAT MAKES JESUS ANGRY?

Background Scripture:
 Mark 3:1-16; John 9:1-12.
Devotional Reading:
 John 4:46-54.

"And he looked around him at them with anger; grieved at their hardness of heart..." (Mark 3:5).
 Although we might conclude that Jesus was angry when he drove the money changers out of the temple (Mt. 21:12; Mk 11:15; Jn. 2:14,15), the only place in the gospels that specifically stated he was angry is Mark 3:5. I imagine there were, in fact, other times when Jesus was angry, but the evangelists do not tell us about them.
 Some people we know have the capacity to get angry over almost anything. To try to avoid angering them is virtually impossible. But there are others whose anger shows only on rare occasions and we cannot help but note what it is that moves them to anger. In relating to these people, it is helpful to know how to keep them from becoming angry.
 So, what was it that made Jesus angry? Mark 3 indicates that it was the hardness of heart of some of the

people who witnessed his healing of the man with "a withered hand." Without needing to hear his detractors say so, Jesus knew that "they watched him, to see whether he would heal on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him" (8:2). The Jewish faith was the most compassionate religion in the world at the time, so, if these men were faithful Jews, they would be focusing with compassion and joy on this man whose withered hand was being healed by Jesus.
 But they did not care about the plight of this man; their minds were set only upon accusing Jesus of wrongdoing in healing on the sabbath. But Jesus put it to them in a way they couldn't answer: "Is it lawful on the sabbath to do good or to do harm; to save life or to kill? But they were silent" (3:4).
Instead Of Rejoicing
 This may seem an incredible situation today, but I think this attitude is still much with us. Some Christians, instead of rejoicing when other name-brand Christians do something good and worthwhile, get "bent out of shape" and look for something they can criticize or even condemn. They may overlook a good result because, according to them, it wasn't done the "right way" — "right," of course, as they define it.
 We find a similar situation in John 9 and even some of the disciples run the risk of incurring Jesus' righteous anger. Seeing the man who was blind from birth, they ask, "Rabbi, when sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (9:2). What audacity!
 Because of their theology, they assume that his blindness is the result of sin and they want to know whose sin it was. Job's "friends" had asked him a similar question and for their

impudence they earned God's censure. People are still likely to ask a downtrodden "friend": what did you do to get yourself into all this trouble?
 Many of those who saw Jesus heal the man born blind, instead of rejoicing that at long last he could see, were more concerned just how his sight had been restored. They seemed to suspect that Jesus had done something wrong, not something right: "Then how were your eyes opened?" they asked the healed man. But, most odious of all, were the Pharisees: "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath" (v.16).
Hell's Temperature
 Someone once said, "Beware of those who think they know the furniture of heaven and the temperature of hell!" The same may be said of those who are too sure they know what is "of God" and what is not. That is an attitude of arrogance, not humility, and it leads some people to substitute their own judgment for the judgment of God.
 Even though the evangelists record only one clear incident of Jesus' anger, they also suggest other occasions in which his response was anything but benign. There are 21 times in the gospels of Mark, Matthew, and Luke in which Jesus refers to "hypocrite," "hypocrites," and "hypocrisy." Each of these suggest an angry response to that which could make Jesus angry: hypocritical hardness of heart.
 So, knowing what angers Jesus — do we?

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