

Lancaster Farming

OPINION

Farm Show And 4-H 'Conversations'

We have heard numerous stories about how much of an impact 4-H membership has had on adults, their lifestyles and careers. And the many "4-H Farm Show" success stories have molded many a personality, countless minds.

National 4-H will begin celebrating its centennial with "conversations" on youth development. Youth and adults in 3,067 communities across the nation will identify critical youth-development strategies for this century.

"Young people need the kind of hope that will help them aspire to become the best they can be," said Marilyn Corbin, Penn State Cooperative Extension and Outreach state program leader for children, youth, and families. "4-H is nationally recognized as one of the foremost youth organizations in the country. With a strong local program that draws on the strengths of a statewide and nationwide organization, 4-H is uniquely positioned to help youth in this complex information age."

Delegates will be chosen at sessions all over the state to carry concerns to the state meetings.

During this year's Farm Show, the Pennsylvania State Conversation on Youth Development will be conducted.

Local conversations will establish the foundation for the statewide conversation. From the state meeting, delegates will be chosen to represent Pennsylvania at the national meeting in Washington, D.C., Feb. 23-March 3. The national event is expected to draw about 2,500 participants.

Don Floyd, president and CEO of National 4-H Council, noted that the centennial won't simply feature a huge granite monument. Rather, "in the tradition of 4-H, we're creating an action plan for families, youth leaders, and communities across the nation" to guide 4-H into the coming century.

The goal: 72 delegates from Pennsylvania to the national conversation, according to Michael Martin, Pennsylvania state coordinator for the 4-H centennial. The mission: send three representatives from each congressional district and three at large.

Check our Farm Show schedule in our special section this week for meeting times.

4-H represents 123,220 members in the state and about seven million members in the U.S.

If you are a 4-H member or alumnus, you might want to be part of this event. Certainly, like any critical national program, 4-H needs and invites your experience and input.

Lancaster Farming extends its best wishes to all the 4-H members and families attending the 2002 Farm Show, the state's premier agricultural event for youth and families.



**Now Is
The Time**
By Leon Ressler
Lancaster County
Extension Director

To Use Chain Saws Safely

As you head to the woods to restock your firewood supply, having proper safety equipment is an important step in preventing accidents.

Peter Finamore, chairman of John Deere Consumer Products product safety, recommends the following items. Proper protective equipment should start with chain saw-resistant boots. Steel-toed boots with chain saw-resistant tops layered with ballistic nylon can slow the action of a chain saw enough to give you precious time to react and save yourself from disaster. Cut-resistant gloves protect you from the saw as well as wood shards.

Sound resistant hearing protection is important to prevent hearing loss. A hard hat is important to protect against flying debris and falling limbs. A face shield protects against flying chips. Even with a face shield on a hard hat, however, safety glasses are still needed for

adequate eye protection. Chain saw chaps are important to protect your legs. The outer surface works to keep you dry. The inner surface of ballistic nylon will choke a chain saw before it can reach your leg.

Of course, good maintenance on the saw itself is an important step in safety. Make sure the safety shutoff is working and the chain guard is in place. Also keep the chain sharp. When cutting, position yourself so your limbs are not directly in the way if the saw kicks back from the wood.

To Participate In The USDA Dairy Health Survey

Representatives from the USDA will visit area dairies in January to conduct the initial survey for Dairy 2002, a national study of health and health management practices at U.S. dairies.

Conducted by the USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), Dairy 2002 is a continuation of studies that address priority issues of the U.S. dairy industry. Preliminary data will be published by NAHMS in August 2002.

Data collectors from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will begin the study by contacting about 4,000 dairy producers in 21 states, including 390 operations in Pennsylvania. These states represent 83 percent of U.S. dairy herds and 85 percent of U.S. dairy cows. The data collected is summarized and used in regional and national estimates.

Objectives of the study serve to:

- Describe management strategies that prevent or reduce the prevalence of Johne's Disease and identify how these strategies have changed since 1996.
- Evaluate management factors associated with key food safety pathogens in U.S. dairy cattle.
- Describe the level of understanding and preparedness of U.S. dairy producers to respond to threats of foreign animal diseases.

- Describe biosecurity practices and trends on U.S. dairy operations.

- Describe baseline dairy cattle health and management practices used on U.S. dairies and the changes in these practices since 1996.

- Describe animal waste handling systems used on U.S. dairies.

- Describe U.S. dairy producers' attitudes towards, and uses of, animal identification

In 1991, NAHMS conducted the Dairy Heifer Evaluation Project (DHEP), leading to baseline information on heifer health, illnesses, and management practices, and prevalence estimates for Cryptosporidium, Escherichia coli 0157:H7 and Salmonella.

The NAHMS Dairy '96 study built on the DHEP. Objectives of the Dairy '96 study included acquiring national prevalence estimates of Mycobacterium paratuberculosis (Johne's disease), bovine leukosis virus, and fecal shedding of E.coli 0157 and Salmonella in adult dairy cows.

Baseline dairy cattle health and management practices were also studied to examine changes since the DHEP. Levels of participation in quality assurance programs, the incidence of digital dermatitis, and a profile of animal waste handling systems used on U.S. dairy operations were also examined. The Dairy 2002 study will continue to address these important issues. Selected producers may choose to receive an additional contact by a Veterinary Medical Officer from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service who will explain the second phase of the study.

Participation in the Dairy 2002 study is strictly voluntary. NAHMS data and operations where the data were collected are always confidential and not included in national databases. For more information on Dairy 2002, visit the Website at www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/cahm.

Quote Of The Week:
"Character is what you are in the dark."
— Dwight L. Moody

FARM CALENDAR

Saturday, January 5
Pennsylvania Farm Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Jan. 10.
Virginia Bred Commercial Ewe Lamb Sale, Virginia Tech, Dept. of Animal and Poultry Science, Blacksburg, Va., (540) 231-9159.

Sunday, January 6
American Farm Bureau Federation Meeting, Reno, Nev., thru Jan. 9.

Monday, January 7
Business Sense, 2nd of 3 meetings, CFO Dairy Management, N.W. Pa., Meadville. 3rd meeting Jan. 8.
Tilling the Soil of Opportunity, Milton Hershey School, Hershey, 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Also Jan. 14, 28; Feb. 4, 11, 25; March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8.
Pa. State Grange Farm Show Meeting, Room B, Farm Show Complex, 1-3 p.m.

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FARM FORUM

Editor:
The passing of Dr. John H. Swartz Jr. was a loss to agriculture. Many of us had the pleasure of watching John develop from adolescence to adulthood. We watched him sharpen his skills in 4-H. He won several awards in public speaking and later pursued his formal education in the field of agriculture.
It is truly fitting that a memorial be established in John's name. The new Adams County Agricultural and Natural Resources Center is a perfect place to honor him, since John was born and raised in Adams

County.
Donating to a memorial will provide a way for all of us to remember him. A memorial contribution will be set aside in an endowment fund to purchase the land the building occupies from the county when the mortgage is paid off.
Please mail all contributions to the Adams County Conservation District, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Suite 201, Gettysburg, PA 17325-3404 and make sure your check is marked "Memorial Fund Dr. John H. Swartz Jr."
Tom Clowney
Capital Campaign
Committee Member

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

EPIPHANY 2002!

Background Scripture:
Isaiah 60 through 61.
Devotional Reading:
Isaiah 60:17-22.

Apart from today being Sunday, Jan. 6, 2002, do you know what day it is? It is Epiphany (ee-PIFF-ny), one of the most important — if not one of the most neglected — days in the Christian year.

As you read this, our Christmas tree here in Dallas will still be up and lighted, because we celebrate the traditional 12 days of Christmas and tonight is Twelfth Night. Tonight there will be 20 or so of our friends here for our annual Epiphany party.

Why, you might ask, do we extend our observance Christmas for 12 days and then observe Epiphany? Is it simply a tradition? Not at all. We believe that, despite Christmas decorations and advertising now coming close on the heels of Halloween, the observance of the deeper meaning of Christmas becomes more shallow every year.

At our house, we observe Epiphany each year because it reminds forgetful Christians, ourselves included, just what Epiphany means. It comes from a Greek word mean-

ing "manifestation" or "appearance" and, if you are Greek Orthodox, you certainly know what Epiphany is all about: the revealing of Christ to the world.

It is based upon the visit of the Wise Men (Matthew 3) to the infant Jesus. As these men were not Jews, but foreigners, their visit indicates the global, even cosmic significance of the coming of Christ. Epiphany may be called by different names: the Theophany, Feast of the Manifestation, Twelfth Night, Day of the Three Kings, Old Christmas, or Feast of Lights.

Arise, Shine!

The Epiphany of Jesus is linked to the prophecies of Isaiah: "Arise, shine, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you" (60:1). We remember also Isaiah 9:2: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined." The star that guided the wise men to Jesus is symbolic of the light that guides us to the manifestation of God in Christ.

The light of this star is not sent to Christians alone, but to people everywhere who "walk in darkness." But, if many, perhaps most, Christians are unaware of the Epiphany message, then what makes us think that Epiphany is either known or understood by those who are not Christians? Good question — I'm glad you asked.

Epiphany is intended not only for us to enjoy, but to manifest to others. Like most messages from God, this message carries with it a challenge from God. Isaiah tells the people of Israel, "... but ... his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your arising" (60:2). This is what Jesus

told his disciples: "You are the light of the world ... Let your light so shine before me, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16).

To Make Manifest

My computer thesaurus lists the following synonyms for "manifestation": display, demonstration, exhibition, show, materialization, and revelation. Each of these speak to our Epiphany challenge.

In our lives we need to display Christ and demonstrate what Jesus has done for us. Our lives should be a living exhibition of who and what Jesus is in our lives. How we live will show others the Christ who works in us. Our lives must be a materialization of what Jesus can do with us and, as Christ is a revelation to us, we must make the way we live a revelation of his presence.

It is very likely that Jesus regarded both Isaiah 60 and 61 as normative for his mission: "... the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to those who are bound, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance for our God to comfort all who mourn ..." (61:1,2).

The servant role that Jesus took upon himself is the same servant role to which he calls us so that, not only may we see his Epiphany light, but that we may be it for others.

Is your Epiphany light shining?

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