

Lancaster Farming

OPINION

Is Our Future Draining Away?

David E. Hess, Secretary
Department Of Environmental Protection

Water is one of our most precious resources. Yet we know little about how much water we have and how it is used.

What we do know, and what many people are surprised to learn, is this:

- Drought emergencies have been declared in four of the last six years.
- Some water suppliers lose up to 40 percent of their water between treatment plants and the faucet because of old, leaky pipes.
- Average per-person water use has increased from five to 62 gallons per day over the last 100 years.
- 15,000 new wells are drilled annually, yet no construction standards exist to protect groundwater.

People suffer when water isn't available for drinking. Our economy suffers when water isn't available for industry. Aquatic life and delicate hydrologic systems suffer when there isn't enough water to sustain their natural functions.

There is growing concern that what we don't know about water will hurt us.

At Water Forums all across Pennsylvania this past spring, hundreds of Pennsylvanians shared what they thought were the most critical water-resource issues.

To address these concerns, the Schweiker Administration has outlined a water-resources initiative that will accomplish four objectives that were recommended at these water forums:

- First, to lay a foundation for future decisions, we need to update the State Water Plan. We need to gather data on how much water we have, how it's being used, and what we'll need to meet future demand. Legislation is needed to require the registration of major water users. And a new Water Resources Advisory Committee is needed to assist in the planning process.
- Second, we need to use the plan to identify "critical water planning areas" — watersheds covering multiple municipalities where water demands now, or will in the future, outstrip available supplies. Legislation should establish a public process for designating a representative government or organization that will create a detailed area "water budget." This group should include all local stakeholders. And an action plan should identify ways to resolve local water problems with local, regional, state, or even federal resources.
- Third, a new program promoting efficient use of existing water supplies should address water conservation education and technologies for home and business use.
- Fourth, because so many people depend on water wells, construction standards should be established for the siting, construction, and abandonment of wells. And licensing and education requirements should be established for water-well drillers.

- Sen. Jim Gerlach and Rep. Art Hershey have introduced legislation (Senate Bill 1230 and House Bill 2230) that addresses exactly these objectives. The legislation has bipartisan support, and the Department of Environmental Protection looks forward to the first legislative hearings on this important issue early in the year.

The successful "Growing Greener" Watershed Protection Program has created unprecedented awareness of water-quality issues. We now have an opportunity to lay a foundation to address some of Pennsylvania's most basic concerns about water resources.

We need to take "Growing Greener" further and promote a watershed-based approach for dealing with water quantity issues. If we don't, we could literally see our future drain away.

❖ FARM CALENDAR ❖

Saturday, January 19

Clarion, Venango counties Holstein annual meeting, Wolf's Den Restaurant, Knox, 7 p.m., (814) 234-0364.

Private Forest Landowners Workshop on Timber Marketing, Dauphin County Ag Center, Dauphin, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., (717) 921-8803.

Bradford County Holstein annual meeting, Beeman's Restaurant, Athens, 11:30 a.m.

Butler County Holstein annual meeting, Garden Gate Restaurant, Prospect, 11:45 a.m.

Huntingdon County Holstein annual meeting, Shaver's Creek Community Building, Shaver's Creek, 7 p.m.

Wine Business and Marketing Short Course, Penn State Conference Center, State College, thru Jan. 21, (610) 395-2468 or (717) 394-6851.

Pa. State Conversation on Youth Development, Penn Stater Conference Center, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sunday, January 20

Monday, January 21
New Holland Vegetable Day, Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland, (717) 354-1522.

James Patches Growers' meeting, Schaefferstown Fire Hall, 9:45 a.m. and 6:45 p.m., (717) 949-3860.

Tuesday, January 22

3rd of 3 meetings on Business Sense, CFO Dairy Management, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Southeast Pa. Crops Conferences, Leesport Farmers' Market, Leesport, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Also Jan. 25, East Brandywine Fire Hall; Jan. 23, Days Inn, Allentown; and

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Now Is The Time
By Leon Ressler
Lancaster County Extension Director

To Welcome Our New Regional Poultry Agent

Dr. Gregory P. Martin began his new assignment as our capitol region poultry agent Jan. 10. He received his bachelor's degree in poultry and his master's in business administration from California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo. After completing his doctorate in poultry science at Texas A & M, Martin served several years as the business manager of the Poultry Science Association. Having worked extensively with computer software applications, he was responsible for the maintenance of the organization's Website in addition to handling the daily management and direction of this scientific organization.

Proficient in all areas of poultry production, Martin has worked in every phase of the industry. From packing turkeys to mixing feed to managing a layer operation, he has been educated by academic study of poultry science as well as hands-on industry training. A member of CAST, Gamma Sigma Delta Agricultural Honor Fraternity and Blue Key, Martin is an experienced teacher. He is a member of several professional organizations and served as the adviser to the Texas A & M Poultry Science Club.

Martin is also active in writing and has several publications to his credit. In addition, he has written and developed four types of computer software — some specific to the agricultural business needs. He will be working out of the Lancaster County

Extension Office and can be reached at (717) 394-6851. In addition to Lancaster County, Martin will be working in Lebanon, Dauphin, York, Cumberland, Franklin, and Adams counties.

To Provide Proper Winter Feed For Beef Cows

Dr. John Comerford, Penn State Extension beef specialist, tells us there are three basic factors which need to be considered when one evaluates the winter-feed requirements of beef cows. First, one needs to consider the impact of temperature on the maintenance energy requirements of the cows. The requirements increase by about 1 percent for each 1 degree Fahrenheit (F), below 32 degrees F. The energy for maintenance of beef cows in the last 1/4 of pregnancy is about 11 megacalories per day. With an air temperature in dry air and no wind of 22 degrees F, there will be a 10 percent greater energy requirement. The extra 1.1 megacalories of energy needed at this temperature is equivalent to about one pound of corn or two pounds of orchardgrass hay.

The second factor one needs to account for when adjusting feed energy is wind chill. For example, if the wind chill is zero F, then the cow requires 32 percent more energy. This is about 3 pounds of corn or 5-6 pounds of orchardgrass hay.

The final factor that impacts feed needs is whether an animal is wet. This is the most important condition to consider, since when the animal gets wet the hair and hide lose their insulation capacity. The rule to use when the cattle are wet is to use 59 degrees F as the starting point and change the feed needs by 2 percent for each degree below 59 degrees F. For example, if the cattle are wet and the wind chill is 9 degrees F, the energy requirement is 100 percent higher. This is equivalent to feeding an additional 20 pounds of corn or 40 pounds of hay to a cow each day. Obviously, most cows could not consume enough feed to keep them at maintenance under these conditions, so they will start losing body condition. Building a windbreak or shelter from the rain is both economically feasible and is good animal husbandry.

To Earn Pesticide

Update Certification Credits
Robert Anderson, Lancaster County agronomy agent, reminds us the time of the year is here to obtain those needed pesticide-training credits. Information on when and where the training meetings are held is now available on the Internet as well as by phone.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

WORSHIPPING THE RIGHT WAY

Background Scripture:

Isaiah 58.

Devotional Reading:

Isaiah 58:10-14:4-9.

Back in the 1960s, when much of Christendom was in a renewal ferment, I was invited by a local Roman Catholic's convent to participate and preach in their midweek mass. Coming from a more or less informal wing of Protestantism, I was rather concerned about participating in their mass in the "right way."

On the appointed day I dug out and dusted off my clerical color and vest. I was determined that I would do whatever I was going to do in the "right way."

The appointed hour of mass was noon, and I arrived at 11:30, so that I could adequately prepare myself. But I waited alone in the vestry until several nuns with guitars and tambourines smiled at me as they passed through. At 11:56 a.m. a young man in a crew sweater — a priest, I learned came bustling into the vestry.

"Rev. Althouse, I presume?" he said, not too unlike Spencer Tracy greeting Dr. Livingston in darkest Africa. Nodding nervously, I cut to the chase: "What am I supposed to do?"

"Oh," he exclaimed airily, "we'll just wing it!"

And we did. All my expectations about what Roman Catholics thought was the "right way" to worship were substantially changed by that experience.

An Obsession

Still, over my years in the church I have observed that lots of people have an obsession to discover and affiliate with "the right way" to be a Christian. For some, that means following a certain liturgy or order of worship, including or excluding various elements and practices, and building a house of worship in a prescribed manner. For others, it is a matter of believing the "right beliefs," subscribing to various doctrines, and articulating our faith in the words of this or that creed.

This is the issue in Isaiah 58. The people purportedly complain to God that he has not responded to their fasting: "Why have we fasted, and thou seest it not?" Is there something wrong with our technique? But the prophet quickly lets them know that it is not technique but their motivation and the fruits of it. "Behold, in the day of your fast you seek of your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. Behold you fast only to quarrel and fight and to hit with wicked fist" (3b, 4a).

So how shall they fast in an acceptable manner? Actually, it is an amazingly simple answer that Isaiah gives them: "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and to bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him . . .?"

Pointing The Finger

How we love to make Christianity difficult, complex, and academic, but

Computer users who use the web to get information can now find pesticide update training meetings listed on the Web at <http://www.pested.psu.edu/frame.html>. Once you are at this site you select the specific core or category credit you need, select the PDA Region most convenient for you to attend a meeting, then click on the search button. After a short time for the search to be completed, your screen will show a table listing date, title, number of credits, location, and contact name and telephone number for more information.

A phone with a Faxback system is available for those who don't have a computer but do have a fax. Use the phone on your fax to call (814) 865-1632. After a short welcome to the system, you will select the pesticide information by pressing a 1. The voice prompt will then ask you to select the PDA region you are interested in. PDA Regions are numbered from one through seven, and eight is used for out of state meetings. Lancaster and surrounding counties are in Region 6. After making your choice, the voice prompt will then tell you to press the start button on the fax machine. The fax will be on its way.

If you have only a phone, you can get information from Oct. 1 through March 31 by calling 1-800-PENN-IPM (1-800-736-6476). You must have a touchtone telephone to operate the system. When the phone is answered, a voice prompt will then ask you to select "1" for pesticide information. The prompt then asks you to select the PDA region you are interested in. See above for more details.

The voice prompt will then ask you to select the core or category that you are interested in. Core will be listed as 00 and categories are 01 through 25. After you have made all your selections, the voice will begin reading the meetings in alphabetical order by county in the region selected. They will be listed chronologically in each county by date. You will get the date, number of credits, and contact telephone number for each meeting.

Anderson suggests if you need pesticide update training begin early to find out where meetings are available. As the winter progresses the number of meetings declines. Very few meetings are available in late March.

Quote Of The Week:

"A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver."

— Solomon (Proverbs 25:11)

Isaiah tells the people that the "right" way to worship and serve God is remarkably easy to understand: "If you take away from the midst of you the yoke, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness . . ." (vs. 9,10).

I have known many churches that have closed their doors because of disputes over the "right beliefs" and "right practices," but never any congregation that dissolved because it poured itself out for the "hungry," sacrificed itself for "the afflicted," or spent too much helping the "oppressed go free." (If you know of one, let me know).

I am not saying that beliefs, doctrines, creeds, and liturgies are not important, but that, unless they result in sharing your bread with the hungry, they have become a dangerous and hypocritical substitute for true Christian discipleship. It does not so much concern me that there are lots of Christians who articulate their faith differently than I do. I am pained that these words keep followers of Jesus Christ from sharing the same bread and cup and prevent us from working side by side in "the right way" to serve God.

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Lancaster Farming, Inc.

A Steinman Enterprise

William J Burgess General Manager

Andy Andrews, Editor

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Lancaster Farming

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