

# Lancaster Farming

## OPINION

### Carefully Nonpartisan

Early this week we received an e-mail from someone who is in a position to run against an incumbent for a regional election. The e-mail indicated the candidate was looking for help, and any information about how to go about it — including a front-page story, perhaps — would be appreciated.

This is how we replied (names have been omitted to protect the individual's right to privacy):

Dear candidate:

As a dear friend, I wish you the best, of course, and good luck in your campaign. You are a wonderful person and would make a great leader!

I just wanted to let you know, though, that as Lancaster Farming editor, I am under the eyes of 50,000 readers, and there are several policies I must follow. (This is from the experience of my predecessors here at the Lancaster Farming.)

While I wish you personal success, there are several things I couldn't do, no matter who would run.

Lancaster Farming is nonpartisan. We have to be that way. We do not own a "mirror" paper, similar to ours that could share different party status, like some city dailies have.

As a result, we have to maintain that integrity of being balanced and fair — so if we endorse one candidate, we have to endorse them all. And where would it end?

See what I mean?

Farmers aren't foolish. They know when we come out in support. They wonder about our motives. They wonder what's happening behind the scenes, and why we make the decisions we do.

For example, this past week I wrote the "governor" candidate story, and the only reason I started with Rendell is because he was the only candidate that showed up prior to Cornucopia, the annual state event. I tried to ensure there was no first or preferential candidate throughout the story, on the front page, and in the graphic we did on the candidate platforms.

You will see no endorsements at any time for any candidate from the editor or writers during any election year. It's a formula that has worked for many years. We simply can't do it any other way.

(Now, if candidates want to take out an ad, they can contact our advertising director.)

Besides, we want to keep all our readers, of whatever party affiliation.

So, best of luck!

— Andy Andrews

Editor, Lancaster Farming

In this election year, we'll provide that objective "balance" that every reader has come to expect from us. It's journalism in its proper form.

◆ FARM CALENDAR ◆

Saturday, March 23

Monroe County Extension Safe Drinking Water Clinic, Coolbaugh Twp. Building, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Lake Erie Regional Grape Growers' Conference and Trade Show, SUNY, Fredonia campus, New York, (716) 672-5296.

Block and Bridle Club, Penn State, Spring Judging Contest, Ag Arena.

Pa. Brown Swiss Spring Meeting, Shoney's Restaurant, State College, 11 a.m., (717) 933-8995.

NEPA Forest Landowners' Conference, Luzerne Community College Conference Center, Nanticoke, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., (570) 825-1701.

Fruit Pruning Clinic, Lazybrook Park east of Tunkhannock, 9 a.m.-noon, (717) 836-3196.

Susquehanna Beekeepers' Association Spring Meeting, Jerry Ely's Apiary, Dimock.

Backyard Tree Fruit Clinic, Wayside Farm, Luzerne County Extension, 2 p.m.-5 p.m., (717) 602-0600.

Flower and Garden Show, Anderson Horticulture Center, Alfred, N.Y., Saturday 5 p.m.-10 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Maple Sugar Camp Tour and meeting, Lycoming County and Tioga County Woodland Owners Association, Raker Farm at 1 p.m., (570) 546-8807.

Woodland Owners of Southern

Alleghenies Conference, American Legion Hall, Bedford, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., (814) 458-2021.

Sunday, March 24

National Institute for Animal Ag meeting, Palmer Home, Chicago, Ill., thru March 28.

Monday, March 25

Berks County Pesticide Update, Berks County Ag Center, 7 p.m.-9 p.m., (610) 378-1327.

Mercer County Sheep and Wool Growers' Meeting, Mercer County Extension, 6:30 p.m., (724) 662-3141.

Farmers' Spring Thaw Meeting, Snyder County Conservation District, Kreamer, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., (570) 837-0007.

Adams County Conservation District Well Water Workshop, (717) 334-0636.

Dairy Farmers of America, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Kansas City, Mo., thru March 27.

Pesticide Permit Testing, Clarion County Extension office, Shippenville, 6 p.m.-9 p.m., (814) 782-0023.

Towson University Geographic Information Sciences Conference, Towson University, Towson, Maryland, March 25-29.

Tuesday, March 26

Bucks County Pasture Management, Neshaminy Center, Doylestown, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Phosphorus Index Training, Myers Farm, Centre County,

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Now Is The Time  
By Leon Ressler  
Lancaster County Extension Director

#### To Prune Raspberries And Blackberries

The Penn State Cooperative Extension publication entitled "Small-Scale Fruit Production" supplies the following information on pruning your brambles.

June-bearing red raspberries will grow naturally in a hedgerow system. The suckers, originating from the root system, will fill in the entire length of the row. March is the best time to prune in Pennsylvania, because any cane dieback from cold will be apparent; however, raspberries can be dormant-pruned anytime canes are fully dormant.

In the dormant season, remove canes outside the 12-inch width of the row, thin canes to 6 to 8 inches between canes, and top remaining canes to 48 to 60 inches in height, removing about one-fourth of the cane. Be sure to retain those canes with the largest diameter. No summer pruning (except for spent floricanes removal) is necessary, although suckers growing outside the 12-inch hedgerow may be removed at any time.

For dormant pruning of black and purple raspberries, remove all dead, damaged, and weak canes. Thin remaining canes to 5 to 10 canes per plant. Lateral branches should be headed back to 4 to 7 inches (for

black) or 6 to 10 inches (for purple). More vigorous plants can support longer lateral branches. All canes should be topped to 36 inches if they were not topped earlier.

Black and purple raspberries require summer topping throughout the summer in addition to floricanes removal after harvest. Floricanes are the stalks that bear fruit. Black and purple raspberries should be topped at 36 inches, removing 3 to 4 inches of new growth. Do this two to three times during the season to top all of the canes as they grow. Topping encourages the development of lateral (fruiting) branches and increases the strength of the cane. Black raspberries will tend to have a very prostrate growth habit in the first year. If canes are pruned back in the dormant season, they will attain a more erect habit in subsequent years.

Everbearing red (or gold) raspberries should be mowed to a height of 1 to 2 inches in the dormant season. Although some gardeners prune them like June-bearing red raspberries to obtain the very small spring crop (only about 10 percent of the total crop for Heritage), it is more practical to plant some of the June bearers if one desires a spring and a fall crop.

Erect blackberries do not require trellising. They have, as the name suggests, very strong upright canes. They should be pruned similarly to black and purple raspberries, with laterals cut back to 12-18 inches and canes thinned to 10 inches apart in the hedgerow during the dormant pruning. Erect blackberries should be headed back to 36 inches in the summer.

For dormant pruning of trailing blackberries, select five to eight of the strongest canes, remove all laterals originating on the lower 3 feet of the canes, and tip back remaining laterals to 12-18 inches. Trailing blackberries should be summer-tipped at about 6 inches above the highest trellis wire and tied to it during the summer months.

The publication, "Small-Scale Fruit Production," contains a wealth of information on all the small fruits and several tree fruits. This will assist you in everything from variety selection to nutritional requirements to controlling wildlife damage. It is available from your local county extension office for \$9.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS  
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

#### JUST THE BEGINNING

Background Scripture: Romans 5.  
Devotional Reading: Psalms 32:1-5.

Paul used legal analogies to speak to the Christians in Rome on the subject of salvation. He used the term "justification," which means the act by which a person is held to be righteous in the eyes of the law.

In Romans 5:1, Paul says: "Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Though we are deserving of condemnation, by faith we grasp the gift of justification which ushers us into a new relationship with God.

Unfortunately, some of Paul's interpreters have misunderstood him and, instead of seeing justification as an analogy, have essentially interpreted justification in a very legalistic way. The offender breaks the law, is apprehended and arrested, brought before the judge and, like a Monopoly player with a "Get Out of Jail Free" card, is declared innocent and released.

Thus regarded, salvation is seen as a means of escaping the trouble into which we have gotten ourselves. There have been more than a few notable sinners who have waited until their last days to convert to Christ and avoid the consequences of their lives.

#### A Radical Change

That, however, is not what salvation means in the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is not just escape from our sins, but the doorway to a new life. Justification is just the beginning of salvation. Salvation is not a declaration of loyalty to Christ as much as it is a whole new relationship with him. Albert W. Palmer affirms this: "Salvation is not something that is done for you, but something that happens within you. It is not the clearing of a court record, but the transformation of a life attitude."

Theologian William Temple has written of this need: "The worst things that happen do not happen because a few people are monstrously wicked, but because most people are like us. When we grasp that, we begin to realize that our need is not merely for moving quietly on in the way that we are going; our need is for radical change, to find a power that is going to turn us into something else. This is what the Gospel offers to do."

Salvation, therefore, does not mean just that the charge against us has been dropped, but that we have offered our lives to be transformed. Paul's legal analogy is fine, so long as we don't think of salvation as a legal transaction. It is really so much more than that. As Charles Clayton Morrison put it, "The love of God is no mere sentimental feeling; it is redemptive power."

To Calibrate Your Liquid Manure Spreader  
Nutrient management plans are written to account for a number of important factors when determining how much manure to apply to a given field. These factors include the nutrient requirements of the crop, the time to incorporation, and carryover of nutrients from previous manure application and the soil fertility levels of the field.

These extensive calculations will not do much good if the application equipment is not calibrated properly so that you know that the rate applied is the one called for in the nutrient management plan. For most liquid manure equipment, getting the proper application rate is a matter of adjusting ground speed. There are a number of methods one can use to check the calibration of the application equipment.

Calibration can be done by simply spreading a full load in a square or rectangular pattern with the typical amount of overlaps. Next measure the length and width of the covered area in feet. Do not include the outside edges if there is a significantly lower application rate. Calculate the area covered in acres using the following simple formula. Multiply the length (in feet) and the width of the covered area and divide the result by 43,560 square foot, which is the area of an acre. The answer is the part of an acre or acres covered by your load. Next divide the number of gallons in your spreader load by the answer from the first calculation. This answer will be the gallons per acre that were applied at the speed used in the calibration.

After you have determined the application rate for the first load, repeat the procedure for different ground speeds. This will give you a good understanding of the spreading rate over a range of operating conditions.

#### Quote Of The Week:

"Be more concerned with your character than with your reputation. Your character is what you really are while your reputation is merely what others think you are."

— John Wooden (Legendary UCLA basketball coach who won a record 10 NCAA championships, including a record seven straight championships from 1967-1973.)

#### Fruits Of Salvation

So, salvation means "peace with God" (5:1). God is not reconciled to us, but we are reconciled to him because we were the ones who broke off our relationship with him. Salvation also means our entrance into grace "Through him we have obtained access to this grace" (5:2).

All life is a gift from God. Salvation also changes our attitudes toward suffering, which we now see as an opportunity to grow in grace (5:3). We also realize that salvation is offered to us at a time when we were least worthy of receiving it (5:6-9).

More than that, salvation signifies that we shall be "saved by his life" (5:10). What this means is that in this new relationship we participate in the present life of Christ as the risen Lord. If we are "saved," we will open our lives to Christ so that he can live in us and through us. Salvation, then, is not just an adjustment of our legal standing before God, it is something that transforms our lives. What we are saved from is not just condemnation before God the judge, but a life that is fruitless and futile.

Sin is one of the most powerful forces in the world, but God's grace is even more powerful. "... Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more." (5:20). No life is beyond redemption because, no matter how powerful the grip of sin may be in us, the transforming power of grace is always that much more powerful.

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