

Lancaster Farming

OPINION

Penn State's Competitive Edge

Penn State University has a lot on its mind. Well, think for once about having to keep track of high school graduates, according to Dean Robert Steele of the College of Agricultural Sciences. There are 501 school districts in Pennsylvania. Penn State is competing against 147 four-year institutions in Pennsylvania and 3,700 in the U.S. for students from the high schools, what he refers to as "feeder schools," which have potential Penn State students.

What are the incentives? Steele, who spoke in York earlier this month at a meeting of the College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Society and the Penn State Agricultural Council, noted that, yes, tuition makes Penn State one of the most expensive schools in the Big 10. But schools such as the University of Wisconsin can pay for a lot more education than Penn State — simply because of a "tradition." Wisconsin legislators insure their own taxpayers pay a lot for tuition.

Scholarship programs are critical. The College of Agricultural Sciences has the "largest scholarship program of any college at Penn State," he said. The college plans to award \$1.5 million in scholarships next fall to help students afford a Penn State education.

Trouble is, the money reaches only 25 percent of the students. So it is with a new spirit of thinking for Penn State to keep to its plan, since 1862, to provide an "affordable education."

The average student, after completing a four-year degree, owes \$18,000. But starting salary of a graduate from Penn State is \$30,000 per year, according to Steele.

The difference between a mere high school and a college education? "About \$1 million," Steele noted, over a lifetime of income.

Steele stressed the importance of modernization yet pointed to universities that are waiving tuition fees to attract the brightest Pennsylvania students. He pointed to Michigan State, which is literally "buying" students from Pennsylvania.

To compete, Penn State must modernize, expand, and market, just like any business, to keep that competitive edge. You can't blame them. We just hope they do it right.

FARM CALENDAR

Saturday, June 29

Biennial Quilt Show of York Quilters' Guild, Horticultural Hall, York Expo Center, York, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., thru June 30, Kutztown Festival, thru July 7.

Sunday, June 30

Pa. Governor's School for the Ag Sciences, Penn State University, thru Aug. 3, (814) 865-7521. Tree Identification, Perry Juniata Woodland Owners' Association Forest District 3, (717) 536-3191. Mason Dixon Horse Show, rain or shine, (717) 456-7202.

Monday, July 1

Wolf's Corners Fair, thru July 6. Ag Awareness Tour, Northumberland County, 1:30 p.m. education tour, 7 p.m. dinner, (570) 988-3950.

Tuesday, July 2

Southeast 4-H Livestock Judging contest, (717) 394-6851. Corn Weed Control Field Meeting, LeRoydale Farm, West Leroy, 7:30-9 p.m., (570) 928-8941.

Wednesday, July 3

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FARM FORUM

Editor:

June is coming to an end, and with it the end of my reign as the Wyoming/Lackawanna Counties Dairy Princess. This year has been one full of memorable experiences and events I will never forget.

Teaching elementary school kids about the importance of a balanced diet consisting of dairy products and convincing people to try the different flavors of cheese have been at the top of my list of great days. But another rewarding time came from helping some of the residents in the Tunkhannock Methodist Manor make Christmas ornaments. More than the dairy product advice I gave them, they enjoyed the sheer bliss of my undivided attention.

Being a Dairy Princess means more than promoting the industry, it means meeting people and bringing a smile to their faces whenever possible. It means giving people the facts and letting them decide if dairy is the

right choice for themselves and their families. It also means a responsibility to the farmers who support our program. So I would like to thank them for the chance they've given me and for the opportunity to do something for an industry that has done so much to create the Princess I became.

As I leave my position, I would like to thank my Alternate Becki Carr, Dairy Maid Denise Hardisky, Dairy Ambassador Billy Anderson, and Dairy Miss Rachel Smarkusky for their help this year. Thank-you for your help and support through many promotions. And, I know that the incoming court Becki, Stacey, Denise, Rachel, Brandy, and Autumn will be more than willing to continue spreading the news of "delightful dairy products."

Bobbie Sue Adams
2001-2002
Wyoming-Lackawanna
Dairy Princess

Now Is The Time
By Leon Ressler
Lancaster County
Extension Director

To Use Presidedress Soil Nitrate Test (PSNT) To Renovate Strawberry Fields
Conventional strawberry fields can be productive for several years if one renovates them properly. Renovation should begin as soon as possible after harvest is finished.

The first step is to apply 2-4-D (Formula 40) for broadleaf control if necessary. Wait four to seven days for the weeds to absorb the herbicide. Then mow off the strawberries as close to the ground as possible without damaging the crowns.

Next narrow the rows to 6 to 12 inches wide with a rototiller or cultivator. Allow one inch of soil to cover the crowns. Fertilize with 40-50 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre and apply phosphorus and potash according to soil test requirements.

One should also apply herbicides for summer weed control as suggested in Penn State's Commercial Berry Production Pest Management Guide. This guide is available from your County Extension Office and has a wealth of information for the commercial berry producer. Sinbar or Devrinol are two preemergent herbicides commonly used for summer weed control.

Irrigate to incorporate the fertilizer and herbicide. Late in August the

strawberries will form buds for next year's fruit crop. Fertilize again at this time with 20 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre.

To Attend A No-Till Field Day For Horse Farmers
Soil erosion is still a significant problem on many farms in Lancaster County. Two field days have been planned which will focus on using no-till practices successfully when farming with horses.

Penn State Cooperative Extension will sponsor the events on July 9 at the David Stoltzfus Farm, 461 Whitehorse Road, Gap. The program will be repeated on July 10 at the John and A.K. Stoltzfus Farm, 214 Peach Bottom Road, Peach Bottom.

Sjoerd W. Duiker, soil management specialist from the crops and soil science department at Penn State will speak on improving soils with no-till.

Steve Groff, from Holtwood, PA who is nationally known as an innovative no-till farmer will speak on a systems approach to no-till. Gideon Stoltzfus, of Gap will discuss transplanting equipment for no-till.

Leland Miller, a crop consultant in Lancaster County will discuss plant nutrition in no-till. Jeff Stoltzfus, an adult farmer instructor from New Holland and Lancaster county agronomy agent Bob Anderson, will discuss pesticide safety.

Pest concerns in no-till will be addressed by Mark Goodson, capital region agronomy agent. A crop walk will be a part of both days' events.

Lunch will be provided and pesticide credits will be available for both events. For more information contact the Lancaster County Extension Office at (717) 394-6851.

To Welcome A New Director Of Penn State's School Of Forest Resources
Charles Strauss, professor of forest economics, has been named director of Penn State's School of Forest Resources for a three-year term that began May 1.

Robert Steele, dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences, announced the appointment of Strauss, who served for 10 months as the school's interim director.

The School of Forest Resources currently enrolls about 380 undergraduate and 130 graduate students. As director, Strauss oversees more

than 70 faculty and staff, including two endowed positions, the Maurice K. Goddard Chair in Forestry and Environmental Resource Conservation and the Joseph E. Ibberson Chair in Forest Resources Management.

The school's teaching, research, and cooperative extension and outreach programs focus on wood science; forest biology and management; wood products marketing, management and manufacturing; fisheries and wildlife science and management; urban and community forestry; watershed science and management; wetlands ecology; and genetics and systematics.

Strauss has served the university for more than 40 years. His academic interests include recreation economics, energy economics and investment analysis of resource systems. His research on the economic impact of travel and tourism has included an evaluation of heritage tourism in southwestern Pennsylvania and a study of eco-tourism surrounding the elk herd in northcentral Pennsylvania.

Strauss has taught several undergraduate and graduate courses and served on many university and statewide boards and committees. His numerous honors include the Research Honor Award from the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society, the Professional Service Award from the Pennsylvania Forestry Association and the School of Forest Resources Outstanding Faculty Award, which is selected by graduate and undergraduate student groups.

Strauss began his professional career as a technical design representative for the California Redwood Association in 1960. In 1961, he came to Penn State as a forest products extension specialist. He joined the resident faculty as an instructor in 1966, attaining the rank of full professor in 1990.

Strauss holds three Penn State degrees: a bachelor's in forest management, a master's in economics and a doctorate in agricultural economics. He also earned a master's degree in forest products marketing from Michigan State University.

Quote Of The Week:
"Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation, for 'tis better to be alone than in bad company."
— George Washington

THE BIBLE SPEAKS
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

REBELLION AND REMEMBRANCE

Background Scripture:
Psalms 78:1-8.
Devotional Reading:
Psalms 135:1-7.

One of the revolutions that Christianity brought into the world was a different concept of history. Before he became a Christian, Augustine saw history in the classic Greek perspective: history constantly repeating itself in a cyclical fashion, without beginning or end. In this view there is nothing really new under the sun. So, much of human life was based upon the recurring cycles of nature. Life was a treadmill.

When Augustine became a Christian, however, he put together two concepts: history and prophecy. Prophets see the possibility of something new happening, a new direction taken. That is the whole basis upon which prophecy is founded: calling people to change their hearts and ways and, in the bargain, history, too.

Augustine saw history not as a cycle, but as a progression that had a beginning and was working toward an end. This progression was part of the plan and purpose of God. Life is not a treadmill but a stairway or incline that leads us upward, not in circles.

No Future Inevitable
The psalmists also believed that we can learn from history and change the future. Sacred history, the story of how God works in the affairs of both individuals and nations, was one of the most important features of Judaism.

Just as the prophets did not see the future as inevitable, but that it could be changed if people changed, so the psalmists attempted to help people learn from the past and thus change the future.

The Psalmist calls the people of Israel to consider their history and what they might learn from it. They are not doomed to repeat the mistakes of the past: "...that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation... whose spirit was not faithful to God" (78:8). This is one of the abiding themes of Hebrew history: the faithlessness of the people. This is what the Psalmist means when he says: "I will utter dark sayings of old..." (v. 2b.). The history of Israel was composed of good news and bad news — the unfaithfulness of their ancestors is the bad news.

What is the purpose of remembering the sins of previous generations? So that we may learn to recognize the sins of today and, recognizing them, choose to break from the cycle of sin into a better future. If we do not remember the wrongs of yesterday, we

will likely perpetuate them today and tomorrow. Are we, too, "a stubborn and rebellious generation?" Can we break out of this recurring cycle of human ingratitude?

What God Has Done And Is Doing
There is, however, an even greater theme: the faithfulness of the Lord. This is the good news of their history and this, too, needs to be remembered. They need to recount "the glorious deeds of the Lord and his might, and the wonders which he has wrought" (v. 4).

Despite the rebellions of the people against the Lord, he did not forsake them. The people had broken the covenant with God, but he kept it alive with his grace.

Retelling the mighty works of the Lord was a very important feature of Judaism and still is today, tracing the presence and action of the Lord throughout their turbulent history. The result: a profound sense of God's grace and presence.

Looking back over my life, I realize now that, when I was much, much younger, I tended to take for granted the things my parents did for me and with me. Today, I am humbled to remember their grace toward me.

We can only grow beyond this "what-have-you-done-for-me-lately?" attitude when in remembrance we recognize it and decide our future will be different.

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