



Lancaster Farming

OPINION

Historic Holstein Convention

Last week we had the splendid chance to attend and cover the National Holstein Convention in Atlantic City. What a place!

More importantly, we had the chance to see something historical happen.

In a big development, the Holstein Association U.S.A. voted 93-44 to provide power to the board.

That gave the board the right to make business decisions, such as setting registration, transfer, and other fees, rather than the delegates themselves, who controlled such things in the past.

The board of directors assume this power from the delegates.

During policy negotiations at the delegates' meeting near the end of the week, the observation was made by some that the association was tired of the "rubber stamp" approach of the past.

Some executive posts of the association — and this could apply to many agricultural trade and commodity associations as well — have been entrenched so long they have the power over what the board wants. Executive officers stay while many board members come and go.

So this could be a way to further balance the power, offering a great "checks and balances" system, to allow an association to operate in a stronger capacity. But the states, recognizing this kind of huge precedent, continue to operate under their own set of governance and regulations.

Maybe it's time to change that.

We believe the association's decision was a correct and daring approach, one that will benefit everyone over the long term. We congratulate their foresight in this matter and are willing to work, along with them, to provide better news and information about news as its made available to us.



To Control Potato Leafhopper Infestations In Alfalfa

Paul Craig, capitol region agronomy agent, reports the potato leafhopper (PLH) started arriving especially early this spring. Scouts found adults in the first cutting in early May. However, the colder-than-normal weather in late May appeared to significantly slow down the development of the leafhopper population.

Following first cutting, the insect was increasing in population levels, but most producers decided to harvest instead of applying control materials to second cutting. Some second cutting fields that were harvested last showed slight discoloration because of PLH feeding.

All indications are that there will be heavy pressure on the third cutting from PLH. Regrowth has been slowed because of moisture stress across the region, and high populations of adults will quickly increase populations of the feeding nymphs

and adults. The hot temperatures we have experienced recently greatly favor development of this pest, which is the number 1 pest of alfalfa across the U.S.

Research has shown that feeding of alfalfa by PLH will affect forage quality, forage production (tonnage), stand longevity, and forage production next season as well. Alfalfa varieties sold as potato leafhopper resistant or tolerant are not the sole answer. Benefits of these varieties have been found to increase as the stand increases in age. First season growth of these varieties will still suffer loss from potato leafhopper, especially when populations are exceptionally high.

Growers should strive to carefully manage new seedings of alfalfa to reduce injury from potato leafhopper. Until a new seeding is one year old, it is still in the "development" stage and can be affected by insects that affect stand life and production.

Scouting of potato leafhopper is an easy and reliable way to prevent serious injury. To protect your alfalfa crop from damage, monitor the situation in your fields. Waiting until yellowing or "hopper burn" is evident is too late. Damage will have already occurred.

In a square-shaped field, monitoring in a "U" shaped pattern and, in a rectangular field, an "I" shaped pattern is best. In each field select five sample sites along the "U" or "I" shape. Use an insect net with a 15-inch diameter hoop and a tightly knit bag such as muslin. Within each of the five sample sites, make 20 sweeps with the net while walking in a zigzag pattern. Don't stop swinging the net until each of the 20 sweeps are completed. Sweep the net about 3-4 inches below the tops of the plants.

After completing the 20 sweeps in the first site, continue to swing the net back and forth a few times to force the insects into the small end of the bag. Grab the net quickly about 10 inches from the small end to trap the insects in a rather small area.

The difficult part is identifying and counting the potato leafhoppers. Count all the pale green adults (disregard any brown ones) and the nymphs. Slowly open the net and be alert for adults that can leave the net quickly without being noticed. After counting is completed, make note of the total. Then repeat this procedure at the next four sites. This will complete 100 sweeps.

Now calculate the number of leafhoppers per 10 sweeps. For example if you collected a total of 60 leafhoppers in 100 sweeps, divide 60 by 10 for an average of 6 leafhoppers per 10 sweeps. If threshold levels are low, repeat sampling on a weekly basis. Adults can fly and will move into new growth from surrounding areas.

To Determine Economic Injury Threshold For Your Alfalfa Field

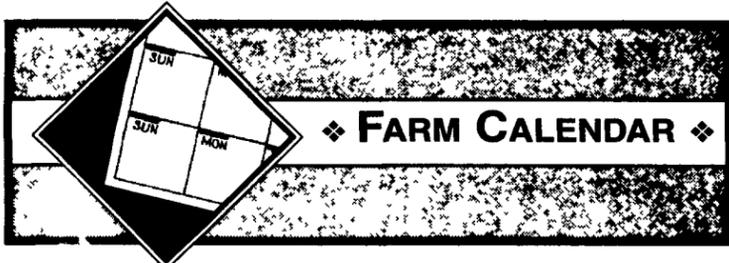
A number of factors need to be considered when determining if spraying to control the leafhopper population is justified. The first factor is the number of leafhoppers present in the field. The second factor is the development of the plants.

A relatively low number of leafhoppers can inflict a serious amount of damage if they are present when the plants are small. Greatest losses to the alfalfa crop from leafhopper feeding occur before the plants reach six inches in height. Plants 12 inches and taller can tolerate leafhopper feeding without high losses.

A third factor to consider is whether you have a potato leafhopper-resistant variety.

A publication entitled "A Pest Management Program for Alfalfa in Pennsylvania" is available from your county extension office. Consult the charts in this publication for additional assistance in determining the economic threshold for your alfalfa crop.

Quote of the Week:
"Men make history and not the other way around."
— Harry Truman



FARM CALENDAR

Saturday, July 6

Maryland Guernsey, Milking Shorthorn Field Days.

Sunday, July 7

Conservation Leadership School, Penn State Stone Valley Recreation Area, ages 15-18, thru July 12, (814) 865-8301.

Derry Twp. Ag Fair, thru July 13.

Forest Ecology Camp, Sandy Lake, thru July 12, (724) 376-1000.

Monday, July 8

Annual Summer Technical Conference and In-Service training, Coudersport High School, Coudersport, thru July 11.

Mason Dixon Fair and Tractor Pull, thru July 13.

Mercer County Grange Fair, thru July 13.

Pa. Young Farmers Assoc. and Summer Institute, Penn Wells Hotel, Main Street, Wellsboro, thru July 10.

Junior Judging School, Huntingdon County Holstein Club, noon, also July 9, (814) 234-0364.

DEP Pa.'s Chesapeake Bay Nutrition Reduction Strategy, South Central Regional Office, Susquehanna Room, Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., (717) 787-5267.

Tuesday, July 9

Teen Leadership Conference, Lebanon Valley College, Annville, thru July 12.

Clarion County Farm Forum Pasture Walk, Martin and Lori Whitmore, 7 p.m., (814) 782-0033.

No-Till Field Day for Horse Farmers, David Stoltzfus Farm, Gap, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Soil Restoration and Management for Organic, Biodynamic Vegetable Production, Roxbury Farm at Owl Hill, Rt. 94, Kinderhook, Columbia County, N.Y., 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 10

American Society for Ecology and Viticulture annual meeting, Sheraton In Town, Baltimore, Md.

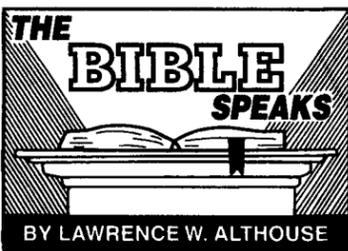
Weed tour, Russell Larson Ag Research Center, Rockspring.

Ohio Ag Systems and Environmental Field Day, Coshocton, Ohio, (740) 545-6349.

Somerset County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Meyersdale, 6:30 p.m.

DEP public meeting on Pa.'s Chesapeake Bay Nutritional Reduction Strategy, N.E. Regional DEP office, Susquehanna Room, 2 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, 1:30 p.m. and 7

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LORD OF THE SEVEN WONDERS

Background Scripture: Psalms 65; 104.
Devotional Reading: Psalms 65.

A psychiatrist prescribed a visit to Niagara Falls to a patient because, he said, she needed to take a long, hard look at something bigger than herself. Perhaps many of us fail to "get anything out of" worship because we do not make it an opportunity to focus on something greater than ourselves. Concentrating all our attention upon ourselves is a very limiting perspective. But whenever we look beyond the horizon of self, we can be swept up and beyond.

Psalm 104 focuses upon the Lord, who is the creator of everything. It inspired Robert Grant's great hymn, "O Worship The King." To me, the psalm is equally suggestive of "How Great Thou Art," also a celebration of God the creator. This psalm was probably sung during the annual New Year festival when the drama of creation was memorialized.

Prof. Samuel Terrien calls the God of Psalm 104 "The Lord of Seven Wonders." He says this psalm is singular in that "the whole universe is encompassed within a single sweep of religious vision." The psalmist opens with a sweeping pronouncement:

"Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, thou art very great!" (104:1)

The Wonder Of Light

He then begins with the first wonder (vs. 2-4), light, praising the Lord "... who coverest thyself with light as a garment" (v. 2). The psalmist saw the Lord as clothed in unearthly primeval light. According to him, it is not by darkness, but by an impenetrable light that God is concealed from us, just as 1 Timothy 6:36 says that the Lord "dwells in light unapproachable."

Prof. John Knox says this means that "while men can apprehend some things about God, his complete nature and being are concealed from them." That also is a wonder which should blow our minds beyond the limitations of self.

The second wonder (vs. 5-9) is the earth: "Thou didst set the earth in its foundation, so that it should never be shaken." The use of a participle form in the verbs indicates that the psalmist sees creation, not just as a cosmic event in the distant past, but as a continuing wonder. The Lord not only was the Creator, but still is creating today.

The third wonder is water (vs. 10-13): "Thou makest springs gush forth in the valleys." Wonder number four (vs. 14-18) is vegetation: "Thou dost cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate." The moon and the sun (vs. 19-23) are the fifth wonder: "Thou hast made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting." The sea is wonder number six (vs. 24-26): "Yonder is the sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable."

The Greatest Wonder

The crowning wonder, number seven (vs. 27-30), is the gift of life: "When thou givest to them, they gather it up... when thou takest away their breath, they die and they return to their dust." Without God

there is no life, but God gives life to his creation and is ever renewing it. Life does not belong to humans, animals, or any other living form; it belongs to God. At birth, he gives it as a gift; at death, he takes it back.

The key to the last section of the psalm is verse 34: "May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord." All the wonders he has enumerated and over which he has exulted are the end result of his meditation. He has pondered deeply and long and this has inspired him to rejoice in God's wonders.

"There would be more inspired poetry, better hymns, and more powerful preaching," says Prof. Knox, "if there were more meditation." Worship would be more uplifting and prayer and praise would be more natural.

Meditating on the wonders of God can be so beneficial to us. It is we who are blessed when we say or sing: "Bless the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord!"

How To Reach Us

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Please note: Include your full name, return address, and phone number on the letter. Lancaster Farming reserves the right to edit the letter to fit and is not responsible for returning unsolicited mail.

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—by—

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