

Lancaster Farming

OPINION

Record-Breaking Event In Store At All-American

What supporters consider the largest dairy show in the world begins tomorrow as about 3,200 dairy cattle from 24 states and Canada will be entering the Farm Show Complex during the Pennsylvania All-American.

Agriculture Secretary Sam Hayes said, "The All-American Dairy Show is one of the great agricultural expositions in North America and a spectacular showcase for the dairy industry. Expositions like the All-American bring the very best of our dairy industry together."

The 3,198 entries represent an increase over the 3,077 entered in 2001. For the third straight year, premiums have increased to the tune of more than \$160,000.

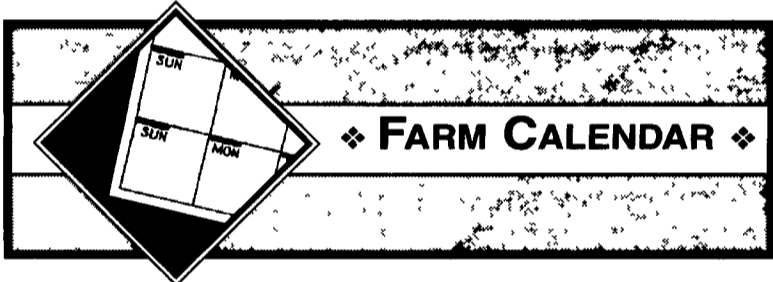
"The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture wants the All-American Dairy Show to remain a leader in North America," Hayes said. "We recognize the importance of the dairy industry and want our dairy breeders in Pennsylvania and throughout North America to exhibit their superior dairy cattle at the All-American. And, we are pleased to provide increased financial resources for the dairy exposition."

More than \$8,400 in premiums will be offered to recognize the high quality of dairy animals taking center stage during the youth classes in the Large Arena of the Farm Show Complex. This is the first year that premiums will be offered in all six youth breed shows.

"Our Pennsylvania-based All-American Dairy Show has enhanced premiums and world-class facilities which are setting the pace for international dairy shows. That's what should be done for the dairy industry of North America and we are glad to do it," Hayes said.

The All-American Dairy Show was started in 1963 to recognize the importance of genetic quality and excellent dairy cattle. The All-American Dairy Show takes pride in setting an exemplary standard of excellence on the national show circuit. The International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) has recognized the Pennsylvania-based dairy show as the Best Non-Fair Agricultural Event.

We hope to see you there!



Saturday, September 21

- Farm Aid Concert in Pittsburgh.
- Garden State Sheep Breeders Sheep Festival, Warren County Farmers Fairgrounds, Harmony, N.J., (908) 730-7189.
- Field Day, Brent D'Atri's farm, Oldtown, Md., thru Sept. 28.
- Bloomsburg Fair, thru Sept. 28.
- Catskill Mountain Ginseng Festival, Village of Catskill, New York, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., (578) 622-9820.
- Lancaster Farmland Trust Old-fashioned Farm Picnic, Lowell and Daphne Fry Farm, Manheim, noon-5 p.m.
- Maryland Wine Festival, Carroll County Farm Museum, noon-6 p.m., thru Sept. 22, (410) 848-7775.
- Northeast Small Farm and Rural Living Expo, West End Fairgrounds, Gilbert, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, Sept. 22, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Pa. Dairy Princess Pageant, Radisson Penn Harris Hotel,

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.

- Camp Hill, banquet 6:30 p.m.
- Fawn Grove Olde Tyme Days, Fall Gas Engine Garden Tractor Show and Swap Meet, Fawn Grove, southern York County, thru Sept. 22, (717) 382-4577.
- Washington County Cattlemen's Association Club Calf Show and Sale, Washington County Fairgrounds, Meadow Lands, 4 p.m., (724) 239-3556.
- 4-H 100th Anniversary, Crawford Park, Pine Bush, N.Y., noon.
- Indiana County Farm Bureau Farm Tour and Open House, Jewart Dairy, Home, 1 p.m.-5 p.m., (724) 397-8115.
- Horticulture Show, Ag Arena UP, thru Sept. 22, (814) 863-6167.

Sunday, September 22

- Oxen Training Workshop, Hancock Shaker Village, Pittsfield, Mass., (919) 542-5704.
- World Fertilizer Conference, Western St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, Calif., thru Sept. 24.
- All-American Dairy Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Sept. 26.
- Pace Event, LCR&DC and Willis Trail Association, Marsh Creek Park, Glenmore, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., rain date Sept. 29, (610) 942-3423.

Monday, September 23

- Pa. All-American Dairy Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Sept. 27.
- ADADC Meeting District 5, Best Western Cobleskill, Cobleskill, N.Y., 7:30 p.m., (518) 673-5895.

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

To Maximize Forage Production

Results of a three-year study on forage systems by a Penn State beef cattle expert should help farmers save money on livestock feed and help protect them from the effects of drought.

During this sizzling summer, when a lack of rain and searing heat have parched much of Pennsylvania's agricultural landscape — resulting in crop losses approaching 100 percent in places — the findings are especially timely.

According to John Comerford, associate professor of dairy and animal science, many beef cattle farmers are out of grass because of the drought. "They are using feed stored for winter now," he said, "and they are facing the prospect of buying feed to get through the winter."

The results of Comerford's research represent a departure from tradition for many Pennsylvania farmers. "Historically, beef cattle farmers had fenced pastures and they just turned the cows out into them to graze," Comerford explained. "From our work with rotational grazing systems and pasture management, we know that is not the best way to use pasture."

Perhaps the biggest weakness with

the old way of managing — or actually not managing — pastures and forage is that farmers are very dependent on weather. And in years like this one — when severe drought grips the state — the grass is mostly gone by mid-summer. Comerford's research shows farmers how to take advantage of growth periods and capture rainfall in ungrazed, uncut pastures.

"Normal grazing periods for continuous grazing systems in this region are 170 to 180 days," Comerford said. "But in very dry years such as this one, cows only can get their own feed for closer to 140 days."

Comerford's research, an evaluation of three grazing systems for beef cows, was carried out in two locations from 1996 to 1998, with 45 acres in each location. Cows were fed grasses (such as fescue, sudangrass, and orchardgrass), corn stalks, small grains and alfalfa — alone, and in various combinations.

"When we rely on one kind of grass for forage we are vulnerable to the weather because the growth of the grass is sensitive to rainfall," he said. "When we take advantage of different kinds of forage, such as legumes, corn and stockpiled grass, grazing becomes less sensitive to rainfall amounts."

"The study showed that beef cattle are not picky about the forage they graze," Comerford said. "There just has to be enough of it on a daily basis. The most cost-effective grazing system will have a combination of several types of forage, including cool season perennials, stockpiled grass, alfalfa-plus-grass pastures, and corn stalks."

Comerford had a good idea what any one of the forage varieties would offer farmers individually. "What we tried to do in this study, for the first time in this region to the best of my knowledge, was look at them in various combinations and look at the cost of each," he said. "What we have done is put a dollar value to forage, and that's not readily available elsewhere."

For more information about Comerford's research into the best mix of forage varieties, contact him at (814) 863-3661 or e-mail jxc16@psu.edu.

To Focus On Farm Safety
Dennis Murphy, a safety expert in Penn State's College of Agricultural

Sciences, reports of the 34 people who died on Pennsylvania farms in 2001, eight were children age 9 and under. "Even one fatal farm accident involving a child is too many," said Murphy. "The number of fatalities has been pretty stable the past few years, but last year the number of fatal accidents involving young children was sharply higher."

In 2000, 32 people died in Pennsylvania farm accidents, compared to 30 in 1999, 45 in 1998, 45 in 1997, and 44 in 1996. "The trend has been toward fewer fatal accidents until the number of fatalities rose slightly the past two years," said Murphy. "Changes in statistics year to year are difficult to attribute to any one cause."

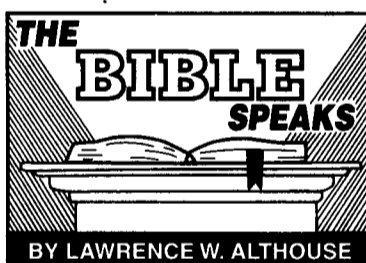
"In the last few decades, as the number of people working on farms has dropped, equipment has become safer and safety education has become more readily available to farmers, the number of fatal accidents has dropped dramatically. By far the most common fatal accidents on Pennsylvania farms involve tractors — nine people died in tractor-related accidents in 2001."

"2001 was a particularly bad year for very young children on the farmstead," Murphy said. "It points out that parents can never let down their guard or relax in protecting their children on the farm. It's hard to understand because there are more youth farm-safety programs than ever. Six of the fatal accidents involved children age 4 and under, and kids that young normally aren't working."

Ten of the 34 deaths last year on Pennsylvania farms involved people age 65 to 79. But that's not unusual, according to Murphy. "Farmers often don't retire — they just keep working as long as they can," he said. "Other industries don't have those older age groups working, so fatal accidents among seniors is mostly peculiar to agriculture." Some months are more dangerous than others working on the farm — the months when most work is done. In 2001, six people died in June, five in July, and five in September.

Quote Of The Week:
"Most coaches study the films when they lose. I study them when we win — to see if I can figure out what I did right."

— Paul Bear Bryant



ON FOLLOWING THE LEADER

Background Scripture:
2 Chronicles 34 through 35; 2 Kings 22 through 23.
Devotional Reading:
Psalms 199:1-8.

The president of Vassar once wrote to the father of a girl who was applying for admission: "Is she a good leader?"

"I am not sure about this," the father replied, "but I know she is an excellent follower."

Back came a surprising reply: "As our freshman class next fall is to contain several hundred leaders, we congratulate ourselves that your daughter will be a member of the class. We shall be thus assured of one good follower."

The world, like Vassar College, needs both good leaders and good followers. Leaders get started what other people only dream about. Often, instead of whining, "Why doesn't do something about it?" they say, "Let's go! We can do this."

King Josiah was such a man. He is generally regarded as Judah's greatest king, as well as its last good king.

He ascended the throne at the age of eight, when his father, Amon was murdered, and reigned 31 years before his untimely death in battle at the age of 39. He was only 20 when he began his great reform movement, purging Jerusalem and Judah of pagan sites of worship and restoring the temple that had lain in disrepair.

Not In His Genes

What was the source of his remarkable ability to lead Judah to do what others had only contemplated? The answer was probably not in the genes he inherited. Although his great-great-great-great-grandfather Hezekiah had attempted reforms, these did not outlast the ruinous reigns of his grandfather Manasseh and his father Amon. Neither does it appear that he passed any leadership genes to his son, Jehoahaz, who, becoming king upon Josiah's death, was judged as had most of his forebears been judged: "He did what evil in the sight of the Lord his God" (36:5).

The chroniclers do not tell us much. They don't tell us if he was a brilliant thinker or stirring speaker, nor do they hint at charismatic gifts or an impressive stature. Rather, they focus on what he did, observing that "He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and walked in the ways of David his father; and he did not turn aside to the right or to the left" (34:2). He was an earnest seeker after God and this search directed the way he lived and ruled. Often, that commitment is the cradle of true leadership.

The chroniclers also show us that he backed up his dreams with an unflinching will. Josiah's reform succeeded because of his single-minded will to do the job that must be done. Although it was Hilkiah the Levite who actually found the lost scroll in a

forgotten corner of the temple, it was because of Josiah's will to restore the temple that Hilkiah was there to find it. It was also because of Josiah that the scrolls of Deuteronomical law were brought to the people and the ancient covenant with God publicly renewed.

Josiah The Healer

He was aptly named, for Josiah may be translated either as "Yahweh (God) cures" or "Yahweh (God) gives," and Josiah both healed his nation and gave it back its priceless spiritual heritage. Unlike many political leaders, when faced with the scroll's obvious judgment upon the previous generations on Judah in general and his royal family line in particular, Josiah did not choose to defend his predecessors, but confessed: "... for great is the wrath of the Lord that is poured out on us, because our father have not kept the word of the Lord, to do according to all that is written in this book" (34:21).

Yet, for all of his dedication and will, Josiah's reforms hardly survived him. Upon his death, much of the momentum was quickly lost. Does that mean that his leadership was flawed? Perhaps the answer is to be found, not in his leadership, but in the following of his people. Under the force of his will, his people followed his lead, but when he was gone, many lapsed back to what they had been and done before Josiah.

One person can get a reform going, but it takes stalwart, dedicated followers to keep it going.

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Lancaster Farming

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