

Lancaster Farming

OPINION

Pollution Solution: Use A Mulching Mower

Each year, Pennsylvania residents help deposit 25 million tons of trash in landfills. That equates to about 1 ton per person per year, according to estimates provided by Rep. Tom Creighton (R-37), who spoke last week during the Lancaster County Extension annual meeting.

Twenty percent of that trash is organic waste, which includes grass clippings and leaves.

Lancaster County was given a special citation from the state legislators because of its efforts to teach composting to households, with a potential savings of about five million tons or 200 pounds per person. That's significant!

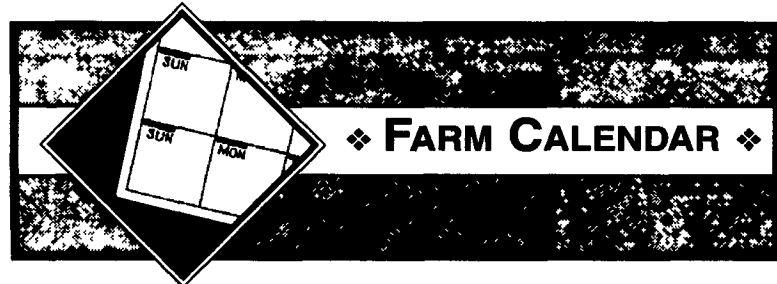
What's more significant and downright surprising is that so many people still bag leaves and grass, when a simple solution, and one that has worked for this editor for the past 13 years, involves mulching.

I've used a mulch mower during that time. I have never bagged grass or leaves. For more than a decade I have been using a 20-inch mulching mower in a property with about 10 trees measuring about a third of an acre. I could easily do an acre or more, add more trees, and still not have to bag or pack a thing.

The myth: so many leaves. I have mulched every organic component, in addition to leaves (from various maples and Bradford pear trees), even the vegetables from my garden. It works completely. I've been doing it successfully for 13 years! And my lawn looks fine!

There is no reason every yard manager couldn't use a simple mulching mower. For the past 13 years, I have mulched it all, including the leaves and small branches from the trees into the lawn. The mulch feeds the lawn and recycles the nutrients.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has a plan in place to reduce organic waste by 35 percent. Let's reduce it by at least 40 percent by using mulching systems whenever possible.



Saturday, February 8
Dauphin County Crops School,
Upper Dauphin High School,
8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., (717)
921-8803.

Sunday, February 9
Ohio Wine Shortcourse, Wyn-
dam Hotel, Dublin, thru Feb.
11.
Fertilizer marketing business
meeting, Marriott Rivercenter

Hotel, San Antonio, Texas,
thru Feb. 11.

Monday, February 10
Poultry Management and Health
Seminar, Kreider's Restau-
rant, Manheim, noon.
Windows II class, Capitol Region
Penn State Extension, Adams
County Extension Office, Get-
(Turn to Page A38)



Editor:

National Food Check Out Day, Feb. 6, is a celebration of the bounty coming from U.S. farms and ranches.

American consumers share the bounty by affordable food prices. The average U.S. citizen devotes only 10 percent of their income to pay for food and they earn this amount in just 37 days. Compared to other expenses facing American

families, food is a great bargain. It takes an average of 123 days of work to pay local, state, and federal taxes.

The Indiana County Farm Bureau, its members and their churches, have teamed up to take the opportunity to share our good fortune by collecting food, cash donations, and other items for the Ronald McDonald House in Pittsburgh. There are five Ronald McDonald houses across the state that provide a "home-away-from-home" for the families of seriously ill children receiving medical treatment. The other 53 county Farm Bureaus also participate in providing for the needs of their local Ronald McDonald houses.

The farmers of Indiana County and Pennsylvania sincerely thank each of you who buy locally grown and produced commodities. We ask for your continued support.

—Jayne Jewart
Indiana County Farm Bureau
Information Director

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.



Now Is The Time By Leon Ressler

Lancaster County
Extension Director

To Prepare For Lambing

Lancaster county livestock agent Chester Hughes provides this timely advice as lambing season is near.

Ewes showing signs of approaching lambing (nervousness, anxiety, bleating, and pawing) should be moved into lambing pens. If fluid is discharged and labor is unproductive, give assistance. Use a mild detergent solution to clean your hands and the external area around the vulva before examining the ewe.

Lambs that cannot be delivered normally can still be saved by caesarean section if the operation is performed while they are still alive. Be sure the new lamb is breathing properly. Clear its nostrils of mucus by holding it by the hind legs and rubbing it. Some shepherds insert a straw stem in the nostril gently to force the lamb to sneeze. Lambs, which won't breathe, can be held by the head and dipped in cold water to make them gasp for their first breath. Dry lambs off as

soon as possible after birth. Rubbing them dry is preferable. Heat lamps should only be used with weak lambs.

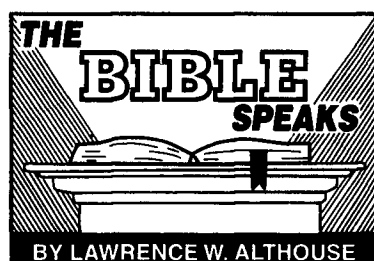
Baby lambs should nurse as soon as possible. The first milk (colostrum) supplies antibodies against many diseases. After the lamb is 15 minutes old, his ability to absorb antibodies rapidly decreases. By the time the lamb is eight hours old, he can only absorb about half the amount of antibodies, and none by 36 hours.

Baby lambs born in cold weather and deprived of colostrum for even a short time quickly suffer from loss of blood glucose (dextrose). Many are given up as lost when simple treatment will usually save them. Keep a supply of 50 percent dextrose solution on hand. If the lamb can swallow a tablespoonful of this solution, it will usually quickly revive. If the lamb is too weak to swallow, use a stomach tube to administer 5 to 10 percent sterile dextrose-saline solution.

To Attend The Lancaster County Crop Production Day

A number of important and interesting topics are on the agenda for Lancaster County's Crop Production Day on Feb. 14 at the Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster.

Reduced tillage systems often increase the challenge of management of crop pests. Regional agronomy agent Mark Goodson will discuss how to avoid the notorious pests that invade under reduced tillage. Farm Service Agency Staff will review how the Farm Bill affects both program and nonprogram farms. Capitol region agronomy agent Paul Craig will discuss developing good pesticide handling habits. You will learn how to practice some simple safety habits that could prevent future illness or emergencies room visits. Craig will



UNDER NEW ORDERS

Background Scripture:
Acts 25:23 through 26:32.
Devotional Reading:
Ephesians 3:1-13.

Is it possible for us to be followers of Jesus without ever having experienced a life transforming experience? Some of us can tell dramatic stories of Jesus coming into our lives and curing us of alcoholism, drugs, and so forth. But many of us sincerely believe we live lives from which we do not need to be converted.

I believe transformation is essential, but it is something that is so varied that one style does not fit all. It may be subtle and externally unobserved. Dramatic changes are easy to observe, but inner growth may not be. Although it sometimes may be visible, it is not so much about external appearances, but inner focus.

When Paul stood before King Agrippa, he sought to explain what had transformed him from Saul the persecutor of the Way to Paul the apostle for Christ. He began his journey on the Damascus Road

"with the authority and commission of the chief priests" to seek out and persecute the followers of Jesus, but his experience gave him new orders.

The Same, But Different

How dramatic was Paul's change? There was a dramatic change, but it did not mean the complete annihilation of the old Saul. He was still a single-minded and zealous man who poured himself unreservedly into his spiritual missions, still a man whose personality, if he were a clergyman today, would make him a hard to place in a local church. What transformed his life was a new focus.

So it is, too, with most of us. What we need is not to become totally different, but totally focused on following Christ. An alcoholic's life is focused on his or her next drink. A gambler's life is focused on the next bet. A Christian's life, however, needs to be focused on the next step in discipleship.

We do not have to become like Paul or Mary Magdalene. But, like them, we are called to focus our lives on Jesus.

Before King Agrippa, Paul didn't use the term "focus," but he did speak of the old commission which he gave up for a new one. The old one was the "authority and commission of the chief priests" in Jerusalem. The new commission, however, came from the risen Lord: "...to appoint you to serve and bear witness to the things in which you have seen me... delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles — to whom I send you" (26:16). Paul is under new orders!

Transformed To Transform

Those new orders are spelled out carefully: "...the Gentiles... that you may open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me" (26:17,18). So his life is transformed and placed under new orders so that others may be also be transformed and under new orders.

The call that came to Paul is the very same call that comes to each of us on whatever road we are traveling. The ways in which we can respond will be different from the ways in which Paul responded. The circumstances today are different from those in their world. Our own individual lives are certainly different. But the call to open the eyes of others to the light of Jesus Christ has never changed and never will.

Forty years ago, I wrote on a small card these words: "I am not called to be 'successful' in my ministry, but obedient — for that will be 'success' enough."

Aware that I, like Paul, was under new orders, I have kept those words upon my desk and in my consciousness ever since. Paul did not measure his response in numbers or public acclaim. His only measure was obedience: "Wherefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision..." That is the only criteria with which to measure our response: have we been obedient to it?

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—by—

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Lancaster Farming

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