

Lancaster Farming

OPINION

Editor's note for all Guest Editorials: Please keep in mind that the opinions of the writers don't necessarily agree with the editor's. For the benefit of our diverse readership, we strive to provide a balance of opinion in Lancaster Farming.

Vote 'Yes' For Vegetables

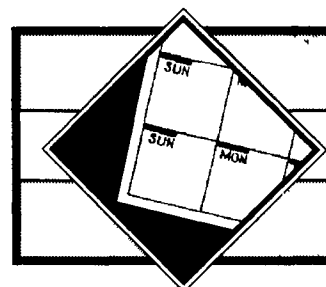
David Miller
Chairman, Pennsylvania Vegetable Marketing And Research Program

During the last two weeks of March, Pennsylvania vegetable growers will have the opportunity to vote on the future of the Pennsylvania Vegetable Marketing and Research Program (PVMRP). The PVMRP is the statewide marketing order for all growers who grow one or more acres of vegetables for sale (or 1,000 square foot of greenhouse vegetables for sale).

The Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association (PVGA), the independent association of commercial vegetable, potato and small fruit growers in the state, strongly urges voters to vote "Yes" in this review referendum. The Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act, under which the PVMRP is established, requires a review referendum every five years to determine if growers wish the Program to continue. The PVMRP was established in 1988 on a petition to the secretary of agriculture from PVGA. It has been re-approved by growers in review referendums in 1993 and 1998.

Since its beginning in 1988, the PVMRP has compiled an impressive list of accomplishments. The PVMRP has helped fund more than 150 vegetable research projects with more than \$290,000. (PVGA has helped fund those projects with an additional \$240,000.) Those research projects have covered a broad range of problems facing Pennsylvania vegetable growers, including tomato and snap bean disease control; sweet corn insect control; tomato fertility; development

(Turn to Page A30)



❖ **FARM CALENDAR** ❖

Saturday, March 15

"Grape Expectations," a Viticulture and Enological Symposium, Forsburg Country Club, Jamesburg, N.J., (609) 758-7311, ext. 10.

Pond Management, Franklin County Extension office, Chambersburg, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Channing Ways Horse Clinic, Ag Arena, University Park, thru March 16, (814) 863-3657.

Pa. German Heritage Festival,

Lebanon Campus, Harrisburg Community College, Lebanon, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., (717) 272-4220.

Legislative tour of Harrisburg sponsored by Pa. Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee, (717) 761-2740.

Farming, Nutrition and Traditional Diet Seminar, Flack Family Farm, West Topsham, Vt., 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m., (802)

(Turn to Page A31)



❖ **FARM FORUM** ❖

Editor:

The Rodale Institute's mission is to increase consciousness of the natural connection between healthy soil, food, and people's health. Chemical industrial agri-

culture that has grown explosively since World War II is fraught with acute and long-term dangers to the soil, food, and people. This type of agriculture is dependent on off-farm toxic chemicals in the form of herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, and yes, chemical fertilizers. These products were originally developed to allow for the production of explosives — the Bosch-Haber Process from World War I, and to exterminate people via chemical warfare — organophosphate insecticides during World War II. The redirection of these products after the major World conflicts does not mean they are safe for us or for our food system.

A recent study in Seattle has shown that more than 10 times the concentration of organophosphate insecticide is found in chil-

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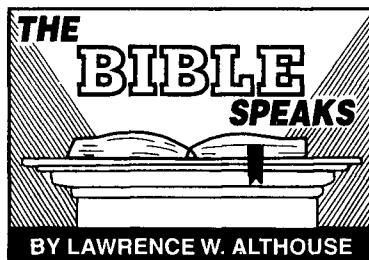
Now Is The Time
By **Leon Ressler**
Lancaster County Extension Director

To Learn To Manage Conflict

With urban neighbors moving next to farms all across Pennsylvania, learning to deal with potential conflicts that can result is an important management skill for farmers. Penn State Cooperative Extension Service will host an all-day public conflict resolution workshop April 1 in Lancaster.

The program, "Public Conflict: Turning Lemons into Lemonade, A Hands-On Workshop for Community Leaders," is aimed at farmers, public officials, community leaders, and others who are interested in learning how to use conflict resolution techniques. It will be presented by Tim Collins, community and economic development extension agent from Adams County.

Growing areas such as Lancaster County face potential conflicts because of issues such as economic development and changes in agriculture and land use. The program is designed to help participants understand conflict and use it productively.



THE BIBLE SPEAKS
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

DO YOU NOT CARE?

Background Scripture: Mark 4:35 through 5:20.
Devotional Reading: John 5:2-17.

Jesus and his disciples were crossing from the Capernaum to the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. One day, a great wind storm arose and, finding Jesus asleep in the stern, his disciples waken him with these reproachful words: "Teacher, do you not care if we perish?" (4:38). Years later, when Mark was writing his gospel, one might expect him to tone down these words (as Matthew and Luke do).

The words sound impertinent. None of us are likely to have said anything like this to Jesus, but some of us have certainly thought along these lines when we have been confronted by something dangerous and frightening. In one way or another — by the bedside of a dying loved one, or at the office when we have been told we're being "let go," or when a natural disaster is staring us in the face — we have asked: "Lord, don't you care?"

We should not be so surprised by this reproach from Jesus' disciples.

Lancaster Farming
An Award-Winning Farm Newspaper

- PDA Friend of Agriculture Award, 2003
- Keystone Awards 1993, 1995
- PACD Media Award 1996
- Recognized for photo excellence throughout the years by the Northeast Farm Communicators
- PennAg Industries 1992
- Berks Ag-Business Council 2000

The workshop will cover a wide variety of topics, including the benefits of conflict, conflict styles and strategies, the difference between positions and interests, reframing issues to broaden stakeholders' involvement and bridge their interests, speaking for oneself, various approaches to problem solving, and evaluating options and reaching agreement.

Aments, lunch, and printed materials. The workshop will be conducted from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Lancaster County Penn State Cooperative Extension office, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster. Attendees are expected from Lancaster, Lebanon, and York counties.

For more information about the conflict resolution program, contact Pat Simpson at the Adams County Cooperative Extension office in Gettysburg, toll-free (888) 472-0261.

To Welcome Our New Associate Director Of Penn State Cooperative Extension

Daney G. Jackson, associate professor and personnel leader for Ohio State University Extension, has been named associate director of Penn State Cooperative Extension, effective immediately.

"During his 17 years in extension, Daney has demonstrated outstanding leadership and a talent for building effective coalitions," said Theodore Alter, Penn State associate vice president for outreach and director of cooperative extension. "His success in shaping the large state extension system, combined with his experience in regional extension administration and in conducting educational programs in the field, makes him uniquely qualified to help lead our organization during this time of economic uncertainty."

Jackson received dual bachelor's degrees (forestry, banking, and finance) and a master's degree (extension education) from Mississippi State University in 1984 and 1990, respectively. He earned his doctorate in agricultural education from The Ohio State University in 1994.

cooperative extension in facilitating collaboration across the College of Agricultural Sciences and with other colleges and outreach units of the university.

Jackson began his extension career in 1985 with Mississippi State University, serving as a 4-H youth agent in Hancock County, Mississippi. From 1987 to 1991, he was an agriculture and natural resources extension agent in Lauderdale County, Mississippi.

After a year as a graduate associate at Ohio State University Extension's Ohio State for Action Coalition Development, Jackson returned to Mississippi Cooperative Extension, serving Lauderdale and Kemper counties as an area extension agent for forestry and horticulture from 1992 to 1994.

Jackson joined Ohio State University Extension as director of the 16-county south district in 1995. After being named statewide personnel leader in 2000, he directed the organization's human resources functions, including needs assessment, job analysis, job design, performance management, recruitment, hiring, compensation and benefits.

Jackson is a member of several professional organizations, including the national extension honorary society Epsilon Sigma Phi, the Society for Human Resource Management, the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents, which recognized him with its 1993 Achievement in Service Award.

Jackson received dual bachelor's degrees (forestry, banking, and finance) and a master's degree (extension education) from Mississippi State University in 1984 and 1990, respectively. He earned his doctorate in agricultural education from The Ohio State University in 1994.

Quote Of The Week:

"I have always said, and will always say, that the studious perusal of the sacred volume will make us better citizens."

— Thomas Jefferson

It is what Jesus said to the disciples after he stilled the storm that trouble us: "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" This "faith" is trust in God and relying on his help. Didn't they realize that he would save them from the storm?

The answer, I think, is both yes and no. They must have looked to him for rescue or they would not have reproached him. It indicates that they thought he could help them, but that he had not.

Fear Vs. Faith

Many of us are fearful about many things because we don't really trust in God to help us. Fear paralyzes us and is the antithesis of faith.

If we trust God, we should fear nothing, trusting that the power and grace of God are more powerful than any danger or threat. Fear means that we believe in our obstacles more than we believe in God.

Civil War General John B. McClellan was a popular commander of whom, from President Lincoln on down to the buck private, people expected great things. But he had a fatal flaw: he could not bring himself to employ his armies effectively because of his persistent irrational belief that the enemy he faced was many times stronger than his own forces — even when, in fact, they were often half his strength. Many of us fail to live up to our potential because we magnify our obstacles and minimize our resources.

Still, I must ask: what, then, was it that the disciples of Jesus should have known? Should they have known that God would not permit them to perish on the Sea of Galilee?

Should they have known that God would not permit any of them to end up on crosses? Even if Jesus was in the same boat in a terrible storm, and even if he was the Messiah and the

Son of God, should they have believed that none of them would be swept overboard?

What Guarantee?

The Pilgrim's Progress is a prayer that I often use in the evening: "Visit, O Lord, this dwelling, and drive from it all the snares of the enemy; let thy holy angels dwell in thy blessing us in peace, and may thy presence be upon us evermore; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

I use it as a prayer for God's presence and protection during the night. But when I pray it, do I have a guarantee that no burglar will break in or that my house won't catch on fire? If I get on an airplane, train, or ship, and pray for a safe trip, am I guaranteed against all dangers? Well, no, there's no guarantee. But does having faith mean that I should expect a "guarantee"?

No? But then, why do I pray it? (And why do you?)

I've wrestled with these questions for years and I have come to the conclusion that, for me, the guarantee I have as a follower of Jesus Christ is not that God will save me from every potential disaster, but that he will be with me in every one. Sometimes that will mean I will come through unscathed. Sometimes it means I may be hurt in some way. And sometime I will perish and, if that happens, God will be with me then as in all the other times.

Does God not care? Yes, he does care in every trial and trouble and the assurance he gives us is that he will be there with us. And, if God is with us, what other guarantee do we need?

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