

Lancaster Farming

OPINION

Farm Show Champion

We can't think of a more challenging job in this world (perhaps other than U.S. president) than being director of the largest indoor ag event — the Farm Show.

Being director of the Farm Show Complex requires superhuman flexibility, great determination, a mannered temper, and fantastic people skills.



Dennis Grumbine

Those have always been trademarks of Dennis Grumbine.

We are reminded of a photo that ran in the October 15, 1994 issue (on page A23) of *Lancaster Farming* that featured Grumbine, on the far right, along with Tom Ridge, in the center, holding a hammer and anvil, along with Bev Gruber during the Keystone International Livestock Expo festivities at Farm Show. (We also ran the photo on page E32 of the Farm Show Showcase section of Jan. 4 this year).

We should have known that in his campaign, Ridge, "hammering out" his plans for a "new Pennsylvania," would someday result in hammering out work in building a brand-new Farm Show Complex to the tune of \$86 million.

With Grumbine's help in promoting Ridge, we have a new and better Farm Show as a result, which has garnered national recognition.

For his part in helping "hammer out" the vast and much-needed improvements to Farm Show, for his work with giving major recognition to the number one "world-class event" all of us know as the Pennsylvania Farm Show, and for his many contributions to Pennsylvania agriculture, we salute Dennis Grumbine in all his endeavors.

♦ FARM CALENDAR ♦

Saturday, April 12

Bucks County Extension Living on a Few Acres Workshop field trip, 9 a.m.-noon, (215) 345-3283.

Northampton County 4-H Tack Swap, 4-H Center, Nazareth, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., (610) 837-7294.
33rd Annual Maryland State Holstein Show, Timonium

Fairgrounds, 9:30 a.m., (301) 271-0048.

Penn State Little International Livestock Exposition, Ag Arena, 8 a.m.

Advanced Pastured Poultry Workshop, Albany, N.Y., (518) 427-6537.

Penn State Dairy Exposition, (Turn to Page A37)

♦ FARM FORUM ♦

Editor:

"You've got to love the work." "It is certainly not the pay!" "We're on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week."

Farming? No, this is how a small group of township supervisors from Indiana County describes their job.

One of the most disheartening situations to affect Pennsylvania Agriculture is the lack of public interest and respect for farming and rural life, according to Mike Pechart of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.

Many families no longer have any direct relationship to agriculture. People are building and moving to rural areas with no thought about what it means to live in an active farming community.

When the dust flies, or smells

arise or, when tractors run all hours or large, slow equipment is on the roadway, these "new" rural people are on the telephone calling someone — anyone — to make the farmer stop.

Often times the township supervisor gets the call first.

Most Indiana County township supervisors have been rurally raised and are supportive of farm operations. Occasionally a group will form to stop farming practices and it is essential that farmers have formed a relationship with their elected officials, and neighbors, before problems arise.

Farmers, in the northern end of the county, have had good responses from their supervisors when complaints were registered. These supervisors are quick to

(Turn to Page A35)

Now Is The Time

By Leon Ressler

*Lancaster County
Extension Director*

To Protect Water Quality With Information From Farm-A-Syst Publications

Everyday farm management practices affect the water quality around Pennsylvania's farms. Two new publications from Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences will help producers protect water quality by focusing on silage storage and animal waste storage.

The publications are part of the Farm-A-Syst series, which is designed to help farmers learn more about their farming practices and facilities and how they are protecting water quality for farm families and neighboring residents.

"Farm-A-Syst Worksheet 8: Silage Storage Management" is an eight-page publication that helps farmers evaluate water protection related to silage storage and handling conditions. The worksheet utilizes criteria such as crop moisture content, storage location, silo condition, and effluent disposal.

More than 7 million tons of corn silage were harvested and stored in Pennsylvania in 2000. "When properly harvested and stored, silage

poses little or no pollution threat," said author Les Lanyon, professor of soil science and management. "However, improper silage-making and storage can result in liquid effluents that affect water. Poor silage management also can cause gases, malodors, undesirable microorganisms, and waste or spoiled silage."

"Farm-A-Syst Worksheet 9: Animal Waste Storage and Management" is an eight-page document that provides farmers with step-by-step methods to analyze their farm's site conditions, waste facilities, storage capacity, and management procedures.

"Almost every livestock farm stores manure at some time during the year," said Lanyon. "Runoff from livestock production facilities can carry manure, soil, microorganisms, and other potential pollutants. If not managed properly, animal wastes can negatively affect water quality and human health."

Both publications show how an evaluation of site conditions and farm facilities can aid in developing personal, voluntary action plans that reduce pollution risks for farm families and neighboring residents.

Farm-A-Syst is a cooperative effort of Penn State Cooperative Extension, Pennsylvania Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other state agriculture and conservation agencies. The program regularly produces publications on farm management and water resource issues.

Single copies of Worksheet 8 and Worksheet 9 can be obtained free of charge by contacting any Penn State Cooperative Extension county office or by calling the College of Agricultural Sciences Publications Distribution Center at (814) 865-6713. Copies of these and other farm management publications also can be found on the Web at <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/>.

To Congratulate Penn State Entomologist Dr. Consuelo De Moraes

Research on the chemical relationships between plants and insects by a Penn State entomologist has earned her a 2002 David and Lucile Packard Foundation Fellowship for Science and Engineering.

Dr. Consuelo De Moraes, assistant professor of entomology, is the first

entomologist — and the first faculty member in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences — to win the prestigious honor. De Moraes will receive a personal research grant of \$625,000 from the Packard Foundation, to be allocated over a five-year period. Each year, the foundation selects up to 20 of the nation's most promising university professors to receive the award. De Moraes was chosen last year by Penn State President Graham Spanier to be one of the two professors nominated from Penn State.

De Moraes' research focuses on the chemical communication of plants and the defensive responses of plants to insect feeding. When attacked by insect pests, plants release complex blends of airborne chemicals with odor molecules that can be interpreted by insects as warning messages, distress signals, and invitations. According to De Moraes, they are also important location cues for other insects that are natural enemies of the pests.

"I discovered that these chemical signals are keyed to individual pests and that natural enemies of the pests, such as parasitic wasps, exploit the signals to locate them," said De Moraes. "Subsequently, I found that these signals differ from day to night and that pest female moths utilize nighttime signals when choosing plants on which to lay eggs."

The discovery that plants produce information-rich chemical signals in response to specific environmental stimuli holds potential for technological advances in both agriculture and environmental sensing. De Moraes' continued research may someday be applied to the development of new agricultural techniques and crop varieties that could enhance plant resistance to pests.

De Moraes received her bachelor's degree in ecology in 1992 from the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais in Brazil. In 1998, she earned a doctoral degree in entomology from the University of Georgia. She joined Penn State's department of entomology in 2001.

Quote Of The Week:

"Let the wife make the husband glad to come home, and let him make her sorry to see him leave."

— Martin Luther

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

THREE LITTLE WORDS

Background Scripture:
Mark 14:1-25.

Devotional Reading:
Matthew 26:17-30.

If I had been Jesus and suspected or knew that my earthly life was soon to end, I would have been apprehensive not only of the how and why of it, but also over the readiness of the 12 who were to carry on this ministry. We don't know how long they were with him: it could have been several years or only one. Regardless, these men hardly seemed ready. They still didn't seem to grasp what Jesus was teaching them.

This is apparent in the little incident in the house of Simon the Tanner in Bethany.

A woman entered the house and, breaking a jar of costly ointment, she poured the contents over his head. The reaction of the disciples was almost instantaneous: "Why was this ointment thus wasted? For this ointment might have been sold for more than three denarii and given to the poor" (14:4,5). Mark tells us "And they reproached her."

They had been wrong so many

times, you'd think they would have waited to see how Jesus reacted before forming their conclusion. But, typically, their mouths preceded their minds and they were reproached in turn by Jesus: "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me... She has anointed my body beforehand for burying." And then, to rub salt in their self-inflicted wounds, Jesus says: "'And truly I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her'" (14:6-9). This doesn't mean that the woman necessarily also knew of his impending death, but that Jesus chose to interpret her magnanimous act in that manner.

One Of You

We see Jesus' awareness even more clearly in the Last Supper. Eating with his disciples in the "large upper room furnished," Jesus astounded them when he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me" (14:18).

Some people have difficulty in accepting that Jesus knew or suspected his betrayal by Judas. I do not, because I remember that, before he was assassinated, Lincoln had a dream in which he saw his body lying in state in the capitol. President Kennedy had a similar dream the night before he was assassinated. So, why should the premonition of Jesus bother us?

Then there are those disturbing words spoken by some or all of the disciples: "Is it I?" Am I the one you just mentioned? Some readers interpret these questions to reflect genuine anxiety on the part of the disciples. But why should they be anxious, unless, of course, there were some thoughts of betrayal in their minds? Perhaps this "Is it I?" is more

a self-serving protest of innocence: surely, you don't mean me?

Isn't that how most of us would react? We would never betray Jesus. Judas did, but then Judas was a bad guy. Some think that Jesus said this so that Judas would realize that Jesus already knew what he was doing. But I believe that Jesus' "one of you will betray me" was also directed at the other 11. Judas was going to betray him this very night, but all of them would be tempted to betray him at some time.

Is It I?

Just as this accusation was appropriate for each of the 12, so it is appropriate for us today. In "Against The Sun," Ann Jackson writes of Judas:

"Men take the price of treachery
And swear their hands are clean."

So swear we all even though we claim him as Lord and then live our lives by standards that deny the both the words and spirit of his gospel. . . .

One of the clients of Whistler, the painter, told him that one of his paintings would not fit into his room. "Man, you can't make the picture fit the room," said Whistler, "You must make the room fit the picture." When we make the gospel fit us instead of fitting ourselves to it, we need not ask, "Is it I?" We have already betrayed him.

(Apologies: in some editions of this column that appeared elsewhere, the Background Scripture and Devotional Reading for the March 2 Bible Speaks were in error: they should have been respectively Mark 1:1-45 and Luke 4:14-21.)

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Lancaster Farming

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