

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.

Tactics To Preserve Agriculture

Guest Editorial By
Tom Baldrige
President

Lancaster County Chamber Of
Commerce And Industry

A recent column by the Scribbler in the Lancaster New Era challenged the long-held notion that Lancaster County is the most productive nonirrigated county in the country. After presenting his "proof" — proof, I might add, that is subject to interpretation — he concluded by noting:

"Lancaster and Pennsylvania like to emphasize their agricultural nature. That's a good thing, if kept in the proper perspective. The truth is that agriculture is an important industry in Pennsylvania and Lancaster is a fertile place. Let it go at that."

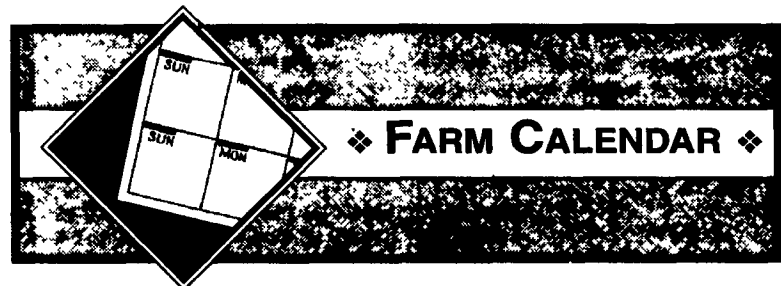
In a sense, that sums up my column. So, if you will, I will begin with my conclusion...

Agriculture is as important — even an essential element — in the Lancaster County economy... yet, in a rapidly-changing world, business-as-usual in the agricultural (or any other-industry) simply will not work. By acknowledging its significance and challenges now, we will be better equipped to ensure its future success.

Now that I have given you my conclusion, let me add some meat to the bones.

First of all, let us make no mistake about it — Lancaster's ag economy is significant:

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FARM CALENDAR

Saturday, April 26

AFGC annual conference, Lafayette, La., thru April 30.

Lamb Camp, Maple Hollow Dorsets, Bedford County, (814) 865-4700.

Barnyard and Stream Bank Fencing Tour, Upper Montgomery County, (610) 489-4315.

Mid-Atlantic Brown Swiss Calf Sale, The Great Frederick Fair, Frederick, Md., (301) 371-5206.

Montgomery County Livestock Conservation Tour, East Greenville and Sassamansville Farms, 9:15 a.m.-noon, (215) 822-5840, ext. 110.

Spring Bargain Fling, Penn State Ag Arena, University Park, (814) 863-3914.

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FARM FORUM

Editor:

I want to thank *Lancaster Farming* for the April 5, 2003 front-page article on sustainable agriculture in Cuba by Brian Snyder.

How To Reach Us

To address a letter to the editor:

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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.

With the conventional wisdom touting high-input, high-cost security schemes of questionable effectiveness, it's refreshing to hear about an effective, low-input, low-cost approach that actually benefits both consumers and real farmers.

With all our high-priced thinkers, why does this insight have to come from a third-world country? Is it that we may be listening to the wrong people?

I hope you will continue to present articles of this type to help counteract the self-serving schemes being advanced under the guise of security.

When the emperor isn't wearing any clothes, we need to tell him (or her). Again thank you for having the courage to tackle sensitive issues.

Thomas W. Maurer Jr.
Annville



Now Is The Time By Leon Ressler Lancaster County Extension Director

To Control Weeds

In New Strawberry Plantings

Weed control in the establishment year of matted row strawberries isn't easy. Scott Guiser, extension horticulture agent in Bucks County, reports recent changes to the Sinbar label give growers a new tool in the battle against annual weeds.

Actually, Sinbar is one of the oldest preemergence herbicides used in strawberries. Previous labeling allowed use only at renovation and during dormant periods. Now it may be used at low rates (2-4 ounces of Sinbar 80 WP per acre) at planting and during the establishment year.

Research and field experience has shown that strawberries are tolerant of 2-3 ounces of Sinbar when it is applied just after planting and before new growth begins. It can be tank mixed with 3-4 pounds Devrinol 50 WP to broaden the spectrum of weeds controlled.

Later in the season, as weeds break through, growers may cultivate, and then reapply Sinbar at 3-4 ounces per acre. However, at this time it is im-

portant to wash the Sinbar off strawberry leaves through irrigation or timely application that coincides with rainfall. Injury to strawberry plants can occur through foliar absorption of Sinbar.

A late summer/early fall application of 3-4 ounces per acre will aid in control of winter annual weeds such as chickweed. Growers should note that the maximum amount of Sinbar that may be applied is 8 ounces per year. Lower rates, as specified on the label, are recommended for light textured soils and soils with 1-2 percent organic matter. Sinbar should not be used on soils with less than 0.5 percent organic matter.

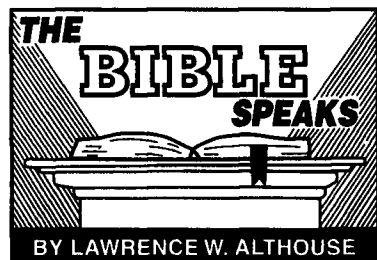
Strawberry varieties vary in their sensitivity to Sinbar. Some varieties are tolerant (Earliglow) while others are known to be sensitive (Guardian). Each grower should try small plots to observe tolerance before making whole field applications.

All growers should get a copy of the Sinbar supplemental label available on the Internet at (<http://www.cdms.net/ldat/ld193000.pdf>) and read it thoroughly before using Sinbar on first-year strawberries.

Another product that can be used at planting time is Dacthal for pre-emergent control of annual grasses and some broadleaves. Remember where trade names are used no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Cooperative Extension is implied.

To Read Your Pesticide Labels

Lancaster County Agronomy Agent Robert Anderson reminds us pesticide labels contain a lot of valuable information, especially if read ahead of the application. Make sure that the crop and pest that are being sprayed are listed on the label. Next, check the application rate. Then become very familiar with the personal protective equipment and mixing precautions listed on the label, including the amount of time between when you are applying the pesticide and when you can reenter the field.



THEY LAUGHED AT HIM

Background Scripture:

Mark 5:21-43.

Devotional Reading:

Hebrews 11:1-6.

Recently I spoke with a pastor who was trying to decide what to do with a healing service he had inherited from his predecessor. He didn't feel confident in canceling it, but neither was he comfortable with it continuing in the life of his congregation.

Some 40 years ago I asked my church council for permission to begin a weekly healing service. They were obliging up to a point, granting permission. They also, however, said they doubted our people would support it. So with much trepidation I began what was possibly the most important aspect of my pastoral ministry. I could not have dreamed how it would enrich the life of my congregation.

At the time, I wondered what other pastors would think, and I was right: they thought what I anticipated they would think. They were incredulous. I don't know that anyone laughed behind my back, but from time to time I learned of their scorn. Eventually, however, some of those

same pastors quietly slipped into the rear pews to observe our service. In time, several local physicians sent their patients to the service and a doctor-parishioner came as often as he could to help in the service.

Sarcastic Scorn

People are somewhat more accepting of the church's healing ministry today than they were then. But, in the minds of many, Christian healing is associated with the emotional antics of TV evangelists. Healing specifically and spirituality in general still evokes scornful laughter.

Jesus himself and those who follow him are still the objects of ridicule. Faith is rejected because it is not discernible to the five senses, nor subject to reason or laboratory experimentation. (Actually, Christian healing has been convincingly subject to experimentation in the laboratory. See my book, "Rediscovering The Gift of Healing," chapter 7, 1997, Abingdon Press, 1983, Samuel Weiser.)

Both healings listed in Mark 5 concern people who came to Jesus as a last resort. Jairus, the lay leader of a synagogue and father of a desperately ill 12-year-old girl, came because he heard that Jesus had the power to heal and, encountering Jesus, he trusted that he could heal his daughter. The woman hemorrhaging for 12 years also had heard of Jesus' power and trusted him to the point of believing he would hear her.

She was healed: "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your disease" (5:34). When Jesus and Jairus were stopped on the way to his home with the news that the daughter had died, Jesus said to Jairus, "Do not fear; only believe." Jesus did not ask either of them about their beliefs or doctrines.

This is important for you, your family's, and your employee's health.

One of the most important parts of the label often overlooked before spraying is the rotational restriction of the pesticide being applying. Based on a half dozen or so calls received the past two weeks, many applicators are forgetting this step in the pesticide selection process.

The pesticide which is most often being asked about in these recent phone calls is Basis Gold. Basis Gold has been giving corn growers excellent weed control. However, once used, the list of crops that can be planted during the next 18 months is very limited. Solving a difficult weed problem is great but maybe not at the cost of excluding rotation of a field to another desired crop for 18 months.

To Buckle Up Your Children

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death of children between the ages of 1 and 18. More than 1.5 million children are involved in motor vehicle crashes each year. Car seats and booster seats reduce the risk of injury in an accident by 60 percent.

Pennsylvania has a new child passenger safety law. The law requires children under 4 to use a restraint (safety seat) and children ages 4 to 8 are required to use a booster seat. All persons between the age of 8 and 18 are required to be restrained while traveling in a vehicle. A driver can be cited for failure to follow the safety belt law if there is another moving violation and fines can be up to \$100.

If you are taking your children on a trip in your car or someone else's, make sure the proper restraints are available. If you are providing transportation for someone else's children, make sure you or the party you are transporting have the proper restraints for their children.

Quote Of The Week:

"An important question for leaders, 'Am I building people or building my dream and using people to do it?'"

— John Maxwell

The belief and faith to which he referred was not about ideas, but trust. If they trusted in him, they opened the doors through which the healing power of God could enter, one of the keys to Christian healing. The faith of Jairus and the woman enabled healing to be given by God.

Eliminate The Negative

Another key was to eliminate the negativity that surrounded Jairus' daughter. Stopped with the news that "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" Jesus continued on the way and did not allow anyone else to accompany them except Peter, James, and John. Arriving at the house of Jairus, they are surrounded by "a tumult, people weeping and wailing loudly." And, when they laughed at his pronouncement, "The child is not dead but sleeping," Jesus "put them all outside," and went in where the child was" (5:39,40).

Sometimes healing is greatly hindered by the negativity, not of the patient, but of well-meaning friends and family. Even a doctor may sometimes be part of that negative atmosphere.

The woman who had touched the fringe of Jesus' garment was healed because of her own faith, but essentially it was the faith of Jairus that brought Jesus to his daughter's bedside and opened the door for healing to take place. People may still laugh at our trust in Jesus, but with our own doubts and fear, we must put the laughter behind us and accept the master's promise: "Do not fear, only believe."

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Lancaster Farming

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