



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.

Smart Growth And Agriculture

Guest Editorial By
Bryan Butler
Maryland Cooperative Extension
Carroll County

As an extension educator and as a small producer, I have struggled for many years trying to find the magic enterprise called "profitability." I receive several calls a month asking what to do to make money on 25 acres from new landowners.

Often, after a 45-minute conversation, the caller seems offended that I will not share the secret of "profitable agriculture" and that I will not tell them about the miraculous new type of animal that requires little care, creates virtually no waste, can be purchased for little, and can be sold for a lot.

The other variation on this theme is the person already in production worried that commodity grain prices are bad and wanting to know what can be done that is exactly the same as what is currently being done but will somehow make more money.

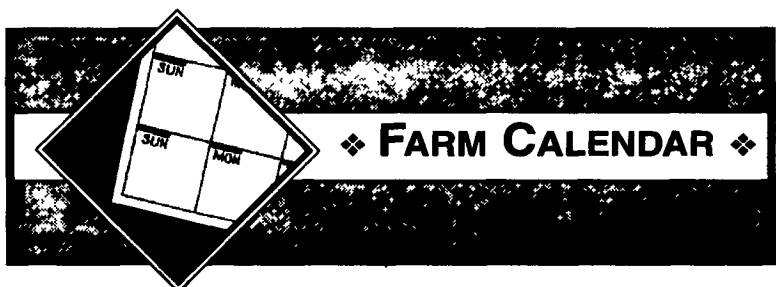
Often these existing producers have had trouble for years and cannot find a way to develop consistent profitability — due primarily to worldwide market forces that they cannot control and the fact that the U.S. has a cheap food policy that is subsidized on the backs of the producer. This situation gets a little more hopeless every year as equipment gets older and producers seem to be at the mercy of fewer and fewer marketing outlets.

Meanwhile, I hear a great desire to protect farmland and open space. Many euphemistically believe that this will prevent sprawl, which overburdens our schools and roads, and will preserve the rural character of the outlying counties of the state.

One of these stopgap measures has been the purchase of development rights from producers through one program or another. This certainly restricts what may come of that land in the future, but this has little if anything to do with the preservation of farmers, rural character, or agriculture in Maryland.

If that money is spent just to keep the operation afloat, has that really served the farmer in any way or not? Some believe that when issues of smart growth or overall land use are dealt with, existing programs such as Rural Legacy, Ag Land Preservation, and TDRs have done enough and that efforts should be focused on more urban areas.

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◆ FARM CALENDAR ◆

Saturday, June 14

- Maryland Wine Growers' Field Day, Burkittsville Vineyard, Burkittsville, Md.
- Washington County Lamb Classic, Washington County Fairgrounds, (724) 225-7108.
- Water and Manure Management for Horse Farms, Sebastian Riding Association, Skippack Twp., 2:30 p.m.-5 p.m., (610) 489-4506.
- Somerset County Holstein Association Club Picnic, Latuch Bros. Dairy, Rockwood, 7 p.m.
- Composting Seminar, Milky Way

How To Reach Us

To address a letter to the editor:

- By fax: (717) 733-6058
- By regular mail:
Editor, Lancaster Farming
P.O. Box 609, 1 E. Main St.
Ephrata, PA 17522
- By e-mail:
farming@lancasterfarming.com

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.

Farm, Uwchlan Ave., Chester Springs, 1 p.m., (610) 696-3500.

Small Scale Poultry Workshop, Penn State Cooperative Extension Union County office, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Bradford County 4-H Dairy and Livestock Field Day, Alparon Park, Troy Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.

Sunday, June 15

Happy Father's Day!

Monday, June 16

Southern Alleghenies 4-H Camp, Spruce Creek, thru June 19, (814) 623-4800.

4-H Ambassador Conference, Penn State Main Campus, University Park, thru June 18. Schnecksville Community Fair, Lehigh County, thru June 21, (610) 799-9467.

Baleage Workshop for Cattle Producers, farm of Al and Emmagene Cisco, Lindley, N.Y., 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Bradford County Meat Quality Assurance, Extension Office, Towanda, 2:30 p.m.

Bradford County Meat Quality Assurance, 4-H Building, Troy Fairgrounds, 7 p.m.

Cumberland County 4-H Speak-

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Now Is The Time

By Leon Ressler
Lancaster County Extension Director

To Review Your Corn Weed Control Program

This growing season is off to a challenging start as we have arrived at mid-June, and too many growers are still planting corn and full-season soybeans. In addition to delaying planting, the wet, cool, cloudy weather is challenging our weed control programs.

Extension weed specialist Dr. William Curran offers these points concerning weed control in corn.

First, rainfall has been plentiful so far this season. If you were on the ball and managed to plant back in late April, your corn is likely off and running. However, if you're in the May or June group, it's been a slow start. At Rockspring, we had 4.71 inches of rain in May with 12 out of 31 days receiving 1/10 inch or more (24 days received 1/100 inch or more). At our Southeast Research and Extension Center in Lancaster County, we received 4.41 inches in May and had nine days received 1/60 inch or more. So, total rainfall hasn't been that unusual, but the frequency

of rain is certainly keeping us out of the field.

If you did manage to plant back in late April or early May, you should be scouting for weed escapes. The frequent rainfall we have been getting can cause some of the herbicides to dissipate and lose their effectiveness sooner than we see in drier years. In particular, watch for grass breaks from the acetamide herbicides (Dual, Harness, Outlook, Topnotch, etc.). These products are fairly water-soluble and are more likely to dissipate under wet conditions.

Also, watch for breaks with large seeded broadleaf weeds such as velvetleaf and common ragweed. We are seeing both these species escape in our field trials, particularly where atrazine rates are 1.25 pounds per acre or less or when the soil-applied treatments went out in late April or early May.

Secondly, if you are still trying to make your first herbicide application and the corn has emerged, think about several key weeds that will drive the weed control program. If you planted Roundup Ready, Liberty Link, or Clearfield corn, you have additional product options and some insurance toward good weed control. However, if you are not growing a herbicide-resistant corn hybrid, then emerged annual grasses require the use of a foliar-applied grass herbicide such as Accent, Basis Gold, Option, or Steadfast. Emerged yellow nutsedge probably means you're going to have to include Permit or Yukon (Permit plus Dicamba).

If you are still dealing with small corn (V3 or less), you will likely need residual control of annual grasses and broadleaves. Think about including atrazine, Prowl, or a grass/atrazine mixture (Bicep, Guardsman, Harness Xtra, Keystone, etc.). Problem perennial weeds may require you to come back a second time, so you may want to think about lower cost programs up front. Results have been impressive in Penn State trials with some early postemergence programs where the corn and weeds are small and soil residual herbicides are in-

cluded. Be sure to check a current label for maximum corn size and acceptable tank mix partners. Also, remember that atrazine may not be applied to corn beyond 12 inches tall, because of water quality concerns. Atrazine premixed products may be more restrictive.

To Welcome Dr. David Johnson
David Johnson, field biologist with BASF Corporation, has been named scientist-in-charge at Penn State's Southeast Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Landisville. Johnson has experience in laboratory and field research as well as product development in the agricultural products industry.

(Editor's note: Lancaster Farming published a feature story about Johnson on page 1 of the May 10 issue.)

As manager of the 160-acre research center, Johnson will work with faculty members and the agricultural industry to conduct variety trials, soil fertility studies, and pest management research. He also will oversee work on agronomic and horticultural crops. This season's research focus will be on evaluating corn that has been genetically modified.

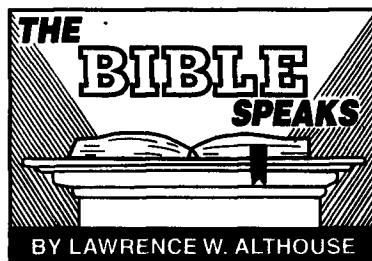
Johnson received his bachelor's degree in agronomy from Penn State in 1984. He continued his education at the University of Arkansas, earning a master's degree in 1989 and a doctorate in 1993 both in agronomy/ weed science.

The Southeast Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Landisville is located in Lancaster County. The center is an important Pennsylvania site for applied research on agronomic and some horticultural crops. Research involves cultivar testing, pest management, cover crops, inoculants, fertility, and vari-
management studies.

Quote Of The Week:

"Man must cease attributing his problems to his environment, and learn again to exercise his will — his personal responsibility."

Albert Schweitzer



THE BIBLE SPEAKS
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

WHAT TIME IS IT?

Background Scripture:

Haggai; Ezra 5:1,2.

Devotional Reading:

1 Corinthians 3:10-17.

When was the last time you said, "I don't have time for that"? Think for a moment: did you not really have the time or did you have it and didn't want to give it?

Thirty years ago I remember reading newspaper and magazine articles about all the time-saving devices that were being invented to give us more free time. "What will we do with our leisure time?" one of them asked.

Today, even for allowing that I am 30-plus years older, I don't seem to have any more time now than I did then. I never worry about what I'm going to do with my leisure because I don't seem to have much, if any. Yet, the last time I said, "I don't have the time," it was to my grandchildren. In retrospect I would admit the reason I didn't have time was because I had my priorities wrong. I mention this only because I suspect that many of my readers find themselves in the same kind of situation, lacking not in time but in motivation.

A Daily Miracle

The interesting thing about "not having the time" is that we are all given the same number of hours per day. Arnold Bennett wrote that "The supply of time is a daily miracle. . . . You wake up in the morning, and lo! your purse is magically filled with twenty-four hours of the unmanufactured tissue of the universe of life. It's yours! the most precious of your possessions." Our supply of money and even the necessities of life may be easily depleted but, so long as we live, God gives us a fresh supply of time daily.

So, the problem is not a shortage of time, but what we do with what we have.

This was the stinging rebuke that the Prophet Haggai brought to the exiles who had returned to Jerusalem in the days of Shealtiel, the governor of Judah, and Joshua (the same as "Jeshua" in Ezra). They had started to rebuild the temple, but the project soon slowed down and stopped altogether. The people must have excused themselves, saying they were too busy replanting themselves in Jerusalem to have any time left over.

Where Time Goes

That is when Haggai sings them with this question: "Is it a time for you to dwell in your paneled houses while this house (the temple) lies in ruins?" (Haggai 1: 4). It is obvious that the returned exiles are only concerned with material pleasures. It is not that they don't value rebuilding the temple, but that it is too far down their list of priorities.

A weary mother exclaimed, "Where does the time go?" and her little daughter answered, "Why, Mother, your times goes into all the things you do." Or don't do. There is no time to waste, but there is time to help those in need.

Natalie Victor writes of the "24 hours in which to do, the one thing needful, instead of 10 or 12 in which to do a dozen. . . ." So where does your time go?

Perhaps the returned exiles think that, once they have all the material pleasures they need, then they will get back to work on the temple, the focus of their religion. But apparently these people would never have enough material pleasures for, no matter how much they have, it never seems to be enough. "You have sown much and harvested little; you eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and he who earns wages earns wages to put them into a bag with holes" (1:6).

These people didn't really have a time problem. They had a stewardship problem and their lives were empty in the midst of material plenty.

What time is it?

Time to do well,

Time to live better,

Give up that grudge,

Answer that letter,

Speak the kind word to sweeten a sorrow,

Do that kind deed you would leave till tomorrow.

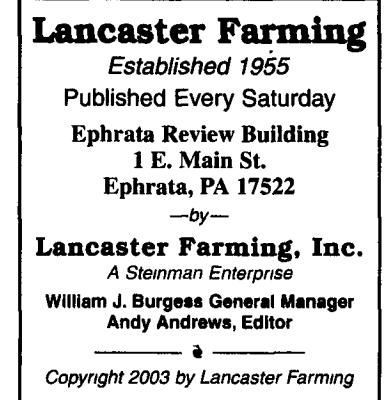
— (Author unknown).



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