



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.

An Institution At Risk

Guest Editorial By
Dr. Thomas A. Fretz
 Dean, College of Agriculture And Natural Resources
 Director, Maryland Cooperative Extension And
 Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station
 University of Maryland

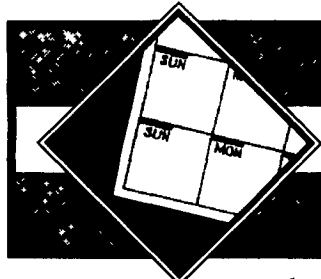
The future of Maryland Cooperative Extension is at risk. Faced with a fiscal crisis, University of Maryland administrators are unfairly targeting Extension for excessive cuts that could seriously impair our ability to serve Maryland residents with the strong, research-based programs that they have come to expect from the state's 1862 land-grant university.

Even in times of plenty, Extension has fared less well than the University of Maryland as a whole. For example, between 1995-2002, when the university saw a 70 percent increase in funding to its state unrestricted accounts, increases to Maryland Cooperative Extension were significantly lower — about 26 percent. To put it bluntly, we did not receive our full share.

I think it ironic, therefore, that in the budget crisis we now face, Extension is being asked to cut into its budget deeper than the rest of the campus community. While proposed reductions are planned for all units on campus, the current strategy is to more heavily tax those units (that is, Extension) that do not have an associated fee structure, such as tuition, and benefit learners and clients across the state rather than students in degree programs on campus. This suggests to me that the outreach mission of the university is not on an equal footing with its research and instruction missions.

By placing a disproportionate fiscal demand on Extension, the cam-

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FARM CALENDAR

Saturday, June 21

Pedal to Preserve 2003, Donegal High School, Mount Joy, 8 a.m.

Adult National Holstein Convention, Adam's Mark Winston Plaza, Winston-Salem, N.C., thru June 24.

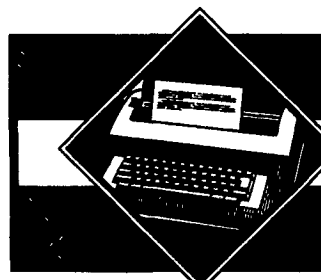
Wine Growers Canopy Manage-

ment Seminar, Linden Vineyards, Linden, Va., 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Family Farm Safety Day Camp, Bart Fire Company, Lancaster County, (717) 290-5945.

Aquaculture Field Day, South Centers, Piketon, Ohio, 1

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FARM FORUM

Editor:

For the first time ever, we dairy farmers have the opportunity to develop and implement our own program that can lead to

How To Reach Us

To address a letter to the editor:

• By fax: (717) 733-6058

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• By e-mail:

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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.

milk price improvement. The National Milk Producers Federation's (NMPF) Cooperatives Working Together Program, or CWT, is really about dairy farmers, from across this country, coming together to take care of the excess milk supply that has pushed our milk prices to intolerably low levels. I believe CWT can dramatically improve our milk prices, and do so in a very short amount of time.

While all dairy farmers don't agree with all of the concepts of the CWT program, it is the only game in town. There are no other proposals out there with the broad national support of dairy farmers — which is necessary in order to enact a national dairy program without the assistance of the federal government.

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Now Is The Time

By Leon Ressler
 Lancaster County Extension Director

Editor's note: Because of prior commitments, Leon Ressler has invited a guest columnist for Now Is The Time this week.

Guest Column By
Tim Elkner
 Lancaster County Horticulture Agent

To Scout For Bagworms

As I travel around the county, I'm often surprised by the number of damaged evergreen trees I see from the feeding of bagworms. Damage from these easily-controlled pests can cause unsightly bare spots or even death of mature trees and shrubs.

While limbs on broad-leaved trees such as oak and ash are able to grow a new set of leaves after insect feeding, most evergreens cannot. Therefore, if a spruce tree has all of its needles eaten by bagworms on a branch, that branch will die. And an evergreen totally consumed by bagworms will die. Favored host plants for this pest are spruce and arborvitae.

Bagworm eggs have begun to hatch in Lancaster County. The small caterpillars will immediately start to feed on needles and weave a protective bag of needle pieces and silk. This bag protects the caterpillar from both natural pests and spray materials. The caterpillar will en-

large its bag as it grows and the bag will eventually reach up to 2 inches in length.

Upon maturing, the caterpillar pupates inside the bag. Adult male moths emerge in late summer and fly to the females, which cannot fly. After mating, the female lays her eggs in the bag and dies. The eggs overwinter in the bag and hatch the following season.

Control of this pest is easier when the caterpillars are small. If you only want to make one application of pesticide to control this pest, the trick is to wait until all of the eggs have hatched but before the caterpillars are more than an inch long. This year that time will be late June or very early July. There are several materials labeled to control bagworms. Select the one that suits your needs and be sure to read the label and follow the use directions carefully.

To Prevent The Outbreak Of Serious Fly Problems In Livestock Through IPM

Flies are a common pest in livestock farming operations. Like any other pest, they need to be controlled.

Dr. Gregory Martin, Capitol Region poultry agent, wrote the following on using Integrated Pest Management procedures to manage flies on the farm.

Integrated pest management or IPM is not really a new concept. Farmers who have adopted IPM controls in their crops have been successful at controlling insect pests while reducing the overall cost of pest control. Livestock producers too can use this program as well to help both in reducing the amounts of chemicals used to control insects while timing the use of spraying and other control methods to optimize their effects in reducing fly populations. The cornerstone of this approach is to use best management practices (BMPs) on the farm that actually helps keep populations from growing out of hand.

A key feature of fly IPM on the farm is the use of scouting to determine the types of flies and number of flies present. "Spec" cards are 3 x 5-inch white cards that can be hung throughout the livestock building to help determine fly outbreaks. Fly spec counts that reach more than 50 on 50 percent of the card are consid-

ered high. These cards should be changed weekly and tallied so that fly numbers can be monitored on the farm on a constant basis. The use of sticky tape exposed for short durations also can be used to determine fly counts as well as the type of flies that are in the area.

Controlling the environment is crucial to the success of a Livestock IPM program. Flies that do not have food or water resources will quickly die out or move on. Since most feedstocks contain some forms of protein, there are many potential feeding sites on a farm. By controlling water and feed spillage, along with drying the manure or litter, managers can go a long way toward fly control. Other areas to watch are the compost areas and feed bins near livestock housing.

Manure and bedding materials should be handled to help reduce fly numbers prior to spreading. The use of tarping manure piles for 14 days prior to spreading and the use of stacking sheds to lower moisture counts have been successful in poultry operations. Spread materials according to your nutrient management plans and try to get the manure into the growing zone. Spot check the fields to determine if successful incorporation of the materials has been achieved.

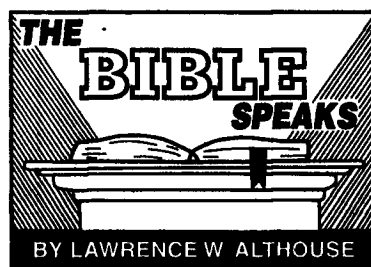
When it is time for fly population control, try to match the severity of the cure to the level of the population encountered. At times a "knock down" spray may be called for, while with lower populations natural insect predators could be used. With flies in the household/backyard, it is important to read and use controls appropriate to location. Fly traps are very effective in catching insects but are best used 30-50 feet away from the house to help draw them away. Fly electrocution devices are best used in closed housing ("zappers"). With any controls, please read, understand, and follow all instructions that come with your fly control sprays and devices.

Good IPM doesn't require extra ordinary efforts, but you will get out of it what you put into it. As with all other management programs on the farm, the better you are at it, the more it pays in the long run.

Quote of the Week:

"A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in."

— Greek proverb



THE BIBLE SPEAKS

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

HOW DO WE STACK UP?

Background Scripture:

Zechariah 8.

Devotional Reading:

Psalms 48:1-14.

From time to time I read in the local newspaper of a periodic poll taken to determine which cities in the U.S. are the most livable for their citizens. The cities that consistently place high in the polls are generally those that provide the best living conditions for their population.

The Prophet Zechariah did not take a poll, but received from God a vision of what Jerusalem would be like if the exiles all returned. It is an idyllic painting he paints with his words: "I will return to Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem, and Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city and the mountain of the Lord of hosts, the holy mountain" (Zechariah 8:3). The new Jerusalem would be a city to which God himself returns. But how can the people know that God has returned?

The evidence for the new Jerusalem will not be tall, impressive buildings or monuments, a high level of commerce or gigantic facilities for

sports events. While all these add to the luster of a municipality, there is something much more important for a city in which God is to dwell. No, the Lord looks for two telltale signs: "Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand for very age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets" (8:4,5).

The Very Young And Old

I'm sure that what the Lord is looking for is the last thing that most of our city councils would look for. The new Jerusalem, as God sees it, is the city in which both old people and children are happy and fulfilled.

Most of our cities are in a tight financial pinch. Tax revenues are down because people, many of them out of work, are spending less. Some services formerly provided by the federal government have been laid on the backs of the states. The states, in turn, have passed on these tasks to the cities. And what is first to be cut from the budgets? Services for the young and the old!

In Texas the criterion is "no new taxes" so that hundreds of thousands of children and elderly people will be denied vital health services. I suspect it may be happening in your state, too.

When the exiles began to return to Jerusalem, probably those who first returned were the age groups that could stand the strain of the unhealthy conditions and the daunting task of rebuilding. So, the old and the young would be likely the last to return, waiting until the work of reconstruction had progressed enough to meet the requirements of young and old. The arrival of children and elderly people would be a signal that this Jerusalem was ready to be the New Jerusalem.

"Make your city a haven for young and old, and I will be in the midst of her," says God. But, instead of making our cities more congenial to children and the elderly, we often make them hostile environments. Not only do we overlook these people in our planning, but there is often a hostility that makes them unwelcome. I see it in the letters to the editor section of our editorial page. It has somehow become "OK" to look down on those who cannot help themselves.

Our Nuisances

When James T. Cleland wrote his exposition of the Book of Zechariah for The Interpreter's Bible about 50 years ago, we lived in a more sympathetic and charitable age. So his observations on Zechariah 8 are even more pertinent today: "In the hurry and bustle of city life, the very old and the very young, who cannot look out for themselves and who serve no productive social or economic function, are to apt to be considered a nuisance, to be brushed out of the way." (Vol. VII, pp. 1085 and 1086).

God was calling the returned exiles to a higher spiritual sensibility, just as he calls us today. The promises, if we respond to that call, are exciting: "For there shall be a sowing of peace and prosperity; the vine shall yield its fruit, and the ground shall give its increase, and the heavens shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things" (8:12,13).

So how do you and your city stack up?

Lancaster Farming

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