

Lancaster Farming

OPINION

See You At Ag Progress, The Fairs

If it's fair season time, it must also be Ag Progress.

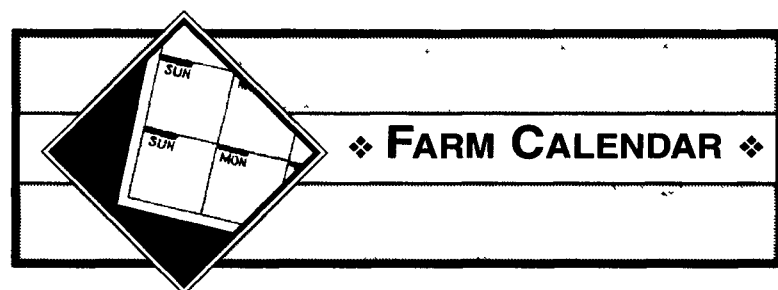
Penn State's number one agricultural showcase event — Ag Progress Days — begins Tuesday and lasts through Thursday at Rockspring, near State College.

While many of our readers cannot make it to Ag Progress, one of the services we provide is full coverage of the event. We plan to cover a great deal — but while we can spend hours there as a staff, talking to farm economy experts and reviewing the latest tools of technology and ways to manage for profit, we can't cover everything.

Throughout the year, in our special sections, we also provide extended coverage of events from Ag Progress. You will see Ag Progress coverage in special sections from our own *Grower & Marketer* to *Boarder & Trainer* and others.

Also, this year we make every effort to attend the fairs throughout the region. We provide the most extensive coverage of fairs — far more than our competitive publications. We hope to make *Lancaster Farming* your home for fair activities and events.

See you at Ag Progress! And the fairs!



Saturday, August 16

National Agricultural Plastics Congress, Crowne Plaza Hotel, thru Aug. 19, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Warren County Holstein Sale, Pittsfield Fairgrounds, 11 a.m.

Central Pa. Holstein Championship Show, Fairgrounds at Huntingdon, 6 p.m.

Crawford County Fair, thru Aug. 23.

Beef Grazing Workshop and Field Day, Sunny Hillside Farms, Stone Church, Northampton County Extension, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. (610) 746-1970.

Hempt Cup Polo Classic, Hempt Field, Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg, 3 p.m.

International Association of Milk Control Agencies Annual Conference, Harrisburg, thru Aug. 20.

Cumberland County Trial Garden Open House, Claremont Nursing and Rehabilitation Center Grounds, Carlisle, 9 a.m.-11 a.m., (717) 240-6500.

4-H District Horse Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 8:30 a.m.

Sunday, August 17

Cameron County Fair, thru Aug. 23.

Franklin County Fair, thru Aug. 23.

Fulton County Fair, thru Aug. 23.

Somerset County Fair, thru Aug. 23.

Williamsburg Community Farm Show, thru Aug. 23.

How To Reach Us

To address a letter to the editor.

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• By regular 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.

Monday, August 18

Elizabethtown Fair, thru Aug. 23.
Harford Fair, thru Aug. 23.
Mountain Air Fair, thru Aug. 23.

Tuesday, August 19

Ag Progress Days, thru Aug. 21,
(814) 865-2081.

Blue Valley Farm Show, Northampton County, thru Aug. 23,
(610) 588-2818.

Northeast Pa. Holstein Championship Show Fairgrounds, Whitneyville, 9:30 a.m.

South Mountain Fair, thru Aug. 23.

Hookstown Fair, thru Aug. 23.
Perry County Community Fair, thru Aug. 23.

Maine Farm Days, Dostie Farm, Fairfield Center, thru Aug. 20,
(207) 474-8324.

Pasto Ag Museum, Penn State, Silent Auction, Ag Progress Days, thru Aug. 20, (814) 863-1383.

Ohio Grape and Wine Day, Ohio Ag Research and Development Center's Grape Research Branch, Kingsville, 2 p.m.-5 p.m., (440) 224-0273.

Penn Ag Democrats Reception, Nittany Lion Inn, Penn State College, 7-9 p.m.

Codorus Creek Watershed Public Meeting, Nixon Park, 7 p.m., (717) 843-2929.

Wednesday, August 20

Southeast Pa. Holstein Championship Show Fairgrounds, Lebanon, 9:30 a.m.

Woodland Owners of South Alleghenies Tour, (814) 623-7399.

Pa. Performance Tested Boar Sale, 1495 W. Pine Road, Pa. Furnace, 6 p.m.

Perry County Holstein Show, Newport Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.
Maryland State Fair, thru Sept. 2.

Pa. Certified Organic Open House, 406 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Centre Hall, Pa., 4:30-6:30 p.m., (814) 364-1344.

Conservation Enhancement Program, Alumni Pavilion at Ag Progress Days, (717) 237-2208.

Pa. Ag Republican Chicken Barbecue, VFW picnic grounds, Rte. 45 Pine Mills, 5:30 p.m., (717) 274-6906.

(Turn to Page A51)



Now Is The Time By Leon Ressler

Lancaster County
Extension Director

To Monitor Corn Maturity And Adjust Harvest Plans

After several years of dry weather, the Pennsylvania corn crop is hindered this year by late plantings because of wet conditions and cool temperatures.

Dr. Greg Roth, Penn State extension corn specialist, reports that USDA statistics indicated that only 54 percent of our crop had silked by Aug. 3, compared to an average of 74 percent for most years. The cool summer conditions have not helped the maturity situation and much of our crop is about a week to 10 days behind normal.

At The Russel E. Larson Agricultural Research Center at Rockspring, the 109-day corn planted April 28 was 50 percent silked July 27. The May 15-planted corn silked on Aug. 2. The June 1-planted corn started to silk Aug. 11. Generally corn that silks in August is subject to maturity related yield and quality reductions in central Pennsylvania.

Many farms appear to have at least two corn crops, one planted in late April/early May and another planted in late May through July. Some have mostly one or the other.

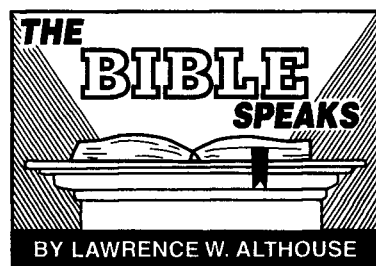
Roth recommends that growers should take time now to make strategic plans for harvest and utilization of these crops. Generally we estimate 42-47 days from silking to half milk line (silage harvest) and 55-60 days from silking to black layer. This year, these intervals could be extended, especially for the later crops. This will be another year to monitor silage moistures carefully prior to harvest.

Corn that has not silked at this time will likely have trouble maturing and making good quality grain. Some of the latest planted fields will also not get far into the grain fill stage and will require one or more frosts to dry down the crop for silage. Immature corn generally has some increased resistance to frost, so it will likely survive the first light frosts.

The early-planted corn also appears to be lagging in development but we could see some very high yields as a result of the lengthy grain fill period and the lack of heat and moisture stress. This is especially true in the southeast and south-central counties, where it has been a bit warmer.

There will likely be large differences in corn silage quality this year and dairy producers may want to consider segregating the two crops if possible. Early planted corn silage should have higher grain content and energy, but more lignified fiber and lower fiber digestibility because of the heavy stalks. Late-planted silage crops will likely have low grain and energy, but less lignin and higher fiber digestibility. These later crops will also be more at risk for a good fermentation because of variable crop moisture contents and uncertain microbial populations following a frost.

Producers should consider their grain needs when chopping the early planted corn since some of the later crop may not mature for grain harvest. Also in mid- and short-season regions in the state, we should be prepared for some wetter high moisture corn and some lower test weight shelled corn this fall. The latter is not all bad since some dairy nutritionists have suggested better starch digestibility and fermentation from wetter and lower test weight corn.



HOW TO ROB GOD

Background Scripture:
Malachi 3 through 4.

Devotional Reading:
Psalms 90:1-7.

I cannot read Malachi 3:1-3 without hearing in my mind's ear the stirring music with which George Frideric Handel presents these words to them in his oratorio, Messiah: "The Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his temple, e'vn the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in. Behold! He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts." Two grand chords follow, emphasizing the dramatic importance of this announcement.

While we like to speculate theologically and practically about just when and how that might be, the most important message here is that the day of the Lord will surely come. We can — and will — argue over the details, but God assures us that the day of God's judgment will certainly come. This is one of the firm promises of our faith.

The "messenger" could be an angel or a prophet. Malachi, whose name means "my messenger," indicates that we delight in this messenger. We look with anticipation for God's messenger to come and bring

in the day of God's judgment because we believe that day will be "bad news" for the unrighteous and "good news" for us.

When He Appears!

In Handel's rendition of this passage, however, the two loud chords are followed first by silence and then a quiet but sobering question: "But who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appeareth?"

"Sobering" may be a gross understatement, because if we really think about it, this question is enough to cause fear and trembling. People all around the world pray for God to bring in this day of judgment, but do they have any idea what they are praying for? Not only our despised neighbor will fall under God's judgment, but we ourselves!

When we hold up our lives and values besides those of Christ, who among us can afford to be smug? In the light of what Christ teaches us and asks of us, who among us can stand at the seat of judgment and look our judge in the face? For the judgment that we think we land so heavily on others is likely to land just as heavily upon us.

If you think judgment will be a breeze, you have not truly understood him. Judgment day is not about how God will judge my neighbor, but me. I may think my neighbor's position is a lot less secure than mine, but God will not be asking me what I think of my neighbor.

In Handel's masterpiece, when the messenger has asked, "... and who can stand?", the urgency and power of his music return when he proclaims: "For he is like a refiner's fire..." Again and again Handel intersperses the question, "who shall

To Monitor Tomatoes

For Late Blight

And Take Protective Measures
Late blight on tomatoes has been confirmed in Lancaster, Erie, and Crawford counties and in southwestern New Jersey and southeastern Michigan.

Alan MacNab, Penn State extension plant pathologist, urges growers of tomatoes and potatoes to actively monitor their fields and modify their spray programs to protect their crops.

If you are in an area where late blight has been identified within 150 miles or closer, you should apply a fungicide with some systemic activity (for example, Acrobat, Aliette-Maneb, Quadris, Cabrio, Flint) and a protectant fungicide (Bravo, Echo, Maneb, Gavel). For the remainder of the season, apply fungicides on a regular interval or adjust timing based on a proven forecasting program. When applying fungicides, it is important to obtain complete coverage of the plant.

If late blight is found in your field, you need to decide if you should destroy all or part of the planting or continue an aggressive program for the rest of the season. Factors to consider are the value of the crop, severity of the outbreak, the cost to continue the aggressive control program, and the increased threat to surrounding fields.

If a good fungicide program has been used before the appearance of the late blight, it should be possible to save the crop. If the late blight fungus has already killed 10 percent of the foliage and/or 5-10 percent of the green fruit are infected, it could be too late to salvage the crop.

More information related to this disease and control options are posted at the Leola and Weaverland produce auctions. You can also get more information by contacting your local extension office or by calling the Lancaster extension office at (717) 394-6851. Your extension office can also provide you with control information for potatoes.

Quote Of The Week:

"If you can't convince them, confuse them."

— Harry S. Truman

stand?" and the response, "For he is like a refiner's fire..." Musically, Handel is challenging us to serious soul-searching. All of us need to be refined by the judgment of God.

How We Treat Others

For those who cannot understand why they need to be purified, Malachi goes on to catalog what is really important to the Lord: "I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me..." (3:5b). Except for the "sorcerers," the list is a contemporary one, isn't it? It would not likely be the list you and I would come up with. Essentially, this list is about how we treat others.

On an overriding positive note, God says, "Return to me and I will return to you." But they still don't see how this applies to them, "How shall we return?" So, God gets more specific: "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me." And they want to know "How are we robbing you?"

God knows that their reason for holding back on their tithes and offerings is that they think they will not have enough for themselves. But the Lord challenges them with a promise: "... put me to the test... if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing." (3:6-10).

Give it some thought. How do you rob God?

Lancaster Farming

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—by—

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Lancaster Farming

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