

Lancaster Farming

OPINION

Forest Products: Part Of Agriculture's Big Picture

Today we introduce a new component of *Lancaster Farming* Grower & Marketer Section, *Turf & Tree*. We hope to bring information to you about our burgeoning forest products, in addition to turf industries — all a part of our great agricultural industry and heritage in the state.

The farm press may have overlooked the importance of these industries, but no more! *Lancaster Farming* is tasked to cover growers that provide turf and related management strategies for stadiums and landscape use, Christmas trees and related cut tree ornamental products, maple syrup production, and care and management of the state's expansive, industrious woodlots.

According to information supplied by the Pennsylvania Forest Products Association, did you know that about 60 percent of the state is covered in forestland? The forests grow faster than the harvest rate, but we cut enough board feet each year to circle the globe more than seven times!

About 500,000 private landowners control 11.5 million acres of forest, or an average of 23 acres each. Farm and forestland generate \$1 in local tax revenue for every 2 cents to 6 cents they require in public services.

Did you know that the state's 17 million acres of forest are primarily hardwoods, which are very dynamic? And each Pennsylvania resident, according to the association, uses wood equal to a 100-foot-tall tree (and there are 12 million of us).

The hardwood resource industry amounts to 90,000 jobs in Pennsylvania.

Unfortunately, hard-line environmentalists try to undermine what a lot of industries do to protect the environment as a matter of course — and survival. Maybe they don't realize, according to the association, that timber harvesting ranks at the bottom of the list for sources of nonpoint water pollution. Some oppose timber harvesting altogether, with their "zero cut" philosophy.

Misinformed about forestry and forests, people are often unaware we can have wood products today and trees for tomorrow by careful management. And that also gives us, noted the association, the "scenic, recreational, and other benefits that our forests provide."

We'll do our part to promote those philosophies in this issue of *Lancaster Farming's Grower & Marketer* (in Section C this week) and in future issues.



**Now Is
The Time**
By Leon Ressler
Lancaster County
Extension Director

**To Be Aware Of
New Crop Insurance Rules
Before Beginning Harvest**
The Risk Management Agency, USDA had announced changes in requirements for producers who suffer crop damage to the extent that they may file a claim for loss under the federally sponsored crop insurance program.

Being aware of these changes is especially important if you plan to harvest a damaged crop for another use such as silage. These changes were made to minimize program waste, abuse and fraud. Your insurance company makes final determinations regarding the requirements.

The general rule of thumb remains: report crop damage immediately when it occurs to your insurance agent. This usually is within the prescribed time limits of the various crop policies, which vary from within 72 hours to 15 days. One must be especially careful with late losses on or about the end of the insurance period (earlier if total destruction of the crop, harvest completion date, or the calendar date in the policy, for example, 12/10 for grain corn and soybeans) as claims can be denied if notices are not filed by this date.

Tell your agent about the damage and what you plan to do with the

crop. Ask the agent for instructions for any special requirements that you must follow to justify your claim to the insurance adjuster when the claim is worked, such as waiting to harvest until an adjuster sees the crop. If in doubt, get in touch with the company fieldman or adjuster for a second opinion.

If you plan to harvest a damaged crop for another use (such as harvesting a grain crop for hay or silage), producers are required to file notice of damage at least 15 days before such silage or haying begins to provide the adjuster the opportunity to either appraise the yield potential or designate sample row areas to appraise the yield potential at a later date. If damage is discovered after harvesting of the unit begins, stop harvesting and contact your agent immediately, while evidence remains, and ask for instructions on how to proceed. If you cut silage or otherwise destroy a crop before the adjuster sees it, your claim may be denied!

If you have more than one insurance unit for the crop with low yield or poor quality and production from multiple units will be stored in the same bin or structure, contact your agent before you commingle the production. Ask for instructions as to the insurance company's requirements for records to be acceptable, before you begin harvesting.

Combine monitor and load records may not be acceptable for claims purposes unless the insurance company authorizes them before harvesting begins. Likewise, it is not acceptable for the producer to mark the bin to record the depth of the crop from each unit, unless it is pre-approved. Be sure that you understand the insurance company's requirements for records for on-farm scales, moisture tests, test weights, etc. before you begin to harvest a low yield/poor quality crop.

The rules have changed. Proceeding as you did last year may result in your claim being denied.

To Care For Next Year's Strawberry Crop

Late August and Early September is when strawberries set their fruit buds for next year's crop. In the conventional production system, they also produce additional runners during this period as well. In order to maximize the potential of next year's crop, one must care for the crop now.

The first step you should take now is to apply a second application of nitrogen. You should have fertilized with about 40 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre in early July at renovation. If you did that you should now add an additional 20 pounds of nitrogen per acre to give the plants another boost. If you did not fertilize at renovation, then add 40 pounds of nitrogen per acre now. Irrigate to incorporate the fertilizer.

If the weather becomes dry, irrigate through September to reduce crop stress. When the temperatures drop in the fall, strawberries resume vigorous growth and it is important to remove any water stress to enable the plants to produce next year's buds and runners.

To Lighten Your Load

Don't forget to take the time to attend one of the four meetings to be conducted in Lancaster County this coming week on dealing with creditors and the stress associated with recent difficult financial times on the farm.

On Sept. 4-5, the Lancaster County extension office will conduct several meetings to give some guidance in dealing with these issues.

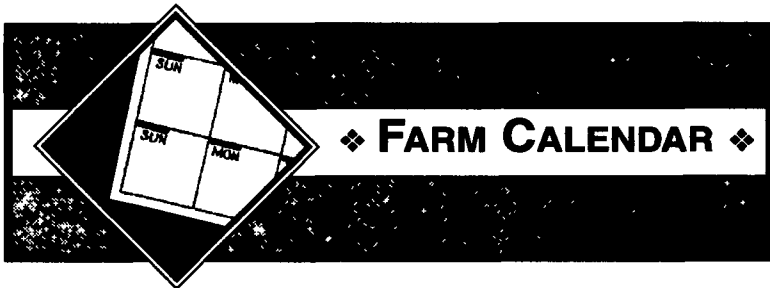
These half-day sessions will be repeated in four locations in Lancaster County to make it convenient to attend. The first meeting will be conducted at the Hoffman Building in Quarryville from 9:30 a.m.-noon on Thursday, Sept. 4. That afternoon the same program will be from 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Salisbury Township office located at the east end of the Village of White Horse.

On Friday morning, Sept. 5, the meeting will be conducted in Manheim at the Lancaster DHIA lab. The final repeat of the program will be at the Martindale Fire Company from 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m. that afternoon.

For more information, contact the Lancaster County extension office at (717) 394-6851. Registration is not required but would be appreciated to assist those who will be setting up for the meetings. Take a few hours out of your schedule to attend this helpful event before the busy fall harvest season starts in earnest.

Quote Of The Week:

"Words show a man's wit, but action shows his meaning."
— Ben Franklin



♦ FARM CALENDAR ♦

Saturday, August 30

Juniata County Fair, thru Sept. 6.

Bucks-Mont Two Cylinder Club's Annual Tractor Show, Dublin Firehouse, Dublin, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., (215) 723-4496.

Carroll County Maryland Master Gardeners Plant Clinic, Farmers Market in Ag Center on Smith Ave., 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m., (410) 386-2760.

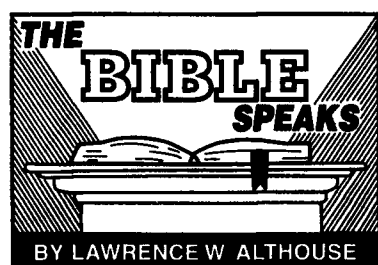
Lehigh County 4-H Livestock Roundup Sale, Livestock Tent, Allentown Fair, 3 p.m., (610) 391-9840.

Sunday, August 31

Cambria County Fair, thru Sept. 6.

Mid-Atlantic Brown Swiss, Md. State Fair, Timonium, 12:30 p.m., (301) 371-5206.

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BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

SHUT UP AND SEALED

Background Scripture:
Daniel 2.

Devotional Reading:
Revelation 21:1-7.

For every student of the Bible who is intrigued by the mystery, symbols, and puzzle-solving challenge of apocalyptic literature, there are many more of us who are happy that there are only two books and a few other passages that fit into this biblical category. Compared with the relative simplicity and clarity of the gospel, the apocalyptic is a maze through which many people wander without finding an exit.

For me, a little apocalyptic literature goes a long way. The problem is not so much in the literature itself, but in that so many people become obsessed with solving its riddles, often with a sense of rather singular accomplishment. Apocalyptic literature can serve a purpose; unfortunately, not those to which so many people have put it.

The twelfth and last chapter of Daniel is a case in point. Consult a

half dozen scholars and you will get a half dozen or more tentative interpretations. For example, in 12:4 there is a phrase, "Many shall run to and fro..." Some interpreters believe this means "perusing" — eyes running to and fro as they seek to understand this strange document. Others think it means "perplexity" at the strangeness of this book.

Some say it tells us what happens when the book has been unsealed and read. Still others believe it a reference to the commotion and turmoil that call for the book to be sealed. Many believe it also is a reference to the upheavals and commotion that arose in the latter days of Antiochus Epiphanes. None of these interpretations are harmful to unless someone tries to make a doctrine of them and none of them really add anything to the gospel.

Puzzles And Riddles

Another point of intrigue and controversy is the statement in 12:7. In answer to the question, "How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?" one of the angels replies that it would be "for a time, two times, and half a time."

Also puzzling is 12:11 — "And from the time that the continual burnt offering is taken away, and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he who comes to the thousand three hundred and thirty-five days." Intriguing riddles, but not much of a guide for Christian discipleship.

So, has Daniel no value for the Christian? No, what it means is that we need to focus on the main text and not the sideshows. And what is in the center ring? Daniel teaches us that God is the ruler of nations and

history. His purpose will come to a final culmination and fruition, despite all the human and natural obstacles along the way.

Hang In There!

Therefore, hold on to your faith and take the same courage Daniel displayed in 3:17,18, when he replies to Nebuchadnezzar: "...our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace; and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But, if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up."

Even if he has incorrectly interpreted that God will save them from the fiery furnace, still he will not forsake his faith and worship Nebuchadnezzar's idols for he knows that the future is in God's hands alone.

Unfortunately, lots of Christians, despairing of the world in which we find ourselves, look eagerly for the final consummation so that evil will be punished and righteousness rewarded. They cannot wait for God to strike down those with whom they have been unable to cope. They want a Wagnerian *Götterdämmerung* from which the "righteous" (whoever that turns out to be!) shall emerge victorious. That is not the kingdom of God that Jesus heralded.

So the wisest words in this whole chapter are those spoken when Daniel asks, "O my lord, what shall be the issue of these things?" The angel replies: "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end" (vs. 8,9). Amen.



♦ FARM FORUM ♦

Editor:

Thanks for the updates on the story of the Lancaster County farmer who is faced with getting his land taken by the township supervisors as a water source for pending development. Please keep us abreast of continued developments on this story.

Eminent domain, especially in this case, reeks of communism. I was wondering, do these same supervisors have anything to gain by this theft? Do some of them own land that will be developed or have friends who do?

People have a right to do with their property as they please, but not at the expense of another.

Please try to expose this in future articles, and hold their feet to the fire. You will be doing us all a great service.

— Stephen R. Cebenko
New Tripoli

Editor:

Our nation's energy policy is more than merely a drain on our domestic energy capability. It is a drag on our economy and the competitiveness of our farmers and other hard-working Americans.

Nowhere is this deficiency of current energy policy more noticeable than the negative im-

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Lancaster Farming

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- Keystone Awards 1993, 1995
- PACD Media Award 1996
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—by—

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