



Lancaster Farming

OPINION

State Animal Labs Need Funding — Now

Last week's story we reported from Rockspring during Ag Progress should open a lot of eyes.

We noted that if Pennsylvania continues to try to operate its animal diagnostic labs at its current low level of funding, lack of adequate staffing, outdated equipment, and improper testing certification, Pennsylvania doesn't "have a chance of fighting disease."

Those were the words of Dr. John Enck Jr., state veterinarian, executive director of the Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission and director of the Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Enck and Dr. James T. Rankin, state epidemiologist, state department of health, spoke in Rockspring at Ag Progress Days last month. They addressed the joint committee informational meeting, House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee and the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

The threat of ag bioterrorism, or agroterrorism, is "greater than any time in our history," said Rankin.

Is Pennsylvania willing to risk what Canada just went through? One cow with BSE literally shut all Canadian ag exports down, costing the country \$3 billion in lost income.

Then is the \$52 million the lab system needs to get its status to ensure quick response time against disease threats such a bad investment? We think not. But how to pay for it? Increase the vice taxes? That's easy enough to say, for us who are nonsmokers, nondrinkers, and nongamblers, and those of us who don't use recreational game lands or drive down the highways.

To create a multibillion-dollar disruption, Enck noted it was "so easy, it's pathetic," he said to the members of the House and Senate who attended the meeting at Ag Progress. "I hate to say how easy it is."

Clearly, there is a clear and present danger from possible threats. Rankin noted its not a question of if bioterrorism will happen, but when. We need to stay informed and prepared.



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

To Scout For Downy Mildew In Pumpkins And Other Cucurbits

According to Penn State Plant Pathologist Dr. Alan MacNab, Downy mildew has been reported in Mid-Atlantic States on cucurbit crops (pumpkins, summer squash, zucchini, and cantaloupes). Most likely it is already present in the warmest parts of Pennsylvania and will spread northward. MacNab expects that this disease will be much more prevalent than in recent years.

Symptoms for Downy Mildew include yellow blotches on the top surface of leaves and sometime a faint grayish-purple mold on the underside of the yellowish areas. The yellowish areas die quickly, resulting in dead spots on leaves and a ragged appearance of the foliage. If appropriate fungicides are not used within a week of symptom appearance, a cucurbit planting could be affected so severely that it may appear to be

damaged by frost! Timely fungicide applications are critical.

Downy mildew is not difficult to control with fungicides. Most cucurbit programs utilizing protectants (for example, Dithane, Manzate, Bravo, Echo, Equus, and copper) likely are providing some control now. With the increased likelihood of downy mildew, growers should now consider some of the materials that have some systemic activity. These include Acrobat tank mixed with a protectant, one of the Ridomil Gold mixture products (Ridomil Gold Bravo, Ridomil Gold MZ, or Ridomil Gold/Copper), and a new one named Pristine.

To Control Powdery Mildew In Pumpkins

Dr. MacNab reports powdery mildew appears every year and it is present throughout Pennsylvania at this time. It has appeared later than usual this year because of weather conditions that are wetter and cooler than normal. The white powdery growth on top and bottom surfaces of leaves is characteristic. Most growers can identify this disease.

There are many fungicides which can be used to control this disease, including Bravo, Echo, Equus, Nova, Procure, Cabrio, Flint, and Quadris. Consult the Pennsylvania Commercial Vegetable Guide available from your extension office for details.

Recently, powdery mildew resistance to the strobilurin fungicides (for example, Cabrio, Flint, and Quadris) has appeared in several areas of the U.S. This will be of concern to all cucurbit producers, because spores of the powdery mildew fungus are wind-borne long distances, thus facilitating rapid spread of strobilurin-resistant populations of the fungus. Where resistance is present, fungicides other than the strobilurin fungicides are needed for control.

At this time there are no reports of any resistance for other powdery mildew fungicides. Therefore, Nova and Procure continue to be good fungicide choices. It is expected that the broad-spectrum protectant, Bravo, will continue to be effective. However, since Bravo has no systemic properties, spray coverage is critical.

Another new development is that micronized sulfur appears to be quite effective against powdery mildew. One point to be aware of regarding sulfur is that it can be phytotoxic. MacNab suggests that pumpkin growers try some micronized sulfur on pumpkins this fall. (Note: Do not use this on other cucurbits at this time). MacNab proposes a 4 pound-per-acre rate when using an 80 percent wettable product (the label indicates a higher rate, but the 4-pound rate worked well in a Long Island, N.Y., test). In addition, MacNab reminds growers to carefully read and heed label precautions.

There could be some varietal differences in sensitivity to sulfur, and sulfur should not be applied when the temperatures are high. The label says it should not be applied above 95 degrees F. It is recommended to apply the spray at the lowest temperature possible. One micronized sulfur product that is labeled on pumpkins at this time is Microthiol Disperse, 80 percent wettable from Cerexagri. Benefits from use of sulfur include the potential for relatively good control, including some control on lower surfaces of leaves (possibly from some volatilization), the potential to strengthen our fungicide resistance management program, and a relatively low cost for a micronized sulfur application.

Quote Of The Week:

"There are no easy answers, but there are simple answers. We must have the courage to do what is morally right."

— Ronald Reagan (1964)



FARM CALENDAR

- Saturday, September 6
- Clear Creek State Forest Woods Walk, Jefferson County, 8 a.m.-noon, (814) 335-4897.
 - Ohio Sustainable Ag Field Day, Bowling Green, (330) 202-3534.
 - Fall Garden Wrap-up, Master Gardeners of Westmoreland County, Donohoe Center, Greensburg, 9 a.m., (724)
- 837-1402.
- Sunday, September 7
- Adams County 4-H and Alumni Celebrations, Ag Center, Gettysburg, (717) 334-6271.
 - World Fertilizer Conference, Boston, Mass., thru Sept. 9, (202) 962-0490.
- Monday, September 8
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FARM FORUM

Editor:
Starting Sept. 1, New York's limit for the retail price of milk was increased by 47 cents. The maximum price that a retailer

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can now charge for a gallon of milk is \$2.94, except for New York City where the maximum price will be \$3.16 a gallon. The price limit is the maximum price that a retailer is allowed to charge and is determined by a national pricing scheme that is predominantly based on the use of cheese and butter. This increase in the milk price limit anticipates an increase in the price that farmers will receive for producing milk over the next several months.

For farmers, the price they receive for milk is starting to recover from record lows and reflects a steady rise over the last several months. Much of this rise in price reflects a seasonal fluctuation of an increase in demand for milk and a decrease in the supply of

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THE BIBLE SPEAKS

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

A HOUSE DIVIDED

Background Scripture:
James 1:1-18.

Devotional Reading:
2 Corinthians 4:5-11.

The Letter of James is a puzzling book. It is unlikely to have been written by James, the brother of Jesus, because it reflects a time in the life of the church that is later. Like the rest of the books of the New Testament, it had no title when it was written and the heading, "The Letter of James," was appended later.

For a long time it was excluded from the New Testament canon, partly because of the question of its authorship and also because it was addressed to Jewish Christians in a time when Gentile Christians predominated. Yet, from what we do know about James, Christ's brother, it seems to say the kinds of things we might expect James to say.

Cast in the form of a letter, it is much more like a sermon or a collection of aphorisms (terse sayings embodying a general truth). Strung through the letter's 106 verses are approximately 60 imperatives, some of which seem quite unrelated to each other. It appears that there is no theme uniting the book. But, actually

there is a recurring, uniting concern: the steadfastness of Christian discipleship.

The writer — whom we will call "James" — describes this kind of inconsistent and doubting discipleship as being "like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind." This person is "a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways" (1:6-8).

Double-mindedness is the result of inconsistent faith. The problem with this person, said Dwight E. Stevenson, "is not that he possesses no Christian convictions; it is rather that his Christian convictions do not completely possess him."

Sunshine Christians

To paraphrase Tom Paine, we are "sunshine Christians" but we can and must practice our faith even in the midst of trial. This is where the double-minded person reveals his lack of steadfastness. He believes in the power of Christ, but his fear is greater than his trust. In times such as these the double-minded man or woman will ascribe temptation to God, but James is explicit in holding that temptation comes from within ourselves, not from without.

"(He) himself tempts no one; but each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin..." (1:14,15). Although God does not tempt us, he can use our temptations to deepen our trust.

I confess that I find it difficult to emulate James's attitude: "Count it all joy, my brethren, when you meet various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness" (1:2,3). "Trust in God," not "joy," is my best response to date. But, when I have managed to stand steadfast in the midst of a trial, then it is an occasion for joy.

I will not seek tests of my faith, but, when it is tested, and I remain steadfast, it is a victory over my double-mindedness. So, truly, "Blessed is the man who endures trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life which God promised to those who love him" (1:12).

A Walking Civil War

In Matthew 12:25, Jesus says, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand." Many of us are like a house divided between what we say and what we do. We attempt to serve both God and mammon — mammon getting the edge. We are Christians in our affiliations, but pagans when it comes to business. We follow one who went to the cross rather than deny his mission, but we try to avoid crosses at all costs — yes, even the cost of our own souls.

One of the great authors described one of his characters as a "walking civil war." The civil war, of course, was the one going on within him. He was at war with himself, pulled in different and opposing directions, believing one thing, but acting out another.

Might that not be a fair description of what goes on inside us? Our Christian ideals are at war with our secular values. Our sense of what we ought to be and do may be at odds with what satisfies our lower nature.

A house divided against itself cannot stand. Neither can a Christian who is not steadfast in his or her faith.

Lancaster Farming

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