

Lancaster Farming

OPINION

National Farm Safety And Health Week, Sept. 21-27

What week could be more important to our farm families than National Farm Safety and Health Week (NFSH)?

This year's theme, "Securing Your Farming Future Through Safety and Health," carries a strong message about the importance of security on America's farms.

NFSH materials developed by the National Safety Council and available on its Website (www.nsc.org/farmsafe.htm) suggest that through increased awareness and education initiatives (such as those promoted by AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians) aimed at protecting the lives and livelihood of our agricultural producers, the nation's abundance of food and fiber will be secure. This is the 60th annual national observation of Farm Safety and Health Week.

Everyday, AgrAbility Project staff across the country provides information and assistance to their clients-farmers, ranchers, and farmworkers who have sustained disabling injuries or have chronic health conditions-that echo that message.

"AgrAbility staff help clients find ways to modify their operations, equipment, and homes so that they can continue to live and work safely," said Linda Fetzer, project assistant for AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians. "Endorsing and disseminating this year's NFSH message is one way AgrAbility staff is working to achieve a primary AgrAbility goal-helping those who have one disability avoid sustaining another."

Farmers, ranchers, and farmworkers with any type of physical, cognitive, or sensory condition (for example, amputation, traumatic brain injury, and hearing impairment) that limits their ability to do their agricultural work or activities of daily living are eligible for AgrAbility services. To date, more than 250 people have received assistance from Pennsylvania's AgrAbility Project.

To find out more about what AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians can do for you, call toll-free within Pennsylvania at (866) 238-4434 or visit the project's Website at <http://AgExtEd.cas.psu.edu/agrab/>.

Let's not only celebrate the week, let's play it safe during harvest season, use common sense, follow guidelines and restrictions on equipment, and pray for a good, safe harvest.



Now Is The Time
By Leon Ressler
Lancaster County Extension Director

To Control Mites On Laying Hens, Pullets

During late summer and early fall, birds and rodents begin to look for more permanent shelters in which to hide. As field harvest begins, natural nesting areas are disturbed, pushing rodents and birds toward poultry housing. Capitol region poultry agent Gregory Martin points out vigilance is the key toward control.

Starlings and English sparrows will carry fowl mites (*Ornithonyssus sylvarum*) to a poultry house. These insects will congregate at the base of the feather shafts near the end of the vent, looking very much like black dust. No bigger than a grain of black pepper, these insects will migrate from bird to bird either in cage or floor housing. It is not too uncommon to find them in nest boxes and other areas where different birds congregate. As the mite population grows and starts to reproduce, nests

will appear as white crusty clumps at the base of the feather shaft. Mites can be found on eggs, and will cause discomfort to operators who work with the birds or eggs.

Mites will complete an entire life cycle in 1-2 weeks, and have both nonfeeding and feeding cycles where they attach themselves for a blood meal on the bird. They can live up to three weeks away from the birds and will migrate from host to host if need be.

In addition to wild birds, mechanical vector transmission is also a problem. This includes the movement of infested birds and eggs, nest materials or other supplies, and of course humans who may spread mites from house to house. Proper IPM procedure suggests that poultry operators should scout by observing a sample of birds periodically to determine mite (and other pest) loads in flocks.

Control of mites includes surface spraying of housing and, if necessary, the birds themselves. Permethrin-based sprays do well to help control the pest as well as carbaryl powders that can be dusted into nest boxes. Infested meat flocks only need to be treated if they will be carried further in time as with breeders, or if infestation is causing a problem, such as anemia in the birds.

Spray birds with sufficient pressure to undercoat the feathers near the vent and to allow longer contact of the material to effectively kill the mites. Repeat the spray in 4-7 days if heavy nests are found on the birds to help control the next hatch. In cage and breeder situations, remove all eggs prior to spraying surfaces or birds.

As infested flocks are sold, clean the premises and surface spray to knock down any residual mites that may have survived the cleaning process. Boots should be worn and dipped to help control transmission

of mites from house to house on a multiple flock farm.

As with all insecticides, read completely all literature and labeling instructions that come with the material. Mix strictly to the required concentration and apply as directed.

To Observe Farm Safety Week Sept. 21-27

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared the third complete week in September as National Farm Safety and Health Week.

National Farm Safety and Health Week is an annual observance of the National Safety Council to commemorate the hard work and sacrifices of our nation's farmers and ranchers. During this year's recognition, the NSC will work with its agricultural members and its partner in agricultural safety and health, the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety, to provide fact sheets and other information, education and training on farm safety, health and security issues.

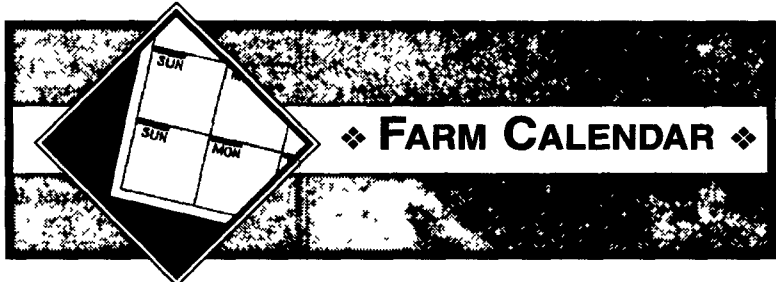
"Farm Safety & Health Week is a time for all of us to thank the nation's farmers and ranchers for their important contributions in providing food for our world," said NSC President Alan McMillan. "It is also a time for farmers and ranchers to focus on important safety and health issues, including the safety of children and young adults that perform farming duties, safe use of tractors and equipment, and safe use of guards and retrofits on farm machinery."

Agriculture had the second-highest rate of deaths because of unintentional injuries of any industry in 2002, with a rate of 21 deaths per 100,000 workers.

Quote Of The Week:

"An empty stomach is not a good political adviser."

— Albert Einstein



Saturday, September 20
N.E. Small Farm and Rural Living Expo, Warren County Farmers' Fairgrounds, Harmony, N.J., thru Sept. 21, (570) 622-4225.
Farm Safety Day Camp, 4-H Center, Bradford County Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., (814) 623-8000.
All Dairy Antiques and Collectibles Show, thru Sept. 25, Harrisburg Farm Show Complex.
National Public Lands Day, National Mall, Washington, D.C., (202) 298-1225.
Bloomsburg Fair, Columbia County, thru Sept. 27, (570) 784-4949.
Lancaster Farmland Trust Old-fashioned Farm Picnic, Preserved Farm In Leacock Township, noon-5 p.m.
Lycoming County Fall Family Living Day, Trinity United Methodist Church, Montoursville, (570) 433-3040.
Cumberland County Trial Garden Open House, Claremont Nursery and Rehabilitation Center, Carlisle, 9 a.m.-11 a.m., (717) 240-6500.
Woods Walk, Harry White's Woods, Cambridge Springs, Crawford County, (814) 337-5678.
Creating a Wreath with Summer's Bounty, Lebanon Valley Ag Center, (717) 270-4391.
Maryland Wine Festival, Carroll County Farm Museum, thru Sept. 21, (410) 876-2667.
Catskill Mountain Ginseng Festival, Catskill Point, Village of Catskill, N.Y., 10 a.m.-5 p.m., (518) 622-9820.
Farm Tour 2003, Indiana County Farm Bureau, Pleasant View Farm, Marion Center, 1 p.m.-5 p.m., (724) 397-8115.
N.Y. Bakewell Center Field Day, Woodbourne Farm, Bath, N.H., 10 a.m.-4 p.m., (802) 848-3771.

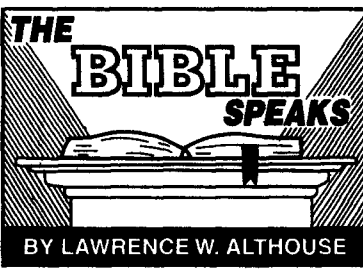
Sunday, September 21
All-American Dairy Show, thru Sept.

25, (717) 787-2905.
Maryland Wine Festival, Amateur Wine Judging, 1 p.m., (410) 848-7775.
Farm Safety Week, thru Sept. 27, (410) 848-7775.
Lebanon Valley Conservancy Tours, (717) 272-3908, ext. 4.
Penn Ag Industries annual convention, thru Sept. 23, Nittany Lion Inn, State College, (717) 651-5920.

Monday, September 22
Fundamentals of Food Science Short Course, Atherton Hotel, State College, thru Sept. 26, (814) 865-8301.
Ephrata Fair, thru Sept. 27.
N.Y. Bakewell Center Field Day, Little Alaska Farm, Walea, Maine, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., (413) 477-8596.

Tuesday, September 23
Pa. Holstein Fall Championship Show, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg, 9 a.m.
Pumpkin Variety Twilight Meeting, Schramm's Farms and Orchards, 6:30 p.m., (724) 837-1902.
Morrison Cove Community Fair, thru Sept. 26.
Presentation of Dressage, Devon, (610) 644-1963.
Fall Family Living Day of Lycoming County Extension, Trinity United Methodist Church, 9 a.m., Lycoming Creek Road, Williamsport, 9 a.m., (570) 433-3040.
Mellon Community Bridge Project Job Fair, Center for Arts and Technology, Coatesville, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., (610) 725-9100.
Pesticide Update, Crawford County Extension, Ken Hyde Farm, Tintusville, 1:15 p.m.

Wednesday, September 24
Pa. Eastern Elite All-Breed Sale, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg,



WATCH YOUR MOUTH!

Background Scripture: James 3.
Devotional Reading: Colossians 1:3-14.
We have seen that the writer of the Letter of James is concerned with the steadfastness of faith and the continuity between what a Christian believes and does. James 3 is a continuation of that concern, but with a very precise focus: the importance of Christians exercising control over what they say.
James does not agree with those who shrug off the consequences of what they say. He would never agree that these are "just words" or "a slip of the tongue." For good or evil, words can have powerful effects upon people and the world.
Those who teach as Christians must realize that their words can be very harmful to others and themselves. "Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, for you know that we who teach shall be judged with greater strictness" (3:3). Anyone who has had the job of recruiting Sunday school teachers will not likely appreciate this remark by James! But this warning applies only to those who are careless and do not

take seriously their role. A teacher teaches, not only with words, but also his or her life.

What Is Left?

Theologian Soren Kierkegaard once wrote about preachers in a vein that applies also to teachers: "Order the parsons to be silent on Sunday. What is there left? The essential things remain: their lives, the daily life with which the parsons preach. Would you, then, get the impression by watching them, that it was Christianity they were preaching?"

Actually, I think we ought not to stop with preachers and teachers, but should ask this question of all of us who profess to be Christians.

People tend to underestimate the power of the human tongue because it is so small. But James pointedly demonstrates that "small" does not necessarily mean impotent. "If we put bits into the mouths of horses that they may obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Look at the ships also; though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder whenever the will of the pilot directs. . . . How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire!" (3:3-5)

The Tongue As A Window

We can use the power of speech for good or evil. "With it we bless the Lord and Father . . ." (3:9). We can use it to lift up our neighbor, or to put him or her down. We can speak wisdom or drivel. We can inspire people to noble deeds or we can tempt them to evil. Just consider for one moment all the misery, heartache, violence, prejudice, and destruction have been caused by Christians who have not learned to control their tongues.

The problem is not with the tongue itself, but the person in whose mouth it resides and whose character is revealed by it. James uses analogies to indicate that the source of the tongue's morality or immorality is what is within us.

"Does a spring pour forth from the same opening fresh water and brackish? Can a fig tree, my brethren, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh" (3:11, 12). Often, when public figures are quoted as having said something that causes recriminations, they are likely to excuse themselves, holding that the words didn't mean what they seemed to say. But all too often, our words are a window to what really lies inside us.

Socrates once told a potential pupil that he would have to charge him a double fee. "Why?" the student wanted to know. Replied the philosopher, "Because I must teach you two things. The one how to hold your tongue, and the other how to speak!"

As the tongue goes, so goes the life of the Christian. "Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good life let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom" (3:13).

What are the natural consequences of the true follower of Jesus? "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity. And the harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace" (3:17,18).

Does that sound like anyone you know?

Lancaster Farming
An Award-Winning Farm Newspaper

- PDA Friend of Agriculture Award, 2003
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- PACD Media Award 1996
- Recognized for photo excellence throughout the years by the Northeast Farm Communicators
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