



OPINION

Fair Trade: Getting Better All The Time

We are reminded of the quote from George Bernard Shaw: "If all economists were laid end to end, they would not reach a conclusion."

So it is with a grain of salt that you have to take some news about how, exactly, the "balance" of trade is. Especially when, just like anybody else, economists can also fail to do their homework — or simply are just human.

But some good news has come out of Cancun, Mexico, of all places, about how farmers and artisans in what used to be called "third world" countries are having enormous success selling products in developed countries, such as our own.

The report, sent early last month from the Fair Trade Federation, points to growing consumer awareness about large-scale corporate issues (maybe in cost-cutting during the down economy, some quality was lost on products?) and awareness that farmers in Mexico and other countries have to make a living, too.

The Fair Trade industry in North America and the Pacific Rim grew an impressive 37 percent over the past year, according to the 2003 Report on Fair Trade Trends, sponsored by the Fair Trade Federation and the International Federation for Alternative Trade, and published by Co-op America. Total Fair Trade sales in the U.S., Canada, and Pacific Rim reached \$250.6 million.

Highlighting substantial growth in domestic import, sales, and employment, the report is good news for citizen groups concerned about worker mistreatment and corporate-led growth. The reports findings indicate growing consumer demand for goods that are traded through direct partnerships between economically disadvantaged artisans and farmers, and marketers in developed markets in the North.

Perhaps this reflects the upsurge in demand from our local farmers selling their goods at roadside stands — quality starts where you know who supplies the product, and where it's coming from.

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Saturday, September 27

Penn State Poultry Science Alumni and Friends Reunion, University Park, (814) 865-3411.

Geology of Bradford and Sullivan Counties Annual Bus Trip, (570) 746-1844.

Washington County Cattlemen's Association Classic Club Calf Show and Sale, Washington County Fairgrounds, Meadow Lands, 6 p.m., (724) 239-3556.

Village of Falmouth Goat Races and Festival, Governor's Stable Park, Turnpike Road, Lancaster County, (717) 367-6801.

York County Watershed Weekend free public tours, thru Sept. 28, 1

p.m.-4 p.m. daily, (717) 840-7430. 10th Annual Country Living Field Day, Kenwood Farms, Augusta, Ohio, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

N.J. Sheep and Fiber Festival, Salem County Fairgrounds, Woodstown, N.J., thru Sept. 28, (856) 467-4418.

Annual Horticulture Show, Penn State Ag Arena, thru Sept. 28, (814) 863-6167.

Chester County Family Day at Springton Manor Farm, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Raine date Sept. 28, (610) 942-2450.

Hudson Valley Garlic Festival, Cantine Field, Saugerties, N.Y., 10

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Lancaster Farming Editorial Staff:

Your Source For Ag News

Our time and talents are invested heavily in bringing news from the region's ag events to your home — and we've been doing so a long time. The *Lancaster Farming* editorial staff has been recognized by various organizations with:

- 2 Northeast Farm Communicators Association first-place awards.
- 2 Keystone Awards.
- Ag Journalist of the Year.
- Dairy Council and NEAFCS Honors.

Andy Andrews, editor, about 14 years of service to *Lancaster Farming*, 22 years in the journalism field. Winner of the 1992 PennAg Ag Journalism of Year honors; winner of 1993 Keystone Press Award; honorable mention, 1995, Keystone Press; first-place award for special project category, Northeast Farm Communicators Association (NEFC), 2003.

Lou Ann Good, food and family features editor, 16 years of service to *Lancaster Farming*, 17 years in the journalism field, winner of the Dairy Council Inc. Friend of Nutrition Education and National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences honors.

Dave Lefever, staff writer, about three years of service to *Lancaster Farming*, five years in the journalism field.

Charlene Shupp, staff writer, four years in the journalism field.

Michelle Kunjappu, sections staff, three years of service to *Lancaster Farming*, four years in the journalism field. Kunjappu is the winner of a first-place photo-journalism award from NEFC.



Now Is The Time

By Leon Ressler
Lancaster County Extension Director

To Manage Wind-Damaged Corn

The remnants of Hurricane Isabel that passed through last weekend caused significant wind damage to corn fields throughout central and southeastern Pennsylvania.

Extension corn specialist Greg Roth reports corn ranges from leaning over to broken above the ear to broken below the ear and some is completely flat. Damage seems to be a function of the exposure, planting date, corn borer injury, stalk rot, and genetics, and often varies dramatically from one field to the next. Late-planted fields seem especially hard hit in some areas. The poor root development, wet soils, tall corn, and high ear placement all contributed to lodging problems.

At this point, producers should not panic and focus first on fields that have significant amounts of corn that are broken off. These fields would be at most risk for developing moldy ears and low test weight grain and have the least recovery potential. If the corn is immature, a silage harvest would be appropriate, with storage plans reflecting the moisture content of the crop. For very wet silages, consider horizontal storage structures to minimize seepage.

Corn that is not broken off and leaning or bent over should mature at a slower pace but eventually reach

physiological maturity. There is some risk of increased ear molds on this corn, especially on really down fields, so a silage harvest would be the preferred method of handling this crop. Roth suggests you should monitor these fields as they mature and harvest rapidly if significant ear molds begin to develop. Otherwise try to let the crop mature until it reaches the desired moisture for ensiling or shelled corn harvest. The best of the lodged fields to consider for shelled corn harvest would be those that have already developed a milk line and started to mature and those that only have patches of down corn.

There are mixed reports on harvest success with various equipment configurations. It may be a good idea to check with your farm equipment dealer on what is working in your area. Specialized harvesting equipment is available for harvesting down corn for grain. A list of manufacturers is available at Roth's Website at cornandsoybeans.psu.edu.

On the bright side, corn in many fields throughout the region withstood the high winds and has high yield potential for both silage and grain this year.

To Report Crop Losses

To Your Crop Insurance Agent
The 30,000 policies purchased by Northeastern producers are providing protection and peace of mind in the aftermath of hurricane Isabel. In 2003 it is estimated that about one billion dollars of crop insurance protection is in force and bad weather such as hurricanes are among the covered causes of loss for most crops. The protection in force in Pennsylvania alone is estimated at 15,789 policies, providing \$280 million of protection.

Producers are encouraged to report crop damage immediately to their insurance agent. They should also discuss what they plan to do with the damaged crop(s) and ask for specific instructions of what is required of them as supporting evidence in the event that a claim results. If a producer wants a second opinion, they can also ask their insurance agent to help them to get in contact with the insurance company fieldman or a loss adjuster.

In most cases, producers are likely to continue caring for the damaged crop(s) and harvest the remaining production. In such instances, if after harvesting the production is less than

the insurance guarantee, a loss payment will be made for the shortfall below the guarantee. However, if producers decide to make other use of damaged crop(s) (including cutting for hay or silage, grazing, disking, or simply not harvesting, etc.) an insurance loss adjuster usually needs to do a damage assessment before evidence is destroyed.

To Assist Those In Heavily Damaged Areas With Silage Harvest

The heavy damage in some areas from last week's high winds has created a huge demand for silo filling services that has overwhelmed the local custom operator's ability to meet the need. The late season combined with numerous weather delays had the harvesting crews behind schedule before the hurricane hit. This is exaggerated by the need of farmers who normally harvest with horses to now have their fields custom chopped.

In the areas of the region where there was little storm damage, there may be custom operators who would be willing to assist the hard-hit areas for a few days. Others may have choppers or wagons they are no longer using and would be willing to loan or sell that equipment. Coordinating those who are willing to help with those who need help is a challenge.

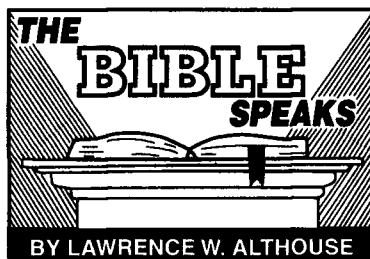
To assist with this, the Lancaster extension office will compile lists of those who can help and those who need services. Call the office at (717) 394-6851 during normal business hours from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and let us know what you have to offer, whether it would be custom chopping services, equipment for sale or loan, or other assistance. If you need custom chopping service, equipment, or other help, call us as well and we will add your name to the list.

By Tuesday, Sept. 30, we will post on the Lancaster County Website (<http://lancaster.extension.psu.edu>) a link entitled "Silage Harvest Help." When you click on that link, you will be able to choose the list of those offering services or those requiring services. We will update this list each evening based on the calls we received that day.

Quote Of The Week:

"Most people who succeed in the face of seemingly impossible conditions are people who simply don't know how to quit."

— Robert Schuller



A 'REAL' MAN?

Background Scripture:
James 4:1 through 5:6.
Devotional Reading:
1 Peter 5:1-6.

One of the goals of the 20th century was worldwide peace, a goal shared by Christians and non-Christians as well. Today the situation with world peace is disheartening. Historians now tell us that the 20th century was the bloodiest in human history, and this would have been true even without the Holocaust and the atomic bomb. During the 20th century, 160 million people perished in warfare.

Homo Sapiens is supposed to be in the process of evolution, but the evidence is not encouraging. In the past 3,130 years of history, there were only 227 years of peace and 3,130 years of war. We average one year of peace for every 13 years of war. From 1500 BC to 1869, there were more than 8,000 treaties of peace, which were meant to remain in force forever. The average time they remained in force was two years.

A few weeks ago I read that in Caesar's time it cost 75 cents to kill a man in battle. By Napoleon's day, the cost had risen to \$3,000. During

our Civil War, the cost of killing a Billie Yank or a Johnnie Reb had gone up to \$5,000. In World War I, the cost had skyrocketed to \$21,000 and, by World War II, that figure had more than doubled to \$50,000. After Korea, Vietnam and two Iraqi wars, I can't imagine today's cost.

The 21st Century

Today, less than three years into the new millennium, the search for peace has lost significant ground and momentum and, having experienced 9/11, conquered Iraq — at least militarily — some people are already talking about Iran and North Korea being next on our list.

Back in 1924 Thomas Hardy wrote this verse:

*Peace upon earth was said, we sing it
And pay a million priests to bring it.*

*After two thousand years of mass,
We've got as far as poison gas.*

And now, about 80 years later, we've gotten as far as nuclear weapons of mass destruction and propaganda of mass deception.

Biologist Hudson Hoagland noted, "I believe that we are animals, and that we are a special kind of animal. . . . We are imaginative animals. When we want to be cruel, we can be cruel in a thoroughly imaginative way. I do not think you can find any animals that could have produced the genocide of 6 million Jews. . . . This is a human performance. I do not think you could find a concentration camp developed by animals. . . . Genocide is characteristic of the human animal, and so is war."

This human trait led theologian Reinhold Niebuhr to observe that "man is a kind of lion who both kills the lamb and also dreams of the day when the lion and the lamb shall lie down together."

I find it ironic that many of those of us who follow and worship Jesus, the Prince of Peace, do not show much enthusiasm for peacemaking. We do have a Nobel Prize for peacemakers, but the winners are hardly remembered by the world, while the generals and war makers are. Organized Christianity, which began as a pacifistic faith, shows very little appreciation for pacifists and conscientious objectors.

Enmity With God

James asks: "What causes wars, and what causes fighting among you? Is it not your passions that are at war in your members?" You desire and do not have; so you kill. And you covet and cannot obtain; so you fight and wage war" (4:1-3). James also indicates that war is still valued in the world, if not in the teachings of Jesus Christ. Yet James says, "Unfaithful creatures! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?" (4:4).

In 1944, General George S. Patton, taking command of the U.S. Third Army in England, told his troops that, apart from preserving our liberties and defeating Nazism, they were there is "because men like to fight. They always have and they always will. Some sophists and crackpots deny that. They don't know what they're talking about. They are either (expletive deleted) fools or cowards or both. Men like to fight, and if they don't, they're not real men."

So, was Jesus a coward or a fool? Was he not a "real man"?

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