

Lancaster Farming

OPINION

Celebrating Our Birthday

Lancaster Farming newspaper began as a small county weekly newspaper on Nov. 4, 1955. Since then, it has grown to include more than 50,000 weekly, direct-mail readers, whose numbers continue to grow.

In the 1950s, founder Robert Campbell recognized a need for a weekly farm paper that serviced the agri-economy in Lancaster County and, later on, in southeastern Pennsylvania. Demand continues for such a paper to bring the latest developments to farmers and agribusinesses, who comprise the more than \$51 billion regional agricultural economy.

What sets the tabloid-size, Web-printed Lancaster Farming apart from other weekly farm newspapers is a focus on a particular kind of production agriculture, known for years to readers. Lancaster Farming is a type of high-production, maximum-use-of-acres type of farming.

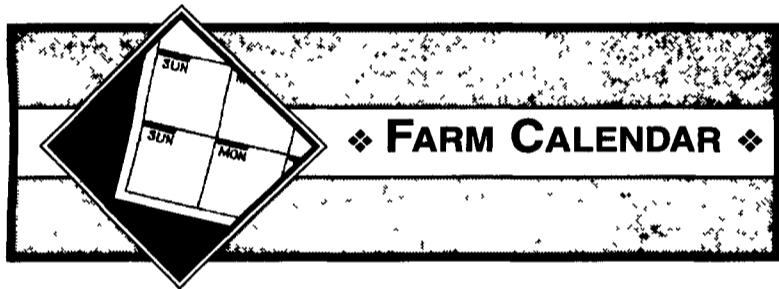
However, almost as important to the reader-driven editorial is a focus on the lifestyle called agriculture. Important are the ways in which readers value the newspaper. For example, one of the most popular sections, Section B, is devoted to family living. That section includes not only recipes, but also family feature stories, special pages on antiques, questions from readers, and university extension service columnists.

Lancaster Farming speaks directly to readers at several large agriculture events, including the state Farm Show and Penn State's Ag Progress Days. Readers often point to our paper as the "Saturday Special," usually receiving their issue every Saturday by post.

What makes Lancaster Farming, at times running 200 pages, so successful is a blend of news coverage, features, farm calendar listings, and a service called Mailbox Markets.

Mailbox Market allows readers, using their mailing label, to advertise any products or services. The only restriction is that readers not

(Turn to Page A29)



Saturday, November 1

ADADC District Meeting, Catherine Methodist Church, Odesa, N.Y.

Franklin County Master Gardeners Garden Visit, (717) 263-9226.

N.J. Draft Horse and Mule Association's Field Days, Alstead Farms, Chester, N.J., 11 a.m.-4 p.m. each day, thru Nov. 2, (908) 879-7189.

"Enhancing the Watershed Forest" Conference, Treadway Inn and Conference Center, Bradford County Extension, Owego, N.Y., 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Forestry Stewardship, Frederick Community College, Frederick, Md., 9 a.m.-4 p.m., (301) 631-3576.

Sunday, November 2

Standardbred Horse Sale, thru Nov. 8, (717) 637-8931.

Monday, November 3

Beef Quality Assurance Program, Clarion, Butler, Venango, and Armstrong counties, Clarion County Extension office, Ship-

pennville, 6:30 p.m., (717) 939-7000.

Tuesday, November 4

Berks County extension holiday programs, Leesport, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Also Nov. 5.

Accounting Methods for Progressive Dairies, Penn State, Harrisburg Campus, thru Nov. 5, (888) 373-7232.

Pa. Beef Quality Assurance Program, Crawford, Erie, Venango counties, Days Inn Hotel, Meadville, 6:30 p.m., (717) 939-7000.

Marketing the Best of This Year's Forage, Closky Dairy Farm, Cambridge Springs, Crawford County, 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m. and Telesz Dairy Farm, Volant, Lawrence County, 1:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

Wednesday, November 5

Business Skills Development Seminar, Nittany Lion Inn, State College, (610) 391-9840.

Lycoming County Cooperative Extension Dinner Meeting, Eldred Twp. Fire Hall, Warrensville, 6 p.m., (570) 433-3040.

Lebanon County extension holiday program, Lebanon, 8:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Also Nov. 6.

Managing Ag Emergencies Workshop, Monroe County Public Safety Center, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., (570) 675-9274.

Grower and Floral Expo, Holiday Inn Central Greentree, Pittsburgh, (717) 238-9758.

New York New Potato Variety Show and Tell, Cornell University's Love Field House, Ithaca, 11:30 a.m.

Dauphin County 4-H Achievement Night, 5:30 p.m., (717) 921-8803.

(Turn to Page A28)



Now Is The Time
By Leon Ressler
Lancaster County Extension Director

To Be Aware Of Molds, Mycotoxins In Your Silage

This year's silage crop was produced under conditions that encourage mold growth and increase the risk of mycotoxin problems, including wet weather during corn silking, insect damage to silks, and harvest following frost (resulting in forage that is drier and harder to pack).

Penn State Dairy Specialist Dr. Jud Heinrichs tells us the presence of visible mold does not necessarily mean there are mycotoxins present, and mycotoxins can be present when mold is not visible.

Cattle eating feed contaminated by mycotoxins can show a number of symptoms, including poor weight gain, reproductive problems, reduced feed intake, lowered milk production, and suppression of the immune system. Unfortunately, these symptoms could be caused by a variety of problems besides mycotoxins, which makes it

difficult to diagnose or treat the problem. Dairy animals that are most at risk from mycotoxins are young calves up to several months of age, close-up cows, and early lactation cows.

If mycotoxin poisoning is suspected, test all feed ingredients including concentrates. Adding a binder ingredient (adsorbent) to the ration to inactivate the mycotoxins may reduce some animal symptoms based on some reported research. In some research, clay products such as calcium or sodium bentonite have been shown to prevent mycotoxins in feed from being absorbed into the body to a limited extent. Other ration ingredients with some research trial support that may be used to minimize the effects of mycotoxins include charcoal, fiber, aluminosilicates, and yeast cell components. Some products appear to have an effect on some toxins and not others, yet these are not consistent between studies.

It is important to understand that these products are not FDA approved and cannot be marketed for purposes of mycotoxin binding because these products have very mixed results in field testing (positive and no effects). Heinrichs recommends that you consult your dairy nutritionist when you suspect problems related to mycotoxins. Your nutritionist can direct you in testing forages and feeds for such compounds and determine what the best options appear to be for alleviating the problems in your particular herd.

To Clean Up Waste Plastic On Our Farms

Before the weather turns colder, we have an opportunity to pull up any remaining plastic mulch in our fields and recycle it. This is a good time to clean up other waste plastic on the farm, including bale wrap, silage bags, trench silo covers, plas-

tic mulch used in horticultural production, and shrink-wrap from palletized supplies.

Burning this waste plastic in open fires is an unacceptable disposal method since it creates a tremendous amount of pollution both as particulate matter in the smoke and as petroleum by products left by this low-temperature burning.

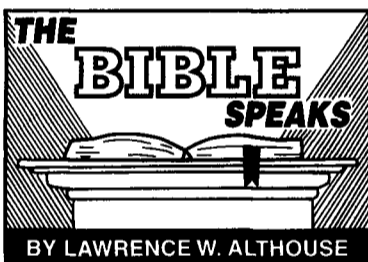
This material is again being collected and baled in Lancaster County for use in the production of plastic lumber. The bales of recycled plastic material will be hauled to the Trex Company factory in Virginia for this purpose. There it will be mixed with waste wood chips and sawdust to produce a product for use in plastic decking.

The waste material is now being collected on at the Dan Zook farm located at 183 South Farmersville road, Leola. Any polyethylene product will be accepted which includes plastic mulch, ag bag plastic, bale wrap, silage covers, greenhouse covers, and shrink-wrap. Materials that are not acceptable include plastic twine, row covers, molded plastic such as greenhouse trays and pots, milk jugs, and pesticide or other containers.

A tipping fee will be collected when the material is delivered to the farm. The fee is approximately half of what it would cost to take the material to the municipal incinerator in Lancaster County. If you have a collection of waste plastic, take the time to remove it while this opportunity is still available. Call Dan Zook at (717) 656-4422 to make arrangements before delivering your material. This will insure you can be unloaded in a quick and efficient manner, saving time for all.

Quote Of The Week:
"The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather in a lack of will."

— Vince Lombardi



WHO TURNED OUT THE LIGHT?

Background Scripture:
1 John 1:1 through 3:10.
Devotional Reading:
Ephesians 5:1-10.

In its turn-of-the-century issue, Time Magazine listed Reinhold Niebuhr's "The Nature and Destiny of Man" as one of the most important books of the century. When first published, some critics groused that Niebuhr was overly pessimistic in concentrating on man's sinful nature. In those days, sin was not a popular topic. Today, it is rarely mentioned.

When people hear the word "sin," they think in terms of what other people do or don't do. Despite Jesus' criticism of the Pharisees, over the centuries Christianity seems to have become increasingly fixed on the pharisaical model in which sin is defined as various specific acts or failures to act. If one lives up to our codifications of sin, they are regarded as good Christians whose sins are both small and infrequent — if at all. If those codes are broken, the breakers are regarded as sinners. All of this despite Paul's reaffirmation of Psalms 14: 1,2: "There is none righteous; no, not one." (Rom. 3:10).

Although I had studied under Niebuhr at Union Theological

Seminary and read a number of his books, until the year 2000 I had not ventured to read "The Nature And Destiny of Man." But, to celebrate my 70th year, I decided to tackle the more than 600 pages of these two volumes. I had never been one to blanch at the mention of "sin," but Niebuhr reawakened me to the depth and breadth of this reality.

'Nice' Is Not Enough

When we live by any set of pharisaical rules, but go no further than that, we earn the approbation of "respectability." But Jesus calls us not to respectability, but to righteousness — and there's a yawning chasm between them. Respectability may become an attainable substitute for righteousness, which, Jesus said, must exceed that of the Pharisees. We may stop there and rest on our laurels, assuming that "sinners" applies only to those who have not risen as high as we — or as high as we think we — have risen.

Respectability leads us to a false sense of self-satisfaction. But, we've all got the disease, and the worst thing is to know that we all have it. Niebuhr says, "The consciousness of sin and the consciousness of God are inextricably involved with each other." If we are truly conscious of God, then we cannot be unconscious of the chasm that lies between God and us.

What makes sin so powerful and pervasive is that often it is unconscious. We push it from our conscious minds so that we do not have to confront it. Instead of dealing with it, we may also project it outward onto others — "... first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye" (Mt. 7:5).

Sins Of 'Good People'

Niebuhr denounced "not the visible sins of wicked people, but the invisible sins of good people." He wrote: "Not much evil is done by evil men; most of the evil is done by good men who do not know they are not good."

So we sin both as individuals and as members of communities, groups, and nations. "There is an increasing tendency among modern men," he wrote, "to imagine themselves ethical because they have delegated their vices to larger and larger groups." World War I, he said, was "made inevitable not by bad people who plotted against the peace of the world, but by good people who had given over their conscience into the keeping of their various political groups."

I think Niebuhr's words give added emphasis and depth to 1 John 1:6,8,10, "If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth. . . . If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. . . . if we say we have not sinned. We make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

Yet, linked to the bad news of human sin is the good news of divine redemption: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins. . . ." (1:9). Niebuhr was pessimistic about human sin, but hopeful about God's grace: "The Christian faith is primarily the assurance of a divine forgiveness toward all who do not pretend to be righteous, but know themselves to be sinners."

If you are walking in darkness, don't ask, "Who turned off the light?" You did!

How To Reach Us
To address a letter to the editor:
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• By regular mail:
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• By e-mail:
farming@lancasterfarming.com
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.

Lancaster Farming
An Award-Winning Farm Newspaper

- PDA Friend of Agriculture Award, 2003
- Keystone Awards 1993, 1995
- PACD Media Award 1996
- Recognized for photo excellence throughout the years by the Northeast Farm Communicators
- PennAg Industries 1992
- Berks Ag-Business Council 2000

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