

# Lancaster Farming

## OPINION

### Closer To Your Environment

A couple of weeks ago, *Lancaster Farming* staff attended the 2003 fall Continuing Education Seminar for certified crop advisers (CCAs) at the Grantville Holiday Inn.

The buzz: pretty soon, maybe late in 2004, farmers will be seeing a completely renovated Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Law.

In 1996, the first Nutrient Management Law for Pennsylvania was enacted. The law's purpose: get the streams and Chesapeake Bay watershed free of nitrogen. The plan: make it as simple as a one-page sheet like Maryland, and have the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) administer it.

In stories which we publish this week, we learn from several that we've ventured far — perhaps too far — from that simple, straightforward, workable plan, in which the State Conservation Commission oversees while the PDA does the legwork.

Now, perhaps late this year or early next, a new, renovated law will take the place of the nitrogen, or N-based plan, that's been with us for about a decade.

Farmers are concerned.

They should be.

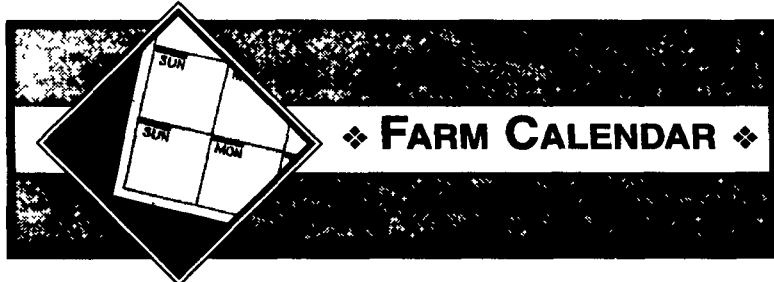
The plan is going to make land managers more aware of their property than they ever were before, or thought possible.

As a farm field manager, you will have to know how water behaves on your land. You will be required to have a conservation plan and actually put that plan in place. You will have to follow a phosphorous index, or a way to place your phosphorous-laden manure on that doesn't leach out into streams or run off and pollute the water table. The site index will restrict where that manure can be placed, and it will affect all farms in a big way.

First there will be a public review and comment period. Those dates will be posted in our Farm Calendar starting this page.

At the fall CCA meeting, Peter Kleinman, Penn State/USDA, made it

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### ❖ FARM CALENDAR ❖

Saturday, November 15

Central Pa. Avian Club meeting, Mountain View Restaurant, 2 p.m., (570) 837-3157.

Monday, November 17

Young Farmers and Ranchers Annual Auction and Meeting, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, thru Nov. 1.

Pa. Beef Quality Assurance Recertification Meeting, Columbia County Extension Office, Bloomsburg, 7:30 p.m., (717) 939-7000.

Northampton County Extension Annual Meeting, Star Grange, Mooresstown, 6:30 p.m., (610) 746-1970.

Milk Prices Hearing, Evans Hall, Keystone College, LaPlume, 10 a.m., (570) 833-4592.

Octoraro Area Young Farmers meeting, Vo-Ag Dept., High School, 7:30 p.m., (610) 593-8259.

Tuesday, November 18

Western Pa. Commercial Vegetable

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### ❖ FARM FORUM ❖

#### Editor:

Did you attend a Veterans' Day service this week? If you weren't able to, it's not too late to honor our veterans. We can and should remember those men and

women who have guarded this nation for generations on more than one day set aside each year. We should make it a routine to spend some time each month or even each week finding ways to pay tribute to our veterans.

Now the torch has been passed to a new generation of veterans. We have again called on our servicemen and women to take up arms in defense of our nation. But it is a defense like no other in our country's history.

It is a defense against faceless fanatics who value death and destruction above all else — including their own lives.

We fought battles on the desert soil of Iraq and won the war, ousting one of the world's worst dictators who for years has threatened the world with the horrors of terrorism. We freed a

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## Now Is The Time

### By Leon Ressler

Lancaster County Extension Director

#### To Check And Winterize Your Poultry Housing

Cold weather has arrived in the region and there are several things that should be done at this time to prepare your poultry houses for winter operations.

Penn State Regional Poultry agent Gregory Martin points out that cleaning your fans is more important now than at any other time. Since fewer fans will be running during the winter, it is important that they run in optimal condition in order to provide adequate air exchange and drying of litter and manure.

Since most fans are run in combination with some sort of shutters, it is vital that these are cleaned and checked as well. Poorly operating louvers/shutters will leak cold air back into the poultry house and will create cold spots within a house.

Watering systems will need to be examined as well, since the removal of wet manure and litter because of water leaks would be hampered at times by climatic conditions. Be sure that water supply pipes and manifolds are properly insulated or are placed in insulated rooms to prevent pipes from bursting and to insure that proportioners, pressure regulators, and other watering appliances are in working order during cold weather.

A quick check of the roof and the truss system should be made to ensure that there are no sagging or broken timbers in the roof that could fail under a snow or wind load. This also includes a check of the roofing as well to repair loose-fitting roofing that may be lost in high wind conditions. The addition of snow jacks or other snow diverting devices should be placed above fan nacelles and other equipment that would be damaged by snow dropping off the roof.

Gutters should be free of debris that could restrict rainwater from being carried away from the building. Water near an exterior wall can "wick" under a wall and cause problems under severe conditions. All drainage for the housing should be examined to be sure all water flows would move as planned and unimpeded.

A review of electrical systems, including the servicing of generators, emergency lights, and alarms should be done at this time, as power interruptions can occur during heavy snow and rain. Alarm sensors and systems should be tested if auto diagnostics are not part of the system. Battery backups to these systems (if installed) should be checked and replaced as directed by the manufacturer.

Finally, access roads especially for the feed trucks should be maintained or repaired. This includes the additional application of crushed stone or gravel or the regrading of the road to ensure proper drainage of water away from the road. Asphalt paved roads should be top-sealed at this time. Locks to gates should be examined and lubricated to prevent freezing and rust accumulation. Signage should be easy to read and clearly visible.

With these steps in place, we hope the downtime due to systems failures will be minimized. The small investment in time early may help reduce the potential loss from system failure.

#### To Be Aware Of The Northeastern Integrated Pest Management Center

Penn State and Cornell University will share a four-year, \$4.3 million grant from the USDA to jointly administer the Northeastern Integrated Pest Management Center.

Established in 2000, the Northeastern IPM Center promotes practical pest management solutions for urban

and rural settings in Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, West Virginia, the New England states, and the District of Columbia. The grant represents a 44 percent annual increase over the center's previous level of funding.

The center, one of four regional IPM centers across the country, is the hub for a network of university researchers and extension specialists and serves as a clearinghouse for print and electronic information supporting the adoption of IPM. Integrated pest management aims to manage pests — such as insects, diseases, weeds, and animals — by combining physical, biological, and chemical tactics that are safe, profitable, and environmentally compatible.

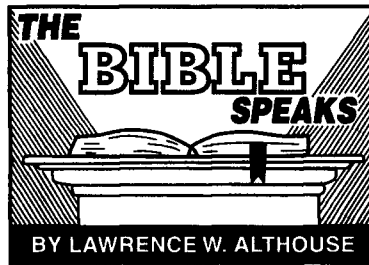
The Northeastern IPM Center's co-directors are John Ayers, professor of plant pathology and director of Penn State's Pesticide Education Program, and James VanKirk, Cornell senior extension associate. VanKirk oversees daily operations of the center.

"The increase in funding will enable us to develop new programs and enhance support for users of pest management information, including farmers, nursery operators, park and turf managers, building superintendents, pest control operators, homeowners, gardeners, and others," Ayers said. "The center will continue to facilitate communication among these groups and others with a stake in pest management policy and implementation, such as consumer and environmental organizations, governmental regulatory agencies, researchers, and educators."

New initiatives will include competitive grants programs to support the development of IPM planning tools, the creation of new IPM publications, and the establishment of IPM research or extension projects. In addition, the center will organize a new biannual conference for those in the region with an interest in IPM issues. The conference will help prioritize IPM needs and promote new collaborations among participating institutions.

**Quote Of The Week:**  
"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve."

— Albert Schweitzer



## WE SHALL OVERCOME

Background Scripture:

1 John 5.

Devotional Reading:

Romans 5:1-11.

One of the most memorable experiences of my life was to join in one of Martin Luther King's marches on Washington. I don't recall much of what was said that day, but I remember vividly our singing of:

*We shall overcome;  
We shall overcome;  
We shall overcome some day.  
Oh, deep in my heart  
I do believe that*

*We shall overcome some day.*

This song was a testimony not to our own prowess, but of faith in God to someday overcome the irrational violence to which the world seemed committed. We did not expect that all this "overcoming" would take place immediately, nor maybe even in our lifetimes. But we were convinced that God would overcome and we identified ourselves with that victory. We were living in the power of the victory that was yet to come.

#### Where's The Evidence?

Some three decades later, we have seen some good changes, but the world is still baldly resistant to the kingdom of God. When in my daily newspaper I read of the inhumanities and evil that still prevail in the world, as well as a seeming worldwide indifference to these realities, I sometimes forget that "we shall overcome" because God will overcome.

It is human to want to have some evidence that God's kingdom will finally prevail, but 1 John 5 suggests that we tend to look in the wrong places for that evidence. (I confess that I find 1 John's style, particularly in this fifth chapter, awkward and difficult. I've read it many times before I began to find it helpful.)

"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" (5:4,5). I will not likely find evidence in my daily newspaper that "we will overcome." Nor will I find that evidence in ecclesiastical statistics or anywhere else. The evidence is not "out there" but inside me. "Our faith" of which 1 John speaks is an "inside job."

"He who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself" (5:10a). What is this "testimony" that Christ's disciple finds "in himself"?

"And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." Standing alone, this verse suggests that the testimony is the promise of eternal life after death. It is that, but it is much more, for 1 John 5 speaks not just of what is to come after death, but before: "He who has the Son has life; he who has not the Son of God has not life."

#### Eternal Life Now!

So eternal life does not start when I die, but I can experience it here and now. The experience of that eternal life in Christ is something I know, not from outside evidence, but from evidence within.

What is that evidence but the inner assurance that "we will overcome" with God? We have not seen the victory with our physical eyes, but with the inner eyes of our faith.

I know that that may not sound very evidential! It is human to want to have it in black and white, carved in stone with a lifetime guarantee. But in my lifetime I have seen the failure of so many things that have been printed in black and white, carved in stone, and experienced the failure of lifetime guarantees, that I have come to realize that the only assurance is that of trusting God.

1 John 5 concludes with this counsel: "Little children, keep yourselves from idols" (5:21). If we think in terms of the idols that the writer of 1 John confronted, his advice seems terribly out of date. But an idol is anything that rivals God and thus our world is still full of idols. So let us keep from anything that rivals God, so that by our faith we may still with God "overcome the world!"

## Lancaster Farming

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—by—

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## Lancaster Farming

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