

Hamilton possessed when over 150 years ago he wrote in the Federalist Papers: "...supervision of agriculture and other concerns of a similar nature...can never be desirable cases of a general jurisdiction. It is improbable that there should exist a disposition in the federal councils to usurp the powers with which they are connected; because the attempt to exercise these powers would be as troublesome as they were navigatory."

Hamilton was wrong in his predictions as to what men would do, but right in foreseeing the consequences of their foolhardiness. Disregard of the constitution in this field has brought about the inevitable loss of personal freedom, created economic chaos, unmanageable surpluses, an immense tax burden, high consumer prices, and vexatious controls. Yet today, some of our best minds have no better solution to the problem than to raise supports and increase controls!

The tragedy is that the federal government's unconstitutional intrusion into agriculture has brought us no closer to the solution of the farm problem than before. The problem, when federal intrusion began, was declining farm incomes. Today, many farm incomes are still low, but now we have additional problems—production controls that restrict freedom, high consumer prices, huge crop surpluses, and a gigantic tax bill that is running close to six billion dollars a year.

The answer is obvious. Farm production, like any other production, is best controlled by the natural operation of the free market. If the nation's farmers are permitted to sell their produce freely, at a price they will, under the law of supply and demand, end up producing roughly what can be consumed in national and world markets. And if farmers find they are not getting high enough prices, some of them will move into other kinds of economic activity. The result will be reduced agricultural production and higher incomes for those who remain on the farms.

Doing something about it means—and there can be no equivocation here—prompt and final termination of the farm subsidy program. The only way to persuade farmers to enter other fields of endeavor is to stop paying inefficient farmers for produce that cannot be sold at free market prices. Is this a cruel solution? Is it heartless to permit the natural law of economics to determine how many farmers there shall be? It was never considered so before the subsidy program began. Let us remember that the move-

Plow Matches Are Scheduled By County SCD

Directors of the Lancaster County Soil Conservation District this week voted to combine the annual plowing contest and field day.

The plowing matches, scheduled to be held on the Roy

Garber farm, Littitz R3, on July 30, will offer trophies and prizes including a rotating trophy to the winner. Everett Kreider, Quarryville R1, won the first leg on the trophy last year.

Agencies cooperating with the SCD will have exhibits and demonstrations, and representatives of the agencies will be on hand to answer questions.

Chairman of the plowing contest is County Agent, M. M. Smith. Elmer Good, Littitz R2, will represent the Soil Conservation District on the committee.

Directors voted to postpone the June meeting until the second Monday in July, and to change the date of the annual meeting from a Wednesday to a Tuesday. The annual meeting, coming during Lent, normally conflicts with area church meetings. The date has not been set.

Directors approved the following two applications for free conservation plans: Harvey Z. Fox, Ephrata R3, 95 acres, and Lewis D. Sauder, Manheim R4, 48 acres. The two applications brings to 2,123 agreements that have been signed by the district since its beginning in 1938.

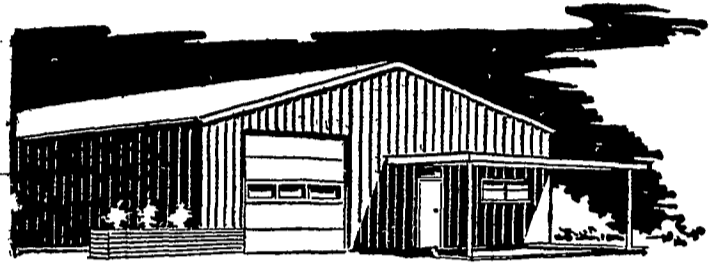
Roses Need Pruning

When new shoots appear on roses, it is time to prune these plants. Remove old or dead wood to keep the plant young and vigorous, advises Lynn Smith extension flower specialist at Penn State. Do not prune climbers and rambler roses until after they have bloomed or you will remove flower buds.

Carl G. Troop
R.D. #3
Quarryville, Pa.

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