

You CAN Do Something About Farmland Taxes

For farmers, the May 15 primary is one of the most important elections ever. A referendum on the ballot will determine whether or not the Pennsylvania constitution can be changed to allow laws that will permit the taxation of farmland on the basis of its use rather than its speculative value.

Under present Pennsylvania law, all land must be taxed according to its market value. Land which is 15 miles from the nearest town has a market value which approximates its value as an agricultural resource. The farmer who owns that land therefore pays taxes on the basis of his farm's value as farmland.

A farm which borders on Lititz, say, or Lancaster, is also taxed on the basis of its market value. But this farm's market value is a far, far cry from its value as farmland. And there are farmers who are being forced to sell their land for development because they can no longer generate enough income on those farms to pay their taxes.

This is an inequitable situation. The farmer is being victimized by economic factors beyond his control.

The unfortunate fact is that while a

farm's value may go up because of its potential value as a factory site, housing development or a shopping center, its value as farmland stays the same. You can't grow more corn on a piece of ground simply because the tax assessor says it's worth \$10,000 an acre.

The farmland tax issue has gained wide support from leaders in all walks of life, from both political parties and from farmer groups. A group calling itself the Clean and Green Committee is promoting a yes vote to news media, voters and influential people and organizations throughout the state.

The Clean and Green Committee isn't putting a lot of effort into contacting farmers, however. Their funds are limited, and they're betting that farmers will vote for the amendment because it's in their own best interests. And it's probably a pretty good bet that farmers who do go to the polls will vote yes.

Primary elections, however, are not noted for drawing a lot of voters. If you're not in the habit of voting in primary elections, this is a good year to start. Go to the polls. Vote "Yes" on "Joint Resolution Number One", for your own sake, and for a clean and green Pennsylvania.

The Tide is Turning, But....

Recent news about the fight against mental illness has been encouraging indeed. More mentally ill patients are recovering. More research into the causes, prevention and cure of mental illness is getting underway. More communities are providing comprehensive mental health centers for early detection, early treatment and rehabilitation.

We can safely say that the tide is beginning to turn in the fight against mental illness. But, as we rejoice, let us also remember that there has been no massive breakthrough. The gains are real, but they are small. Mental illness still remains the nation's number one health problem.

There are still over 350,000 patients in our mental hospitals, with thousands more coming all the time. There are still 20 million Americans who will suffer some

form of emotional disturbance that could benefit from psychiatric care. There are still tens of thousands of recovered mental patients in danger of breaking down again because they cannot get a welcome, a home and job.

Fortunately for the people of Lancaster County, the local Mental Health Association is carrying on a continued assault against mental illness and working to relieve the plight of the mentally ill.

During Mental Health Month, May 1 to May 31, the Lancaster County Mental Health Association will attempt to mobilize everyone's interest to relieve the emotionally disturbed. Support the work of the Lancaster County Mental Health Association because you can make a difference.

National Goodwill Week

National Goodwill Week will be observed May 6-12, 1973. It is intended to draw public attention to Goodwill Industries of America, which is the nation's outstanding voluntary, non-profit organization dedicated to the rehabilitation of handicapped men and women.

A severely-handicapped person often suffers from psychological blocks that make it impossible for him to expose himself to the competition of the world around him. But in Goodwill Industries' training shops, handicapped people are given the opportunity and encouraged to learn how to put their abilities to

productive use. For these people, Goodwill Industries substitutes hope for despondency and provides a way back from dependence and helplessness to a productive life, with all the sense of achievement and self-respect which that implies.

This fine organization deserves the broadest recognition for a job well done in the best tradition of voluntarism and self-help that is the strength of our nation. Every community of any size across the country needs both the spirit and the services of Goodwill Industries.

Logic and Food Prices

Pereless logic has never been a common attribute of the human race. Sadly, this is being proved again as many reach the conclusion that Phase III has failed and rigid price controls or perhaps a freeze are needed to halt inflation.

As *The Wall Street Journal* points out, an important part of the jump of the cost of living has been due to increased food prices, where Phase III controls are no different than Phase II controls were

People forget that the increased cost of many food items, including meat, is due to increased costs of production and to increased demand for these food products. Freezing prices at low levels that eliminated producer profit is no way to increase supply which, in turn, is the only way to reduce the pressure on prices. Let's quit kidding ourselves. Controlling the federal budget will control inflation and that is the end of the story.

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
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To Practice Tractor Safety

Most tractors will be put into action in the next several months. Operators are urged to practice every known safety practice in order to prevent a serious accident. In the rush to get the work done haste comes into the picture and many hazards are present. The danger of a tractor flipping backwards or upsetting is present under many conditions. A tractor operator cannot move fast enough to save himself if the tractor flips backwards; time studies show that a rearing tractor gives its operator just two-fifths of a second to move out of the way. This is not enough time to save yourself. Improper hitching (too high) to the tractor axle is a common cause of flipping and also gunning the engine when stuck in deep mud is another common cause; it is best to back out of deep mud. Proper speeds and no young "hitch-hikers" are ways to prevent accidents.

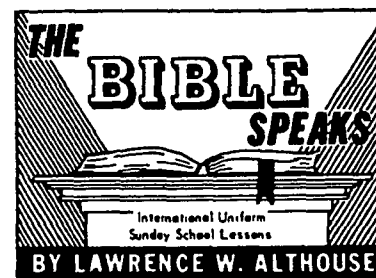
To Harvest Winter Grains At Proper Maturity

The making of winter grain into silage is one of the best ways to preserve a maximum amount of feed nutrients. However, much depends upon the stage of maturity when cut. In the case of winter rye, it should have been cut when the head was in the top of the plant or just emerging. Other small grains are best when cut between heading time and the

early milk stage—blossom time is a good maturity stage for grains crops. When we permit these grains to get more mature the stalks become too much fiber (more straw) and not as palatable. The adding of some feed preservative such as a molasses feed or some ground cereal grain such as corn, oats, or barley will help soak up the excess moisture and increase the palatability. Wilting is very essential to good small grain or hay-crop silage.

To Clip Pastures

The forage crops are maturing rapidly and many pasture grasses will soon be shooting seed heads; this is the signal for time to mow these areas to control weed development and to encourage the growth of younger grass. Mature grass is not as palatable and the plants will yield more total forage if mowed several times during the season. The first mowing on many local pasture areas will be due within the next few weeks. In past years most fields needed mowing by the last week in May; this year the forage season is at least a week to ten days ahead of schedule. Regular mowing of the pasture areas is strongly recommended for top appearance, yields, and week control.



TO LIVE AGAIN

Lesson for May 6, 1973

Background Scripture: John 1:9-13, Ephesians 2:1-10, Colossians 3:1-17.
Devotional Reading: Ezekiel 11:17-21.

Recently there has been considerable interest in the concept of reincarnation, the idea that we are born into this world, not once, but a number of times to live several lives and thus grow in the spirit to some level of the soul's maturity. Many people are fascinated with the possibility that they have "lived before," and may well "live again" in some future life or existence.



Rev. Althouse He gave power

Unfortunately, too many people become so fascinated in what they might have been, that they utterly forget to be concerned with what they can be right now. Even if there were "past" and "future" lives, these could not be half so important to us as experiencing life right now. Sometimes, to the person who asks me whether I think they might "live again," I am often tempted to ask them whether they are really "alive now."

That's what the good news of Jesus Christ is about: life here and now! We believe in a life beyond death, but we also believe in a life before death in all its fullness. Christ comes to give us power for such a life: "But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God" (John

1:12).

Yet, it is true that many of us reach a point in life where we are simply going through the motions, repeating old, tired routines. We need to be given the power to "live again," not in some distant "incarnation," but this one! We need new life now. We need, as the writer of Ephesians puts it, to be "made alive" again (2:1). This experience goes by many different names and descriptions. It matters little whether you call it "conversion," "new birth," "regeneration," "new life," or "renewal;" these words all point to a common reality: new power and direction for an individual's life.

"Dead through our trespasses"

The writer of Ephesians not only tells us what we need, he also helps us understand why we need it. We have become "dead" because of the kinds of life we have lived. For example, Ephesians says: "when you were dead through the trespasses and sins . . ." Thus, the focus is to allow Christ to make us "alive" once again:

But God . . . made us alive together with Christ . . . and raised us up with him (2:5, 6). The Apostle Paul made the same allusion in 2 Corinthians 5:17: **If any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold the new has come.**

There are many people today who know that they need "to live again." They are people whose lives have become stifled with sin, with conflict, with disappointment, with selfishness, with tragedy, with suffering, with boredom and indifference. Whenever the world has taken the life out of us, we need to seek his power that we might be helped to "live again."

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