



# Lancaster Farming

## EDITORIAL COMMENTS

BY DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR

### A better deal proposed

There's a bill in the State Senate Agriculture Committee at this time which should receive attention.

Already passed by the House by a vote of 172 to zero last month, Bill 219 would offer additional protection to land owners who might feel their land is being threatened. The Highway Department, for example, would no longer be able to take land at will. The same would be true of other projects.

Under the bill, landfills and rights

of way for highways would first have to be reviewed by a committee composed of the State Secretary of Agriculture, a member of the state Planning Commission, the Dean of the College of Agriculture at Penn State, the Environmental Resources Secretary, and three active farmers who are appointed by the Governor.

Sounds like a better deal than just taking land without further consideration. A phone call or letter to legislators may be in order to let them know how you feel.

### Questionable advertising

On many evenings and nights of this past winter I wondered why agricultural chemicals were being advertised on color television. The elaborately produced commercials were frequently seen during prime-time TV viewing hours and even far into the night when most farmers would already have turned out the lights and gone to bed.

I've not yet solved the riddle.

The need for advertising is appreciated. But advertising a product with a very limited market to an audience which includes even those farthest away from it, is debatable. After all, is there really a market in Downtown, U.S.A. for chemical weed killers specified for fields of corn? How many of the advertising dollars spent by these chemical firms were spent needlessly? How many genuine potential customers were reached per dollar spent? . . . and in relation to the total number of people who were tuned in?

### A bouquet for LCFA

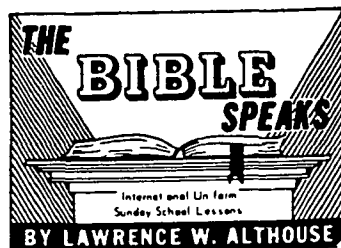
The Lancaster County Farmers Association has plans for bringing agriculture a little closer to the public this year. The group has arranged to have the entire Park City Mall for its use during the week of October 18-23.

As a non-profit organization, LCFA can stage the public relations affair without cost to them. All it'll take is some time and effort on the part of each member. If a golden opportunity for increasing public awareness ever came along, then certainly this is it, and everyone should be encouraged

to do his part to see the program succeed.

A spokesman at Park City told LANCASTER FARMING on Friday morning that the merchants there allow shows and displays to come in to attract shopping crowds. Mid-October is regarded to be a good time of year and they're expecting big crowds - not just to shop, but also to look around at what the farmers have to show.

Let's hope and show is a huge success. The idea deserves much support and applause.



#### HOW FREE ARE WE?

Lesson for May 23, 1976

**Background Scripture:** I Corinthians 6:9-20; Galatians 5:13-26.

**Devotional Reading:** Psalms 1.

It is said that we are living in an age of freedom. As never before, people are free to eat and drink what they please, say and do whatever they want, and take their pleasure wherever they can find it. Of course, there are understandable limits to that freedom, yet it is still true that this is probably one of the least restrictive ages man has ever known.

#### All things are lawful

To some degree it was necessary that man should experience this new freedom. Past societies had often gone to the opposite extreme, binding human behaviour with restrictions that were both delimiting and absurd. Life became a system of "Thou shalt nots," and it was assumed that if anything was enjoyable, it "probably was wrong!"

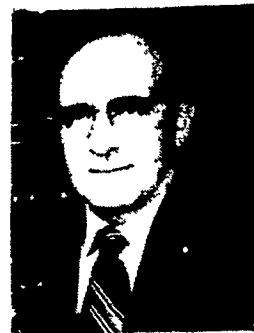
Today we find that society is swinging to the other extreme. In the past there were too many restrictions and rules, but today we often find that we need more, not less, and there is a deep desire to temper the new "freedom" of man with a sense of self-discipline and responsibility.

The issue is not a matter of whether we shall be free or not, for often our new "freedom" is a bogus, phony freedom. It is the kind of freedom that leads us to boast: "I can do anything I want to do." Yet this is often an empty, deceptive boast that may mean only that we have freely chosen to be dominated by some hunger, need, or drive.

We may say, for example, that we are free to eat all that we want to eat. With no restrictions on what we may eat, it does seem that we are free to do as we please. Yet, in reality, our "freedom" to eat all we want may degenerate into another kind of bondage. After awhile, we may no longer be able to eat just what we know is good for us, but, enslaved by our own voracious appetite, we may find that we are compelled to eat far more than we want or need.

#### Not all things are helpful

This same principle applies to all our appetites: physical, emotional and spiritual. Given free reign without any restraints at all, any of these appetites may destroy our "freedom" by ruling us, taking out lives out of the jurisdiction of our own



### NOW IS THE TIME . . .

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#### To Mow Pastures

Many pasture grasses are maturing along with the weeds and should be clipped in the next few weeks for best production. When the grass plant goes to seed it will stop growing unless clipped; this old growth will dry and will be consumed as grass hay by the animals. The clipping will encourage new growth and produce more beef or milk per acre. This should be done several times during the grazing year starting now late in May. Weeds will also be controlled by regular mowing and the pasture area will be improved in general appearance. Good pasture management requires several clippings during the summer months.

#### To Read the Label

Many types of chemicals are being used for food and fiber production. This applies to the suburban home owner as well as the commercial farmer. In all cases the user should first read the label and the directions on the package or container. Don't be guilty of getting into trouble with the material and then taking the time to read the label. Follow the instructions carefully; the chemical has been approved for a certain plant at the given rate and time of application. Don't change the mixture in any manner thinking that a bit more will give better control. Pesticide safety suggests the reading and the following of all directions.

### Farm Calendar

Sunday, May 23

Open House at the Welsh Mountain Medical Center, 3 to 5 p.m.

Monday, May 24

Red Rose DHIA board meeting, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 8 p.m.

"Agricultural Preservation" is subject of a program presented at the Drumore Elementary School, Drumore, 7:30 p.m. John Munson of the Community Resource Development staff is host.

Tuesday, May 25

Lancaster County Extension Association's board of directors meeting, 8 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room of Agway's Lancaster store, 1140 Dillerville Rd. (Located

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#### To Recognize Stage of Maturity

Hay-making time is at hand and some alfalfa growers have already made their first cutting. One of the most important factors in getting high quality hay or silage is to cut at the proper stage of maturity; I realize that the weather must cooperate in order to do the best job but we have little control over this factor. Grasses are at the peak of feed value when cut at heading time; do not let them develop into the blossom or seed-forming stage. Alfalfa and clover are best when cut in the bud to early blossom stage. Winter grains are best for silage making when cut in the blossom stage of maturity. Growers are urged to inspect their plants frequently to determine the exact stage of development. Forage crops may be easier to get dry when more mature than mentioned above, but the feed value will decrease with more maturity.

#### To Obtain Permit For Treating Farm Ponds

Many pond owners in this part of the country have trouble with algae and weed growth during the summer months; this is usually caused by the water being too shallow or too clear. Water less than 18 inches will permit algae growth quicker than deeper water; also water that is clear will permit the sun rays to reach the bottom and grow weeds and algae; fertilization of the pond will usually give the desired cloudy color. However, before a weed or algae infested pond is fertilized the growth should be stopped. The use of various chemicals will do the job. A permit from the Penna. Fish Commission is needed before the water is treated. Local pond owners are urged to get this permit before doing any pond treating.

free choices. Thus, satiated by a huge meal, we ask ourselves: "Why did I allow myself to eat so much and become so miserable?"

Paul caught this distinction and in I Corinthians 6 he lays it out for us: "All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful." To be really free is to have the power to do for ourselves what we know to be right and helpful to both us and others. Once again, Paul says: "All things are lawful by anything" (6:12).

Any time we are "enslaved" by anything, we are not truly free.

### RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong

