

EDITORIAL COMMENTS By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



Farmers' interests deserve more attention

Some good news has been coming out of several meetings, newspapers, broadcasts, and information bureaus in recent weeks. They're worthy of note and even praise.

Topping the list is the increased concern and involvement by Pennsylvania farmers on the issue of agricultural zoning and land use. A meeting on those issues was held at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center a week ago and a number of good ideas were shared. Lots of good advice and food for thought was also made available. Sharing their experiences and ideas were four zoning board members and two area planners.

The future of this country's farmland should be of concern to everyone who owns land. Farmland is our most precious resource. Indiscriminately paving it over with asphalt is already an expensive mistake, the consequences of which will grow worse each year as less

land is available for food production and more people await their meals.

Farmers should have a definite say about the future of their lands. As has been stated so often by many concerned individuals, the only way farmers can hope to have some say in these matters is to become involved. In fact, many times getting involved is only the second step. The first step is to take the initiative to have reasonable standards implemented in one's community.

While some sort of land-use plan will undoubtedly go into effect in most any area of the country someday, the key is to have such plans include the farmers' interests. Without the contributions of the farming community, even the most well-intended plans are likely to short-change farmers.

Although the farmer has always prided himself as an independent and perhaps even isolated businessman, the world is changing at such a rapid pace that he can't

afford to just ignore what's being fought and crowded about at city hall or the township shed. Few farmers can still enjoy the isolation they had years ago.

Last week's page 1 story in **Lancaster Farming** documented some of the possible consequences and hindrances that can take form when the farming community is not adequately represented at planning meetings. The farmer in Lancaster County who came close to receiving a court order against his broiler house can consider himself fortunate. The judge's decision came out in his favor.

Others have been less fortunate, and still others are still awaiting the outcome of their trials in court.

It's a shame that farmers have to go to court in order to go about their business. Nevertheless, and no matter how much we dislike it, it has become a fact of life.

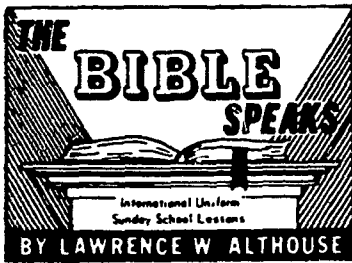
Although we can argue that "the farmer was there first and if the

transplanted city-slicker doesn't like his new neighborhood, that's just too bad," it's also a valid statement that the farmers should show some degree of consideration and courtesy towards their neighbors - be they farmers or non-farmers.

Most farmers are conscientious enough to show courtesy. But some are not. Educating those few will have to be a part of plans we devise to have effective and fair land-use ordinances.

Another news development in recent weeks which deserves praise is the Pennsylvania Farmers Association's and American Farm Bureau's call for investigations into matters which concern questionable use of taxpayers' money. Such instances have occurred in Pennsylvania.

As an example of the kinds of activities which are of concern, may we call your attention to the story on page 21, titled AFBF takes Labor Dept. to court.



TAMING THE WILD TONGUE
Lesson for November 5, 1978

Background Scripture:
Exodus 21:16;
Matthew 5:11, 12; 23:16-22;
James 3:6-14
Devotional Reading:
John 8:42-47.

There is an ancient prayer that asks:

From the cowardice that shrinks from the new truth,
From the laziness that is content with half-truths,
From the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth,
O God of Truth, deliver us.

In the Judaic - Christian tradition the Deity has always been regarded as a God of Truth. This attribute was something not found in many of the gods that peoples worshipped in the ancient world. Some of these gods were cunning and deceitful, tricking and

cheating their devotees as well as their fellow-gods.

False Witness
Thus it is not at all surprising that one of the Ten Commandments should manifest a concern for truth: "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" (Exodus 20:16). In this original form, bearing "false witness" was a prohibition against giving false testimony in a lawsuit involving a neighbor. But in time, it was recognized that God's intention behind this commandment was not limited to a court of law. Thus, Joshua charged the people of Israel: "Now

therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and faithfulness" (Joshua 24:14). When the Psalmist considered who would sojourn in the tent of the Lord, he concluded: "He who walks blamelessly, and does what is right, and speaks truth from his heart; who does not slander with his tongue..." (Psalms 15:2,3). And one of the ringing proclamations of the Prophet Zechariah commanded: "Speak the truth to one another, render in your gates judgements that are true and make for peace, do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and

love no false oath, for all these things I hate, says the Lord" (Zechariah 8:16,17).

A Simple "Yes" Or "No"
In the New Testament we see this concern broadened. Jesus tells his disciples, "...you heard that it was said to the men of old, 'you shall not swear falsely...' But I say to you, Do not swear at all... Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No' (Matthew 5:33,37)). Jesus recognized that oaths would not be necessary if people could be counted on to tell the truth without them. He was asking for a standard of truth that went far beyond telling the truth under oath.

James was deeply concerned about the destructive power of the tongue. He characterized it as a poisonous, incendiary, untamed beast. His epistle leads us to suspect that he knew some Christians who had unconverted tongues. With one breath they praised God and with the other they maligned their neighbors. "Does a spring pour forth from the same opening fresh water and brackish?" (James 3:11). One cannot be a Christian and a malinger of others. If the tongue remains unfamed, the discipleship is a sham and pretense.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
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when handling these animals. If you are bitten, see your physician at once. Bats are another mammal that could be rabid. Rabies is an incurable disease; don't take chances. Domestic dogs and cats should be vaccinated against rabies.

TO CONSIDER TREE WINDBREAKS

Winter winds are on the way and heat bills will be mounting. Buildings that are protected with trees, or some other type of windbreak, will require less heat. Under present conditions it is suggested that everyone make a special effort to

conserve energy and reduce fuel bills. Several rows of evergreen trees planted upwind from buildings will be of great help. This is not a common practice here in the east; however, in the mid-west and prairie states most farmsteads have this protection. Owners are requested to evaluate this investment this winter when the weather really gets bad. Next spring the plantings can be made.

TO CHECK GUTTERS AND DOWNSPOUTS

If gutters and downspouts are filled with twigs and leaves, they will not do a very good job of carrying the

water away from a building. Since many barn and house rooves are under or near to trees, it is quite likely they may not be free to conduct water this winter. We suggest an inspection in the near future, and the removal of all trash. Extra water that gets into a building, or goes down along the foundation, is not the way to prolong the life of the structure. Timely gutter inspection will protect the huge investment.

TO BE PREPARED

If a fire breaks out in your home, or any other building, are you prepared to evacuate your family, your livestock, or other major

possessions? You might give some thought to this question and discuss it with your family and employees. Are you prepared to fight the blaze until help comes? This means that fire extinguishers should be handy, should be in good condition,

and every member of the family know how to operate them. Fire prevention is the place to start; but, if a fire gets started, advance planning might reduce the loss and save lives. Take the time today to discuss both fire prevention and fire fighting plans.

Farm Calendar

Today, Nov. 4
Harford County, Md. Farm Bureau annual meeting and banquet, 7 p.m., North Harford High School, five miles south of Delta, Pa. on Route 165.
Pennsylvania Livestock Association annual banquet, Crossgate Inn, Mechanicsburg, 7 p.m.
Keystone International Livestock Exposition begins.
Adams County Farm-City banquet at King's Valley Restaurant, Carroll Valley, 6:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 6
Lebanon County DHIA annual banquet and meeting, 7 p.m. at the Schaefferstown Fire Hall.
Maryland Cooperative Milk

Producers (MCMP) district meeting, 7 p.m. at the Lighthouse Restaurant, Chambersburg.
Poultry servicemen's seminar, Quality Inn, Lancaster, 6:30 p.m.
Manheim Area Young Farmers meeting, Year-End Tax Management, 7:30 p.m. in the vo-ag classroom.
Tuesday, Nov. 7
Adams County local government seminar, Room 147 of Gettysburg Senior High School.
Wednesday, Nov. 8
Poultry and Egg Institute of America Regional Conference, Benjami Franklin Hotel,
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RURAL ROUTE

