

**EDITORIAL COMMENTS** By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



**Farmland preservation appreciated**

Farmers, farms, farm animals, and the entire way of life in the country is close to my heart. Like many others, I cringe every time a good farm goes out of production and buildings stand neglected. It's a shame.

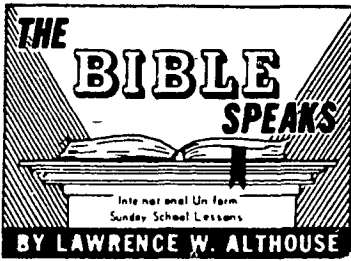
The efforts of the the Agricultural

Preservation Task Force in Lancaster County need to be commended and encouraged. Although the members of that board are undoubtedly just as occupied with work at home as any of the rest of us, they have seen fit to work long, hard, and diligently in

order to preserve a resource which can't be replaced.

They have worked and continue to work towards a goal which most farmers can identify with. For that, they deserve our thanks and, if possible, support. The preservatuon

of our farmers and farms is something we should all be interested in.



BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

**THE LIMITS OF LIBERTY**

Lesson for April 1, 1979

**Background Scripture:**

1 Corinthians 8:1 through 11:1.

**Devotional Reading:**  
1 Corinthians 9:19-27.

Nothing may seem more irrelevant to us than Paul's discussion in 1 Corinthians 8-10 on the limits of Christian freedom in light of eating "food offered to idols." Yet, if we push behind the surface issue itself, we find a concern that is just as timely today as it was then: What should the Christian do when his liberty runs into conflict with the contrary convictions of other believers? Do we "give in", or do we stand fast on our right to do whatever we believe is harmonious with our Christian conscience?

**All Things Lawful, But...**

In Corinth there were two groups with widely divergent views on what was and was not proper for a Christian. On the one hand there were the legalists who wanted all Christians to conform to the strict practices of the Jewish law. Much of Paul's ministry was spent in refuting this claim. In Christ, he held, the believer was endowed with a freedom that was subject, not to rules, but the Spirit of Christ dwelling within each person.

The other party of Corinthian Christians went to the other extreme: em-

phasizing the freedom of the Christian, they said they were bound by no rules at all, only their own consciences. The practical result, Paul observed, was a great deal of undisciplined, unrestricted behaviour that could hardly be called Christian. Their freedom in Christ had become license.

So, in 1 Corinthians 8-10, Paul is trying to lay down a principle of conduct that is neither legalistic or irresponsible. He quotes a favorite saying of the libertines: "All things are lawful," but he goes on to amend that statement,

saying: "but not all things are helpful" (10:23). "All things are lawful," he quotes once again, "but not all things build up." Therefore, the real question for the Christian is not legal but ethical, not "may I?" but "should I?" The consideration is not its legality, but its helpfulness, whether it builds up or tears down.

**Whatever You Do**

"Helpful" to whom? Just so there is no mistaking his intent, Paul spells it out clearly: "Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor" (10:24). This is simply a restating of the basic teaching that we are

called by Christ to serve one another. The libertine thinks of his Christian discipleship only in terms of what it does for him. The emphasis, however, is to be on what it can mean for others.

Some have tried to make another law out of what Paul says in Corinthians, holding that we must always be bound by the beliefs and even the prejudices of others. That is not Paul's intent. The answer is not a rule, but a principle: "So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (10:31). That alone can determine the limits of Christian liberty.



**NOW IS THE TIME**

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

Phone 394-6851

**TO PROVIDE FARM SECURITY**

Thefts from farms seems to be on the increase. This is very difficult to prevent because of the various items about the farm building and home; also, the number of buildings and places to enter are many. However, we suggest that every farmer take some steps in protecting his machinery, tools, livestock, and supplies. The automatic lights should be of great value in discouraging burglars.

Watch dogs are also very useful in detecting strangers about the premises. Shops, garages, and other smaller

buildings should be kept locked when possible. The identification of animals by tags branding has been used to some degree. Loading chutes and barn doors should be in the lighted area when possible. Farm thefts are on the increase and farmers should take some steps to protect their belongings.

**TO PROTECT WOOL CLIP**

It is expected that wool prices will be higher this year than in 1978. Growers should make ever effort to market a high quality clip. We suggest that the sheep be sheared only when they are dry and the fleece be kept clean and dry. The wool pools in Berks and Cumberland counties provide a good market for quality fleeces.

This means they should be tied with paper twine with

the flesh side out; store them in a clean dry place until marketed. Wool is one of the two incomes from the sheep flock; the lambs are the other source of income. Today's prices are such that it is worthwhile to properly care for the clip until marketed. Be on the alert

for dates of the various wool pools.

**TO BE CAREFUL WITH LEFT-OVER SEEDS**

The spring planting season is at hand. When weather permits many types of farm and garden seeds will be put into the ground. When we

have excess seeds they may be safely stored for future use; some can be used for next year's planting.

However, it is very important that we keep these seeds away from children, pets, or farm animals. Most of them are not fit for human or livestock consumption. They have been treated with chemicals to control insects and diseases. Therefore, store them safely and avoid serious results. Don't allow the chance of mistakes-or they will surely occur.

**TO TAKE TIME TO BE SAFE**

As soon as weather permits, our fields will be humming with tractors and all kinds of farm equipment. Some of us tend to get in

a hurry and discard safety measures. This often happens with tractors hauling equipment on the farm and from farm to farm. I realize that most readers of this article will not take it seriously and will feel that it will never happen to them.

However, "haste often brings waste" and gets us into trouble. Every tractor operator should be trained and competent to drive the tractor. Children should be kept from operating or moving machinery; here too, I realize that most farm families are guilty of giving small youngsters a ride. If the manufacturer's directions are followed, they are usually very good advice. Don't ignore them.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Advertising pays**

Editor:

The growth of your paper is immense. Now it gets tough for us farmers to read all the pages. What is amazing to me is the volume of advertising in it. To tell people of one's product seems to get big results.

When dairy farmers are asked to support the ad campaign of the American Dairy Association, they hesitate even though they know that Class I sales are slipping. The consumer has to see on T.V. how good milk is. Therefore, it is essential to have an overall agency to do it for all dairy products.

**Sheep producers evening set**

LEESPORT - Two Extension specialists and an Hampshire sheep breeder from Maryland will highlight the Sheep Producers Evening on Tuesday, April 3, at the Berks County Agricultural Center, starting at 5:30 p.m.

The Berks County Sheep and Wool growers will begin with their meeting. Dr. Clair E. Engle, Extension Sheep specialist, will discuss "Is there profit in Commercial Flocks?" Keeping your flocks healthy will be the

Our dairy princesses, dairy council and the milk dealers with their brand names are helping enormously, but it is not enough. The soft drink manufacturers spend over 15 per cent of their revenues for advertising. We dairymen spend not even one per cent, and then on top of that, one cooperative wants to drop out of the Order 4 promotion budget.

It sure seems foolish to me to produce like crazy and forget the sales end of it.

K.D. Linde  
Oxford RI

topic of Larry Hutchinson, Penn State Extension Veterinarian. Jack Price, a pure bred Hampshire sheep breeder from Westminster, Md. will discuss managing pure bred sheep.

A catered meal is also planned. Sheep Growers are invited to participate in all of the evenings program. There is a fee of \$1.75 to cover costs. Reservations should be made in advance by calling Clyde Myers at the Berks County Extension Office, 215-378-1327.

**RURAL ROUTE**

By Tom Armstrong



**Farm Calendar**

**Sunday, April 1**  
Community breakfast at Ontelaunee Grange Hall, Bern Township, near Leesport, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Choice of menu includes sausage and pancakes, ham and eggs or sausage and eggs. Baked goods on sale.

**Monday, April 2**  
Lancaster County sheep management meeting, Farm and Home Center, 8 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 3**  
Sheep educational meeting, Berks County Ag Center, 6 p.m.  
Berks County wool growers' meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Ag Center.

Ephrata Area Young Farmers volleyball and recreation night, 7:45 p.m. at the Ephrata High School gym.

**Wednesday, April 4**  
Lancaster County Conservation District meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Farm and Home Center.

**Thursday, April 5**  
Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association regional volleyball tournament, 7:30 p.m. at Cedar Crest High School.  
Open House at new Victor F. Weaver poultry processing plant New Holland 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Lebanon County FFA banquet, 7 p.m. at Tulpehocken United Church of Christ.

Tree planting demonstration, Walter Brent farm, Manheim, 10 a.m.

**Friday, April 6**  
Lancaster County 4-H tractor club round-up, 8 p.m. at the Farm and Home Center.

Pennsylvania Egg Marketing Association dinner meeting, 7 p.m. at the Treadway Resort Inn, Lancaster.

**Saturday, April 7**  
Lehigh County FFA banquet, 6:30 p.m. at the Lehigh County Vo-Tech School, Schnecksville.