

EDITORIAL COMMENTS By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



Gasohol: a realistic, multi-advantageous energy source

Farmers may soon be in the energy business

On second thought, farmers have always been in the energy business. The food we eat produces energy within our bodies so that we can live and work and play.

What should be said is that farmers may soon be producing energy to run equipment and machines, not just living bodies.

According to researchers and promoters, farmers can realistically and significantly contribute to the world's energy supply. It will be done by removing alcohol from crops, and mixing it with gasoline to make gasohol.

The idea has a lot of potential and shouldn't be written off.

According to gasohol experts, this new fuel offers the following advantages

It reduces the amount of U.S. dollars going to foreign oil producing nations, and can strengthen the

value of the dollar on world currency markets

It can generate a major new market for the American farmer's products, while stimulating the entire economy and even creating new jobs

Alcohol is renewable liquid solar fuel

The life time of our petroleum supplies would be extended by at least 10 per cent

Gasohol would be one step towards energy self-sufficiency

In the engine, gasohol burns cleaner and more efficiently than present fuels. Pollutant emissions would be down and octane ratings would go up, thus reducing engine knocking, pinging, and "dieseling"

Gasohol also burns cooler and reduces engine fraction, thus prolonging the life of the engine

In addition, gasohol provides protection from gas line freeze up

One of the beauties of all this is

that nobody will have to modify his engine in any way in order to make use of gasohol

Gasohol may not be as far away as some people think. As a matter of fact, it's been around for quite some time. It is already available at some U.S. service stations and the trend towards gasohol will continue to expand rapidly

As a matter of interest, and a point to declare that alcohol is indeed efficient in engines, it should be said that Germany ran its World War II economy on fuel mixtures incorporating alcohol derived from grain and potatoes. That technology is still believed to be advanced even by today's standards

Opinions from scientists vary as to how efficient gasohol is. An article in the May 19 *New York Times*, for example, concludes that gasohol requires more energy to make than it yields. Others say it will yield nearly

twice as much energy as is required to produce it.

Be that as it may, the majority opinion among innovative energy researchers is that gasohol is an up and coming fuel

Gasohol has received the support of Congress, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, President Carter, various farm organizations, as well as millions of private individuals and businesses

Nobody is claiming that gasohol in itself will solve the energy problems of the world. More realistically, it's being said that gasohol will be one of a number of steps this country will take to meet its energy requirements. Contributions will also come from other areas such as solar, wind, and nuclear power, not to mention more efficient engines and overall energy conservation programs

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THE BIBLE SPEAKS
International Union - Sunday School Lesson
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

HOW TO HAVE ENOUGH
Lesson for May 27, 1979

Background Scripture:
2 Corinthians 8 through 9.
Devotional Reading:
2 Corinthians 8:1-15.

Howard Reeves Calkins tells of an experience he had in a small church in southeastern Kansas where he had been sent to introduce his denomination's "New Financial Plan." This plan included elements which were all "new" to the little congregation: budget, every member canvass, the weekly offering, the "duplex" envelope, etc. As he finished the presentation, he was greeted by an ominous silence. At last, however, one farmer leaned forward and said, "There's a ketch in it." "Why, my brother," said Calkins, "I intended to make it very

plain." "O, it's plain enough," said the farmer, "but they's a ketch in it all the same; . . . for I can see, if we adopt this plan, we'll be paying out more money than we intend to give."

Excel In This Also

I rather think that some of the people at Corinth must have suspected the same thing of the plan Paul outlined to them in his letter to them. Paul was very diplomatic — "Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the offering for the saints, for I know your readiness (9:1,2) — but as we read 2 Corinthians 8 and 9 it appears that he is making

a strong appeal to the Corinthians to contribute more money than they had perhaps intended to give

His arguments are very compelling. First of all, he holds up to them the example of what other churches have done "For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means of their own free will . . ." (8:3). The Corinthians traditionally tended to look down upon the Macedonians. Paul was challenging them to prove their supposed superiority. "Now as you excel in everything . . . see

that you excel in this gracious work also" (8:7)

Secondly, Paul reiterates what Jesus had indicated in his teachings: "he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully" (9:6). The only way to have is to give, taught Jesus, and if you would have much, you must also give much. The scope of the stingy person's life is not wide enough to receive all that God would give to him. But if we open wide the door in giving, the door will also be wide open to receive.

Always Have Enough

The secret is that God is

the one who supplies the abundance from which we give. We do not have enough by virtue of our own efforts to hoard and hang on to what we have, but because God supplies all our needs in abundance "And God is able to supply you with every blessing in abundance so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work" (9:8). To be a reluctant giver means that we do not really trust in God to supply our needs. When we do trust in him alone, however, we will always have enough to share and more.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
Phone 394-6851

TO IMPROVE SWINE EFFICIENCY
Swine producers have had very favorable markets for the past several years; it appears that prices will be lower during the next year or so. However, production costs will still remain high presenting a challenge to pork producers to make any profits. Swine authorities

suggest that good management and efficiency practices be given more attention. This means reducing feed costs, raising more pigs per litter, controlling parasites, and doing all those things that should be done. Poor management will make it more difficult to stay in business and result in the weeding out of some producers.

TO MOW PASTURES

Forage growth has been very rapid in the past few weeks and many of the grasses are already going to

seed; this means that the area should be clipped by the early part of June. When these mature grasses are cut, they will dry and the animals will eat most of them in the form of hay. Also, mowing will help control weeds and improve the general appearance of the pasture field. Don't be guilty of allowing the mature grass to remain there all summer. Some pasture areas may be mowed and the crop made into hay at this time; This will permit grazing on this area for the balance of the summer.

TO PROVIDE FARM POND SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Most farm ponds become a recreational center during the hot, summer months. Swimmers enjoy the water but should be aware of the danger of drowning. Pond owners should provide rescue equipment such as inflated inner tubes, wooden ladders, rafts, and rope that can be used in case of emergency. This equipment should be kept at the pond area rather than in the barn or other building on the farm. Swimmers should not be permitted to swim alone,

immediately after eating, or during a thunder storm. Farm pond owners are urged to give some attention to pond safety at this time. Don't wait until there is an emergency; it might be too late.

TO RECOGNIZE STAGE OF MATURITY

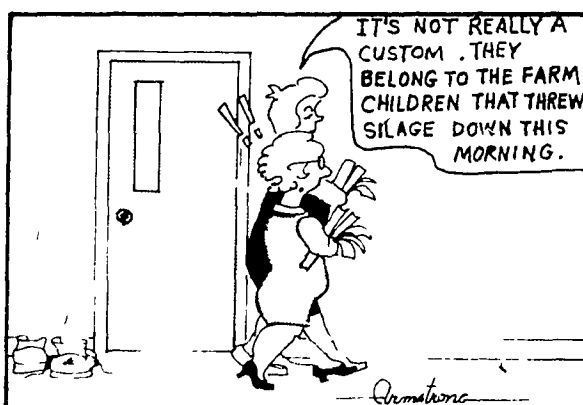
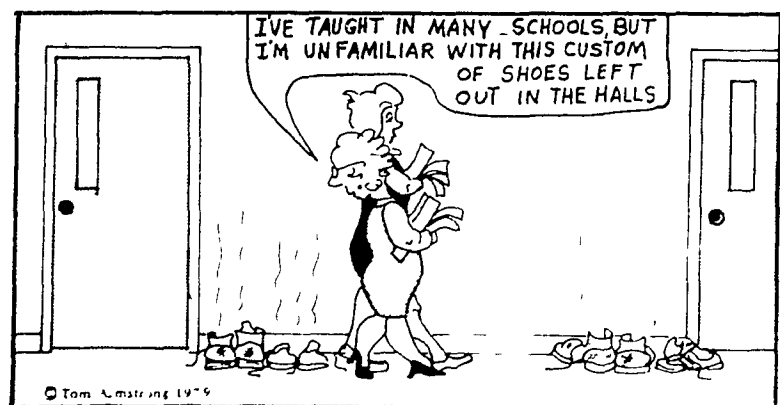
In the process of making any crop into hay or silage, the most important thing in order to get top quality is harvesting at the proper stage of maturity. Many farmers allow their crops to get too mature before cutting. This is very easy to do

early in the spring when weather conditions are poor for making hay. The legumes such as alfalfa or clover are at their peak when in the bud to early blossom stage. The grasses are highest in feed nutrients at heading time. Winter grains contain the most feeding value when made into silage in the blossom stage. The crops may be easier to cure later in the spring but not contain top feeding values. The making of crops into silage, instead of hay, early in the season is one way to preserve maximum nutrient values.

RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong

Farm Calendar



Sunday, May 27
Northumberland County's Kid Stuff 4-H Dairy Goat Club meets at the home of leaders Don and Roberta Molaro, Dornsife R1 Topics: dairy goat showmanship and fitting.

Wednesday, May 30
Weed identification and control workshop, Dover Area High School ag classroom, Dover, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 31
Weed control and identification workshop, Dover High School, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 2
Pennsylvania Sheep Field Day and Third Performance Tested Ram Sale, Washington County Fairgrounds, Washington, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ram sale is at 2 p.m.