

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



Lancaster Farming says...

These two bills need to move

As the week's work drew to a close in Harrisburg, the need for two bills was emphasized in the countryside and in the capitol.

The first is SB 1011, dealing with production of alcohol. The second is HB 1176, written to help farmers deal with excessive inheritance taxes.

The need for speedy passage of 1011 was underscored earlier this week by the visit of Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board officials to the Lebanon County farm of Floyd Horst. Horst, operating under U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms permission has produced about 500 gallons of ethanol to use as an alternative to diesel fuel or gasoline.

What Horst didn't know was the state of Pennsylvania requires a \$2500 permit for operation of any still producing potable alcohol.

That figures to a tariff of \$5 for every gallon of fuel Horst has produced so far. Even if he were to

produce 10 times that amount, the state would be taking 50 cents over and above his fixed cost of the still and the variable cost of grain going for the alcohol.

What SB 1011 would do, among other things, is reduce the fee to \$25—a far more reasonable figure and in line with what the state of Maryland charges for a similar permit.

Several big names on Capitol Hill have been pushing the idea of similar legislation. The bill's prime sponsor is Patrick Stapleton, Indiana. But others like Paul Yahner, and J. Doyle Corman have been long-time members of the gasohol bandwagon.

A few minor bugs need to be ironed out of the pending legislation. For instance, a reasonable limit on production under the \$25 fee should be set, high enough to encourage on-farm stills but low enough that the state doesn't lose revenue from commercial producers.

Pennsylvania Farmers Union supports the idea of changing LCB laws to make it easier for farmers to produce alcohol. The Grange is on record as opposing the high \$2500 fee for small family farm energy needs.

SB 1011 is legislation that deserves quick action.

HB 1176 looked like a sure winner for farmers. Or it did until James Manderino, the house minority whip from Monessen, spoke up last week.

He opposes it as "another attempt...to have the citizens of this Commonwealth in general pick up a tax burden which is heretofore been paid by persons owning farms and agricultural reserves and open land."

Manderino said he doesn't believe we are losing farmland in Pennsylvania. "Although there are, in total farms, slightly less, the farms are producing 50 percent more in value of products," he said. "In the

hiring of employees, farmers are able to hire 50 percent more employees than they hired five years before."

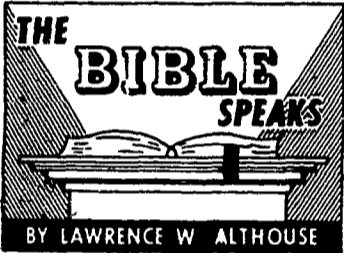
All of that, of course, justifies letting farmers foot the full bill for inheritance taxes based on speculator value rather than ag value, this city boy seems to feel.

It should be pointed out that Manderino's laughable logic was rebutted by A.C. Foster, York; Joseph Pitts, Kennett Square; and Noah Wenger, Stevens.

"If we continue to take the problem of loss of farmland lightly it will be too late to do anything about it," Wenger said.

And, of course, he's right. Every farmer in the state has a stake in HB 1176. It might be well for all farmers, especially those in urbanized areas like the one Manderino represents, to remind their legislators just how important 1176 is.

Remember, too, primary election day is this week.



BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE
THE SOURCE OF HOPE
Lesson for November 4, 1979

Background Scripture:
Ephesians 1 through 2:10
Devotional Reading:
Ephesians 1:3-10

Certain cancer specialists today are finding a correlation between victims of that disease and various personality types. Just as recent studies have shown us that certain types of individuals are more likely to have heart disease, so, it would appear, certain types of people are more likely to be stricken by cancer.

One of the keys to the cancer-personality-type is the loss of hope because of some trauma in the person's life. Often, researchers have found, approximately 18 months before the appearance of cancer there has

been an upsetting trauma that seems to have impaired the body's natural power of resistance to cancer.

That You May Know The Hope

Other physicians have found that loss of hope is a factor in other diseases. People will often become stricken and die, not because they want to die, but because they no longer have the will to live—and that is tantamount to giving up to death.

We know the loss of hope also has other effects upon people. Depression often seems to follow the loss of

hope. "What's the use?" seems to be the universal response to forces that seem overwhelming.

This is why Christianity's message is so important today: it provides us with a source of hope that can enable us to continue to live without despair when things don't seem to go well—which may seem much of the time. Christianity came into the world as a message of hope—that was the message of the angelic chorus at Bethlehem—and the gospel is really the Good News of Jesus Christ.

But the Christian hope has

never been a breezy confidence that "everything is going to be all right." In fact, the Christian hope tells us to "hang in there" even though things do not work out "all right." For Jesus—taking the short run view anyway—things didn't work out "all right." The cross is the eternal symbol of that fact.

Under His Feet
No, things do not always work out "all right," but we trust in a God who revealed in Christ, that he will bring everything to fulfillment in his own time. The Christian hope is not optimism, then, it is trust in God. The writer of

Ephesians wants us to "know what is the hope to which he has called you" (1:18). The hope, he says, is nothing less than the love of God revealed so clearly in the person of Jesus Christ. As he raised him from the dead, so he "has put all things under his feet and has made him head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fulness of him who fills all in all" (1:22).

There are many situations in life that may not "turn out all right," but our hope in Christ looks to a fulfillment far beyond those things.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
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To Keep Trench Silos Tight
Many dairy and livestock producers use a trench, or horizontal silo, as a temporary storage for silage that will not go into the larger tower silos. These serve as a very economical method of making extra silage for feeding purposes. In many cases the silage is transferred to the upright silos later in the winter for

mechanical feeding. A very important thing in managing these horizontal silos is to keep them air tight. Black plastic is the common material used to cover the surface and keep out the air and water. This cover should be tightened several times after placing on the surface of the silage. When the silage settles the cover should be tightened to keep out the air. Also, in many cases a diversion ditch needs to be made around the upper side or end of the silo to keep out surface water. These management suggestions

will help produce good quality silage with low overhead costs.

To Check Stand-By Generators

The winter season is approaching when snow and ice storms can knock out the supply of electricity. Since most farms are badly crippled without electricity, the need of a stand-by generator is recognized. We are aware that many farmers have these machines to keep the motors and mechanical equipment running. However, if the generator is not in good

working condition, it may not do the job in case of an emergency. We suggest that both the generator and the tractor be connected to be sure that electricity will be generated to meet the needs.

To Clean Roof Gutters and Downspouts

The leaf fall has been heavy in the past week and on many buildings the spouting may be totally clogged. This cleaning job needs to be done several times between now and December. Spouting protects buildings and leads the excess water away from

the building and the foundation. Many wet basements and barns may be due to the roof water not being taken away from the building. While the gutters are being cleaned they should be inspected for holes that will appear due to rust. Good spouting is good protection for a building but needs frequent attention for proper operation.

To Eliminate Feed Waste

Feed costs are one of the major items in the production of meat and milk on most farms. Under today's market condition it is very important to keep feed costs to a minimum. In

the case of cattle and hogs, if any money is to be made, it has to be made on the cost of gains, rather than on the margin between first cost and selling price. Therefore, the less feed the animals eats per pound of gain, or pound of milk, the better it will be for the owner. In too many cases, we fear that feed is being wasted. Cracks or holes in feed troughs and feed bunks are sure to waste feed. Improper adjustment of automatic feeders will waste feed; animals should have to work for their feed in these kinds of feeders. Check your feeding equipment and be sure the feed is being consumed, not wasted.

RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong



Farm Calendar

Today, November 3
Keystone International Livestock Exposition opens and continues through Wednesday, November 7th.
Farm-City Dinner-Dance, Adams County Ag. Council, 6:30, Carroll Valley Clubhouse, Fairfield.

Monday, November 5
Hunderdon County Extension presents, "Revitalize Your Houseplants", 7:30 p.m., Flemington.
Tuesday, November 6
Dairy goat club meeting, 7 p.m., at the Farm and Home Center. Farmers' (Turn to Page 37)