

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



# Lancaster Farming says... Congratulations, Mr. Taxpayer...

Sunday, May 11, is a big day for farmers, businessmen, and the ordinary taxpayers of the United States.

Sunday, you see, is the day that the average person stops working for Uncle Sam and starts working for the family. Prior to May 11, all of the plowing and feeding, all of the income from milk checks, all of the work done and income earned on the farm went right back out for taxes.

That's what the Tax Foundation, Inc. says. But a number of groups think the Foundation set its Tax Freedom day as much as three weeks too soon.

Last year Tax Freedom Day fell on May 8, meaning the farmer had three more day's income to spend than he does this year. But, as usual, obligations to federal, state, county, and local government are demanding an ever-growing piece of the income pie.

Anyone who has watched the economy closely knows that during the past 10 years taxes have gone up almost twice as fast as consumer prices. . . to the tune of 155 percent. Federal taxes alone climbed 140 percent. Local and state taxes, on the average, went up 188 percent. But federal taxes take the larger income bite.

The proposed 1981 Federal budget, beginning October 1, 1980 will cost Pennsylvania taxpayers \$32.5 billion. Just a decade ago, the Keystone State's share of the national budget was about \$11.9 billion, says the State Chamber of Commerce, figuring we pay about 5.27 percent of all Federal taxes. This expense comes despite politicians' talk of cutting taxes.

The much ballyhooed tax cuts we've seen in recent years are so much hocus-pocus.

A 10 percent jump in a farmer's

income this year will raise his income tax by about 16 percent, obviously cutting buying power.

This "tax bracket creep" increases government income as does the general inflationary trend of the economy.

There always is talk of a tax cut. But meantime, Congress is adopting a budget of about \$547 billion, one which will represent about 22 percent of the total value of all of this country's annual output of goods and services.

There will be about a \$30 billion deficit Government, despite all of the fine campaign rhetoric, has not learned that outgo can not exceed income.

Taxpayers know it. It's just simple economic sense.

Look, for instance, at Pennsylvania's share of the Federal tax load. The \$32.5 billion share we carry in Pennsylvania is equivalent to

30 percent of the total cash receipts from farm marketings in the whole nation.

The figures are mind-boggling, but Pennsylvania's total farm marketings are only \$1.8 billion.

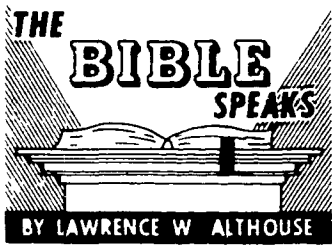
The government spends that in a twinkling.

In 25 of the last 30 years, Republican and Democratic administrations alike have piled up deficits totaling \$450 billion.

At present our national debt is over \$800 billion and growing.

The interest the government pays on that debt is over one billion dollars a week. Yes, a week.

It all must end. This year farmers fed livestock, sweated and labored for three days more than they did last year to feed the government gluttons. In 1981, let's try to force our lawmakers to move our Tax Freedom Day back three days. It could be the start of a welcome trend.



## THE LUKEWARM CHURCH

Lesson for May 11, 1980  
Background Scripture: Revelation 1 through 3.  
Devotional Reading: Revelation 3:1-6.  
Most people think of the

Book of Revelation as a puzzling book of enigmatic visions and prophecies. We often forget that there is considerably more to this book than that. For example, the first three chapters of Revelation are composed of seven letters to various churches of Asia Minor (mostly that area within the modern nation of Turkey).

Let's you think that reading Revelation 1 through 3 is comparable to reading a lot of old mail that was written to someone else ages ago, I want to suggest that the seven churches to which the

writer is addressing himself are not so unlike your church and mine. Written approximately nineteen hundred years ago, these letters are just as timely and current as if they had been delivered in today's mail. "I Know Your Works"

Of the seven churches, all but one, Laodicea, is commended in one way or another. Also, with the exception of one, Philadelphia, all are criticized too. The writer's main purpose in each letter might be summarized like this:

EPHESUS: You have

"lost the love" you had originally (2:1-7).

SMYRNA: You are not to fear the suffering that is before you (2:8-11).

PERGAMUM: You are falling prey to pagan customs (2:12-17).

THYATIRA: Following wrong leadership, you are prey to idolatry (2:18-29).

SARDIS: Cease your immoral living! (3:1-6).

PHILADELPHIA: Hold on in the time of trial; Christ will sustain you (3:7-13).

LAODICEA: Neither hot nor cold, you are lukewarm...and useless!

(3:14-22).

You can read each of these letters as addressed to your church or even personally to you. Which of them speaks to you and/or your church? Perhaps several of them do. Maybe all?

### Those Whom I Love

I find that I and my church experience identify most closely of all with the seventh letter, to Laodicea. Here the problem is not that of immorality, idolatry, wrong teachings or pagan customs, but a fence-sitting mediocrity that seems to call forth the greatest con-

demnation: "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth" (3:15, 16).

James Nace Gardner, Franklin D. Roosevelt's first Vice President, once when asked about the value of his job remarked: "It isn't worth a thimbleful of warm spit!" The writer of Revelation seems to be saying pretty much the same thing about the church at Laodicea — and maybe yours and mine, too!



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith Lancaster County Agricultural Agent  
Phone 394-6851

### To Be Careful With Left-Over Seeds

Most seeds and grains used for planting purposes are not fit for human or animal consumption. They have been treated with numerous materials to control insects and diseases. Several years ago, I recall some youngsters in Texas that were poisoned by eating pork from hogs that had been fed left-over corn. This should not happen.

Seeds that are not planted should be put in safe storage

not left on the barn floor or in the garage. Animals have a habit of getting out of their pens or stalls, and when this happens they may get into these left-over seeds and become poisoned. When stored properly, most seeds can be used later this year or even next spring. Don't be careless and allow them to be consumed.

### To Beware of Thunderstorms

The severe storm and lightning season is at hand. With nearly every storm we have buildings that get hit

and people that get shocked.

We urge parents to caution their youngsters about the danger of lightning before and during a storm. Instruct them to seek cover in a building or automobile. Never under a single tree or on high ground. No doubt the time of the greatest danger from being struck with lightning is just before the break of a storm; this has often happened. Folks that have lightning rods on their buildings, should inspect them to be sure they are free of trash and be sure they are all connected and well grounded into moist soil. Thunder storm safety is very much in order at this time.

### To Make Rye Silage

If you want to get the most feed nutrients out of winter rye, make it into silage this spring. This is a very common practice with those who want a winter cover crop and who want to double-crop their land. Winter rye should be cut when in the late boot to early heading stage. This is earlier in the stage of maturity than with other small grains. Quality of silage decreases rapidly with rye when allowed to mature beyond the above stage.

Some producers will add grain to the rye at the silo. This can be 200 pounds of ground corn and cob to the

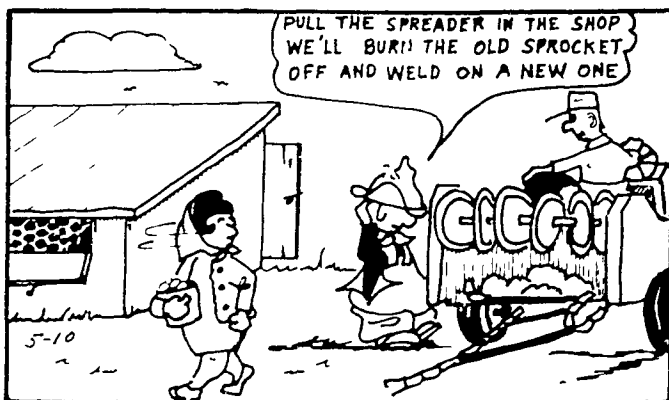
ton or about 100 pounds of a molasses feed mixture. This extra grain adds flavor to the silage and increases total feed nutrients. Since the rye plants are very tender, the crop should be allowed to wilt in the field before ensiling. In normal years the rye crop will be ready to ensile early to mid-May which allows time for planting either corn or soybeans.

### To Mark Wet Spots

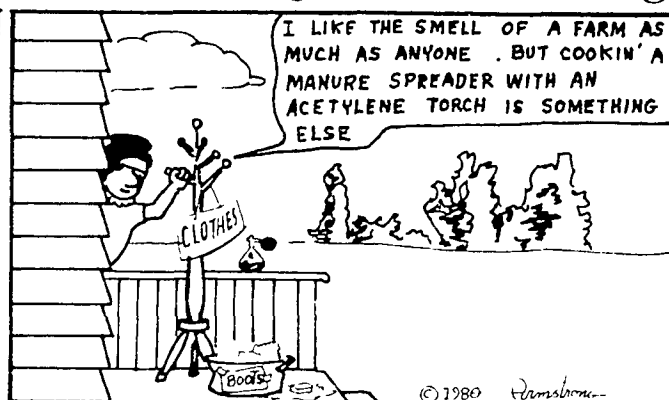
Fields that need drainage attention should be given that attention at this time. If the area can't be drained now, the wet spots should be

marked with stakes. This will permit more accurate placement of the tile or pipes later in the year. Wet areas do not give good production and it usually pays to correct them. Under present farming conditions every acre should be producing it's maximum. This is not possible in these wet areas. Cropland can be drained with tile or with drain pipes. Pasture land can often be improved with open ditches. The important thing is not to put up with these wet areas where maximum production is needed. Dry up the wet spots and reduce the problem of getting machinery stuck.

## RURAL ROUTE



## By Tom Armstrong



## Farm Calendar

Saturday, May 10  
Rodeo at the Buck, 272 South, 2 p m and 8 p m  
Quentin Riding Club Spring Horse Show through Sunday.  
South Central PA Eastern Amateur Arabian Horse Show; Lancaster Riding Club  
Oxford Area FFA Banquet, 7 p m.  
Horse Sense III, Animal Industries Building, Harrisburg.

Adams County sheep clinic; 10 a.m. at the farm of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Platt.  
Montgomery County sheep clinic; 9 a.m.-12.30; Souderton.  
6th Annual Western PA all-breed sheep and club lamb sale; 7 p.m.; Mercer County 4-H Park; Mercer  
Hunterdon County 4-H Day at the Mall; Flemington  
(Turn to Page A39)