

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



Lancaster Farming says...

Wanted — new energy ideas

Does Pennsylvania's commitment to energy savings go any deeper than filling two dozen state cars with gasohol and having cabinet officers talk about their good mileage?

This question and others have been raised by several energy-related proposals and programs brought to the foreground in the past week or so.

The Governor's Energy Council is asking public input until the end of this month on its proposal for solving the state's energy problems

We find the preliminary proposal outlined by the state a rehash of the same old ideas with little to distinguish it — except for a fancy pricetag on the book which will prevent its being purchased by ordinary folks

Emphasis in the report is placed on conserving energy rather than finding new, and renewable, energy sources

The great contribution farmers could make toward solving the energy problem is overlooked. There's almost no mention of alcohol production from grain. Nothing is said about other biomass sources which could be turned into renewable sources of fuel.

It's not all bad news, though.

The good news for farmers on the energy front came with the signing of SB 932 in Washington. Called the Biomass Energy and Alcohol Fuels Act of 1980, it allows private enterprise to develop new fuel sources and promotes agriculturally based fuels.

The act calls for alcohol output of 60,000 barrels per day by 1982 with a goal of replacing 10 percent of the nation's gasoline consumption by 1990.

There are big bucks to help the project on its way. The bill earmarks \$100 million to the Energy Department for development of biomass

energy systems.

One often-raised question is whether production of crops for energy would cut into production of crops for food.

Farm Bureau President Robert Delano said he feels production agriculture can meet alcohol fuel goals set out in the Synfuels Act without impairing food and feed supplies for American people and livestock.

But the question hits at the heart of the energy problem: it changes the public's view of energy from one of money to one of survival.

Too many people feel the energy problem is one of cost-per-gallon rather than supply. They figure they have a right to energy if they can pay for it, forgetting that their grandchildren have no way of bidding against them for the fuel consumed today.

To drive or to eat? The question is harsh. Future years may see farmers

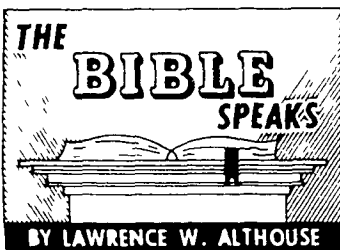
who sell grain for fuel with the same bad image today reserved for Arabs.

We feel the American farmer has as an excellent chance to solve the nation's energy problems. Given his record of success, the farmer may pull it off.

But it is going to take innovative thinking even beyond gasohol, hydroelectric, or garbage burning to generate energy.

While federal money may buy some needed manpower, it won't provide the ideas. Hackneyed thinking like that offered by our state plan only hinders our fight for energy dependence.

Washington should allocate much of its research money to small individual efforts. No committee invented the light bulb—Thomas Edison did it. And John Deere still would be doing paperwork if he relied on bureaucratic channels when perfecting his plow.



GOD'S LEFT HAND

Lesson for July 13, 1980

Background Scripture: Lamentations.
Devotional Reading: Psalms 77:1-15

"The left hand of God" is

an expression sometimes used to indicate that God does something in this world in a way that is not obvious to his children. It is a fact of the Biblical narrative that, when God's own people failed to act as his servants, he found others who were not of Israel to accomplish his purposes for him. Frequently, these people did not even know that they were being used as "God's left hand."

There are examples in the Old Testament. One of the best known is Nebuchadnezzar, the mighty King of Babylon, who decimated the Kingdom of Judah and levelled Jerusalem. Ac-

cording to the prophets, it was not God's plan for it to happen this way, but the consequence of his people refusing to do his bidding. Because they refused to be his "right hand," God eventually chose Nebuchadnezzar as his "left hand."

What He Purposed

It makes a nice story for a Sunday morning, but its implications for us and our own times are disturbing, if taken seriously. If the prophetic point of view is to be taken today, are we to conclude that the barbarian hordes that ruined the Roman empire were unwitting instruments of God's

purpose? Was Adolph Hitler an unconscious servant of the Lord and is it possible that Joseph Stalin was, without knowing it, "God's left hand?"

Before you answer too quickly, remember that Nebuchadnezzar was no more conscious of God's purpose than Hitler or Stalin. What the Babylonians did to Judah, he believed to be his own idea, his own responsibility. And, to a degree, this was correct. As God himself declared through his prophets, it was not his idea to make the people of Judah suffer. But because they would not repent, God was able to use

the evil purpose of the Babylonians for his own purpose, just as Joseph spoke to his brother of the evil they had done him "as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good" (Genesis 50:20). So, the prophet Jeremiah was convinced that the enemy of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar, was an unconscious instrument of God's will: "The Lord has done what he purposed..." (Lamentations 2:17).

He Will Have Compassion

So we look about our own world and wonder. Are these enemies of our nation unconscious instruments of

God's will. Is he using, perhaps, the Ayatollah Khomeini as his left hand because we have failed to be his right hand? Is the Soviet Union the Babylon of today?

But God only uses his "left hand" when his "right hand" will not serve him, "for he does not willingly afflict or grieve the sons of men" (Lamentations 3:33). There is still time to submit to God so that he may not need to use his "left hand."

(Note: The use above of the term "left hand" in a negative connotation is not meant in prejudice against the left-sided, but simply the use of a popular term. Mr. Althouse is left-handed.)



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
Phone 394 6851

TO PRACTICE SAFETY AROUND FARM PONDS

There's nothing better than a cool dip in the farm pond after a hot day in the field. Make sure it stays a run thing for the family.

Ponds are a valuable asset and have many uses, many of which can be a source of joy, but only if safe.

There are some rules that

should be followed. In the first place, erect warning signs at all danger points. Place lifesaving devices such as ring buoys, ropes, planks, or long poles at boating areas. Only use boats that will float if swamped or capsized. Stay out of farm ponds during storms and when spillways are flowing. It is also very helpful if you learn lifesaving techniques — even if you can't swim.

TO OBSERVE

FARMSAFETY WEEK

The period from July 25 through July 31 is National Farm Safety Week. This is a

time for emphasis on farm safety activities. This year's theme is PPE PROTECTS.

We all need to focus our efforts to reduce accidents to farm family members, employees, and visitors by promoting routine use of PPE (personal protective equipment).

The latest National Safety Council agricultural accident surveys indicate that nearly half of the reported farm injuries involved the head, eyes, hands, or feet — parts of the body for which a good measure of protection is available. PPE such as hard hats, safety eyewear,

gloves and safety shoes could have prevented a large number of these accidents.

If we practice good safety habits during National Farm Safety Week, then we can develop good safety habits for every day of the year. Safety is no accident.

TO CARE FOR HOGS DURING SHIPPING

Far too many hogs are fed up to market weight each year only to be lost because of careless hauling during hot weather.

There are ways to prevent those losses. Whenever it's possible, haul those hogs to market early or late in the

day — when it's coolest. Avoid midday or early afternoon trips. That's when temperatures are worst.

While loading the hogs on trucks, take things easy. Don't hurry them. If you do, they'll just become overheated. And to make sure they can be comfortable in the truck, use wet sand for bedding. Don't use straw — or other materials that hold heat and fail to keep the animals cool.

Once the hogs are loaded, start to market immediately. If you're using a

livestock truck you can create a breeze through the truck body just by moving. That will help keep the hogs cool. It's best not to stop, but if you do, park the truck in the shade.

Take these few precautions and you'll market all your hogs instead of just some of them.

TO PROPERLY

STORE GASOLINE

Some people may try to beat the rising prices by storing large amounts of gasoline. However, they

(Turn to Page A38)

RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong



Farm Calendar

Saturday, July 12
Maryland State 4-H rifle contest, Caroline County 4-H Park, Denton, Maryland
Southern Maryland field day and barrow show, St Mary's Fairgrounds, Leonardstown, Maryland, 10 a.m.
Caroline County Fair at 4-H and Youth Park, Denton, Maryland
Maryland Angus Annual Field Day, Back Acres

Angus, Mt Airy, Maryland
Keystone stud ram and ewe sale, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg
Erie Dairy Goat Association doe show, Albion Fairground
Chester County 4-H Dairy Roundup, 9 a.m., Kumberton Fairgrounds
Sunday, July 13
Maryland FFA Alumni convention
(Turn to Page A34)