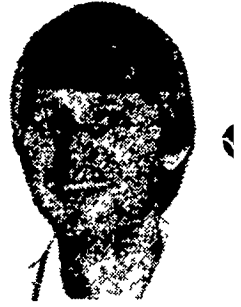


BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



Lancaster Farming says...

Rights and wrongs of right to farm

Much attention is being given a national move to obtain for farmers a "Right to Farm" law.

A plea for legislation recently was sounded by Robert B. Delano, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Among the rights Delano said need re-emphasis are the right to own property for farm use, the right to develop markets and have free access to them, the right to use technology and the available tools of production.

Closer to home, Pennsylvania's legislature is considering an anti-nuisance ordinance bill which has strong Grange and Farmer's Union backing.

It would prohibit local governments from making laws to interfere with farm or farm processing operations in their normal run of business.

The idea behind these and similar bills moving in other states is to assure a free agriculture for the country and to allow farmers to work at their most productive levels.

There is, of course, nothing wrong with either of these laudable goals. But two things are puzzling.

First, and perhaps the more perplexing of the pair, is why any such legislation should be needed in our society

It may seem quaint to pose such a question in face of current realities. But we see food, and its production, as basic to the survival of any group or culture.

Laws traditionally are made to insure the rights of the unwitting, such as children, or to protect good persons from bad.

Farmers certainly don't fall into the former category. If anything, it is those who hinder farmers who act unwittingly by throwing stumbling

blocks at agriculture, cutting off their nose to spite their face.

Laws of the "thou shall not" variety trace all of the way back to the Ten Commandments. They condemn a specific wrong.

With "right to farm" bills, the laws are being written the other way around, offering blanket protection against whatever may be determined as a wrong.

The second bothersome fact will be found on the other side of the coin. It calls to mind the old saying "For every right there is a responsibility."

Just what responsibilities are going to be thrust upon farmers as the result of any of these right to farm bills?

Who will determine standard farming practice? Of course, manure odor and lime dust are typical farm byproducts, but how far will this legislation take a farmer?

Is noise from mechanized farming

standard in a predominantly Amish township?

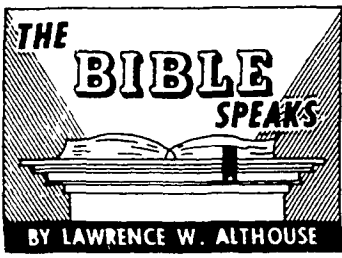
Only 10 or 12 years ago no-till farming, with its intensive use of chemicals, was anything but standard or typical.

Upon whom will the burden of proof fall? Will private industry be forced to justify new technology with expensive research?

Will early adopters of new ideas be forced to defend their practices in court so the legal system will have precedent for future cases? Will the government demand further concessions in its interference with our farm operations as payment for the protection provided?

Make no mistake about it — farmers do need the right to farm as freely and profitably as possible. We need the right to farm.

It's simply a shame we must have legislation to guarantee that right.



BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

"AFRAID TO BE FREE"

Lesson for August 10, 1980

Background Scripture: Haggai, Zechariah 1:1-6; 7:8.

Devotional Reading: Psalms 132:1-5.

A habitual criminal was being interviewed on television. Looking at his career in crime, it appeared to the interviewer that the convict was constantly trying to get back into prison. All of his behavior—including the leaving of obvious clues—seemed guaranteed to put him behind bars no matter how much he protested his desire for freedom. "But why would you continue to do that which was guaranteed to put you back in jail?" the interviewer wanted to know. "Because," said the convict in a moment of rare insight, "it was safe there. Inside. I

know the ropes. Outside, I have never learned."

The Time Not Yet Come

Many criminals are thus motivated. Unconsciously they prefer the security of their captivity to the frightening responsibilities of freedom. But this syndrome encompasses not just convicts, but many other types of people as well. Some people unconsciously prefer the special privileges of illness to the responsibilities of being well. Others who consciously bemoan their lack of advancement in their jobs, unconsciously do all they can to prevent themselves from having to face

the responsibilities of a better position. They may tell themselves that "the time isn't right," "I'm not ready," "I'm not yet ready," but for many the time never comes.

This was the situation which the prophet Haggai found in Jerusalem in the fifth century B.C. When Nebuchadnezzar had besieged the city, he had levelled it to the ground and carried off its most important people into captivity. Left behind were just a handful of lower class people to haunt the ruins of the once-holy city. Most of the people of Judah were carried into Babylonian captivity.

But when Cyrus, the Persian, conquered the Babylonians in 538 B.C., he published a decree allowing the Jews to return to their homeland and rebuild their temple. Some did, but many, having grown accustomed to their life in Babylon, despite years of yearning to return, remained there.

Busy With Yourselves

When the exiles returned to Jerusalem, they found a reluctance on the part of the local people to rebuild the city and its temple. So, "the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet, 'Is it a time for you yourselves to

dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?' (Haggai 1:4). The people continued to procrastinate, saying it wasn't yet time to rebuild, but through Haggai God was calling them to leave the security of their self-imprisoning attitudes and take upon themselves the responsibilities of free men, putting their trust, not their sheltered, confining lives, but in God.

When we are afraid, it is because we have failed to put our trust in God. Until we do, we will continue to be afraid of freedom.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
Phone 394-6851

TO FLUSH EWE FLOCK

Sheep breeders are facing the breeding season and need to practice very good management. One of these things to do is to get the ewe flock in a gaining condition when bred. This is called flushing the ewes with extra grain or with lush, grass-type pastures. Many shepherds have increased the number of twin lambs by having their ewes in excellent condition during the

breeding season. If they have not been treated for stomach worms this summer, that treatment should be the beginning of the effort. Ewes that are in good health condition when bred will produce more twin lambs. This will enable sheep producers to get more than a 100 percent lamb crop. The goal should be 2 lambs for every ewe.

TO ATTEND

AG PROGRESS DAYS
One of the largest agricultural events in the state each year is Ag Progress Days held at the Penn State Research Farm near Rock Springs in Centre County. This three-day event

is scheduled for August 19, 20 and 21, and should attract thousands of people. We are informed of the participation of 225 commercial exhibitors who will be displaying about \$20 million dollars worth of products and equipment. Energy saving displays will feature woodburning equipment, solar heating and drying, and both methane and gasohol digesters. Some of the world's most sophisticated farm equipment will be displayed and demonstrated. For a day of change and eye-opening experiences, we urge all readers to plan on attending Ag Progress Days this year.

TO OBSERVE WITHDRAWAL TIMES

Various drugs and chemicals are a part of livestock and dairy production according to modern practices. Any of these have a particular contribution to make and should be successful in controlling infections. However, the presence of any of the residues of these materials in meat or milk is not acceptable, over certain tolerances, and can be the reason for losing a market. Producers should become acquainted with the materials used and learn the exact withdrawal time. If the material is administered

by a local veterinarian, he should know the withdrawal period. In dairy animals this means the disposal of the milk for a certain number of days. In meat animals it means do not sell for slaughter, or do not slaughter, for a certain number of withdrawal days. This is important in order to produce a good product and to protect the consumer. Records should be kept of the drugs and chemicals used on all animals and crops.

TO CONSIDER MARKET DEMANDS

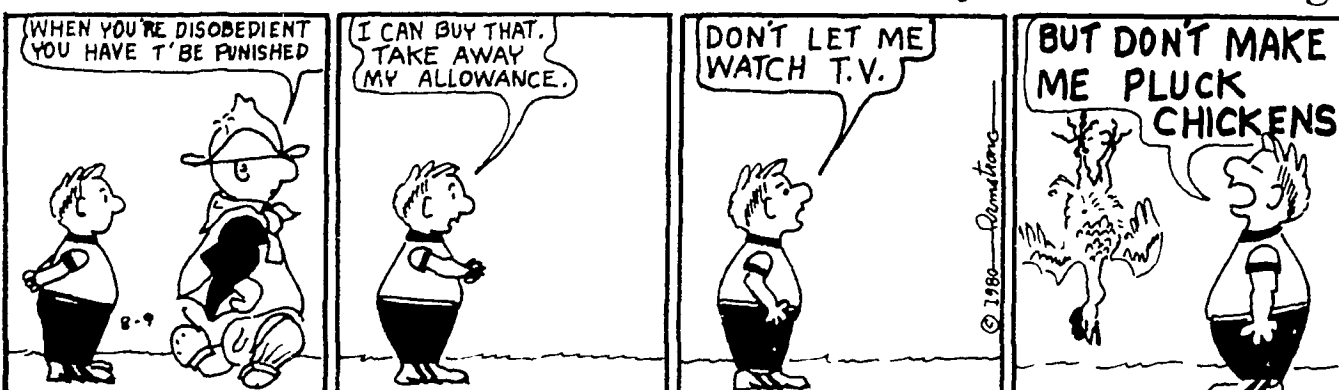
Cattle and hog feeders are feeling a bit better in recent weeks because of the advance in market prices. Under these conditions it is tempting to continue feeding animals longer hoping the market will continue to rise. This might happen in some cases; however, too many times it does not work out to the benefit of the producer. When cattle or hogs are fed longer because of speculating on a higher market, they often become too fat and too heavy to command a good price. As a result they are docked because of their excess

finish. Also, it costs more to put on that extra finish by increased feed requirements. Many times the cost of feeder animals follows the finished market; therefore, if a feeder waits on a higher market to sell, he may also have to pay a higher price for replacement stock. Sell when animals reach the desired market grade that pays the highest price is suggested.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, August 9
Chester County 4-H Hog Show, Vintage Sales Stables, 6:30 p.m.
Guernsey show, 4-H Park, Centreville, Maryland.
Arabian Horse Sale, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg.
PA Ayrshire Field Day, Ardrossan Farms, Villanova, 9:45 a.m.
Bradford County Junior Holstein Club Blueberry Festival, Duane Wilcox Farm, Canton.
Monday, August 11
Hagerstown Maryland Fair,
(Turn to Page A31)

RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong