

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



# Lancaster Farming says...

## Here's a stupid zoning proposal

One of the most stupid, short-sighted proposals ever to come out of local government will be discussed in Pequea Township on September 4 and again September 24.

Proposed Article 1912 actually is written to ban any structure which would house more than 500 poultry birds or more than 50 pigs or hogs. It would forbid more than 3 head of livestock to be kept per acre of farmland.

There are other equally inane provisions which would hog tie any kind of farming in the township.

We think it no accident that the tentative date for adoption of this asinine measure is the exact same day that the Lampeter Fair will open. While the farmers are away from home showing their livestock, the local lawmakers will be attempting to rob them of their right to farm.

Poultry houses, confinement livestock operations, and mushroom houses, among others, will no longer be considered agriculture but agri-business, in itself a uniquely silly idea.

Why the rush to put the screws to Pequea Township farmers?

Pequea has no flood plan yet—but must have one by September 30. Most other townships in the state

took care of that project two years ago.

Now that the Township finally is getting around to that project, it also wants to railroad through a whole zoning package.

The comprehensive plan drawn up in the 1960s and still in use today is woefully out of date. All of the farms

along the railroad line wiped out by Hurricane Agnes are zoned industrial. That plan still recognizes the Southern Beltway proposal which has been dormant for 20 years.

Along with shaking the cobwebs out of Pequea Township's master plan, farmers should shake the cobwebs out of the heads of

whatever politicians or citizens would think of supporting a vacuous proposal such as Section 1912.

Farmers should get a copy of 1912, read it, and then work the phone lines and grape vine overtime until all idea of accepting that stupid zoning proposal is put to rest forever.

## Reflections on ag progress

The 1980 Ag Progress Days is history. By Friday the tents had been struck, the exhibits removed, and only a small amount of litter remained.

This year's edition of Ag Progress Days was probably the smoothest running yet, thanks to the experience gained by Show Manager Joseph Harrington and the rest of the Penn State crew.

During the show some innovative ideas were proposed, some rough spots turned up, but for the most part it was one of the finest hours in Penn State agriculture's 125 years.

Will there be livestock at Ag Progress Days in future years? The State Holstein Association thinks it could draw 600 top-flight animals for

a state Holstein Show. The timing would be perfect with the All-American coming a month later.

Other livestock shows could follow. But there are two problems: first, local fair dates coming after Ag Progress could interfere; and second, Rock Springs, being a crop research farm, has no livestock facility.

The potential damage such a move could do to Farm Show may bring resistance from that area, too. Better weather, fewer gawkers and non-farm kids, and a central location at Rock Springs could hurt the Harrisburg show.

Some corn hybrid salesmen were disappointed with the way crops looked. But most farmers realized

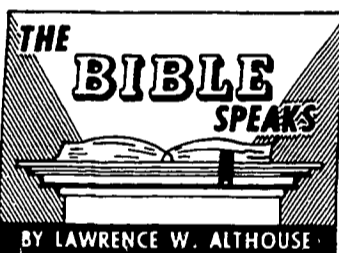
the problem was weather, not seed genetics.

Machinery dealers still want bigger and better areas for demonstrations. It's difficult to wrap a big bale of hay on a short windrow.

Crowd control at the demonstrations was excellent, with both roped-off areas and police keeping people out of danger.

One measure of how far the show has come is the general availability of water, toilet facilities, phones and electricity. That, of course, stems from having the show permanently at Rock Springs.

With 252 exhibitors and a fine show this year, the 1981 Ag Progress Days will have some big shoes to fill.



### THE SCRIBE WHO WAS A BUILDER

Lesson for August 24, 1980

Background Scripture:

Ezra 7 through 10.

Devotional Reading:

Psalms 133.

I have often noticed that

many people identify themselves to others by means of their vocation. Sometimes in working with discussion groups, I like to begin by asking each person who he or she is. Of course, they always respond with their name, but many people go on to say, "I'm a carpenter," "I'm a housewife," or "I work for the insurance company."

There is nothing necessarily wrong in identifying ourselves in this manner, so long as our vocation does not presume to sum up all or even most of what we are. You are a salesperson, but there is much more to say about you

beyond that. Too often our vocational image tends to have the effect of locking us into a confining role that falls far short of that for which God created us.

The story of Ezra is a good illustration of how a man was much more than his chosen vocation. When he is introduced to the narrative in the book that bears his name, he is described in these simple terms: "He was a scribe skilled in the law of Moses..." (7:6). So he was a scribe, nothing exceptional about that for there must have been many scribes. Yet, the King of Persia, Artaxerxes, apparently saw that Ezra was

something more than just a scribe for when he came to the king asking for permission to return to his homeland to rebuild the temple, "the king granted him all he asked, for the hand of the Lord was upon him" (7:6).

Yet, even as Ezra returned to Jerusalem, he still thought of himself as a scribe and little more. "For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach his statutes and ordinances in Israel" (7:10). Perhaps that is the key to what happened to Ezra: he not only was determined to study the law, but he was equally deter-

mined "to do it" — and when a person is determined to go beyond studying about God's will and attempts to do it, there is no way his or her life can be contained in a nice, neat little package.

#### Appoint Magistrates and Judges

So Ezra set off for Jerusalem a scribe, but in years to come people would remember him as prophet, priest, teacher, administrator, governor and, in the broad sense of the word, a builder! Because of this man and his many talents, the Temple of Jerusalem was raised up once again from the ashes of

Babylonian destruction. But Ezra built more than a Temple, he built a renewed community of God's people. The foundation he laid was more than mortar and stone, but faith, courage, leadership and wisdom. He was much more than just a scribe, he was a servant of the Lord.

Lurking in the shadows of his scribal vocation and image there lurked a builder, waiting to be freed to serve God in whatever manner the Lord might direct. So look within yourself to see what may be waiting there to be set free and thus serve your Lord.

## NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith Lancaster County Agricultural Agent  
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### TO CONSIDER COVER CROPS

Late summer and early fall are the best times to make a cover crop seeding.

### RURAL ROUTE

Land that has produced a current crop and is not to be seeded to winter grain should be covered with some vegetation during the winter months. Any type of small grain, domestic ryegrass, or field bromegrass are common cover crops. The big reason for making this seeding is to conserve the

topsoil during the winter months.

Many fields that are open may suffer severe erosion from both rain and wind. When the ground is covered with a cover crop, there will be much less soil losses. These cover crops may be pastured during the late fall and early spring and then

used to improve soil organic matter next year. Don't let the topsoil get away when a cover crop will keep it on your farm.

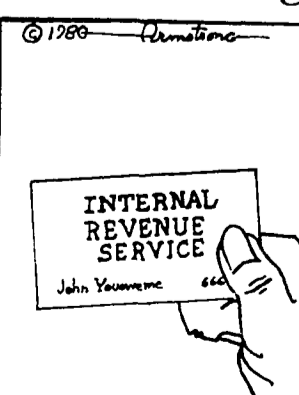
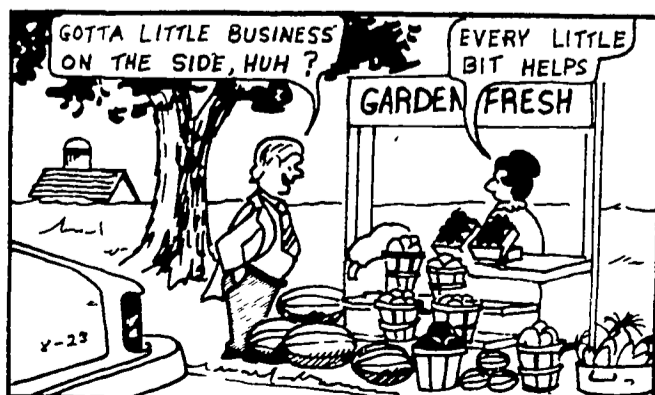
#### TO RECOGNIZE CORN SILAGE MATURITY

Some silage growers may be thinking of making their corn crop into silage early this fall due to the dry

weather. I realize there are crops that are drying up from the ground and are quite short in the stalk. However, I'd like to point out that more feed nutrients will be harvested, if the ear can be allowed to mature into the early dent stage. Silage research reveals that corn made into silage in the silk stage will yield only 63% feed nutrients, while corn in

the dent stage should give silage with 69% feed nutrients.

The important thing is to allow the ear to develop properly before ensiling, if at all possible. In some years when we have ample moisture the stalk may continue to be too green even when the ear is in the dent stage. Corn silage is a very (Turn to Page A27)



## Farm Calendar

Today, August 23  
Eastern International Quarter Horse Show and Sale, continues through August 30; Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.  
Maryland State Fair; State Fair Grounds; Timonium; continues through September 2.

Northeast Pa. Breeders Sale; 12 noon; Meadville.  
Valley Grange Meeting; 2:30 p.m.; Grange Hall, Lewisberry.  
New Jersey State 4-H Horse Show; Jamesburg.  
Hoof and Horns 4-H Fun Show; Fairgrounds; 10 a.m. (Turn to Page A39)