

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



# Lancaster Farming says...

## Crack down on SMV violations

The Pennsylvania State Police and local law enforcement officials should crack down on improper display of slow moving vehicle signs.

There are too many SMV emblems being displayed improperly along the roadsides on state highways.

Maryland officials already have ordered state troopers to crack down and issue citations for illegal or improper use of the sign.

About nine years ago, October 11, 1971 to be exact, the Commonwealth legislature passed a law requiring slow moving vehicles to display SMV triangles.

Maryland passed its law January 1, 1971.

The SMV laws specify to the foot where farmers should display the emblems.

The SMV sign has been a life-saver, too, on rural roads where speeding

drivers instantly are alerted to the presence of a slow-moving hay wagon, tractor, or buggy by the flash of the fluorescent yellow-orange triangle with its red border.

In fact, in the mind of the average motorist the SMV sign is almost as quickly recognized as the standard red octagon that means 'stop' or the yellow diamond-shaped signs that warn of danger or change in the road ahead.

But all too often in Pennsylvania we see SMV signs used as driveway markers, strung from chains across lanes, used as reflectors on trees, or still dangling from the backs of construction vehicles rolling down an Interstate highway at 60 miles an hour.

We're not asking the police to write up tickets every time they see a violation.

Most of those who are using the

SMV signs as driveway markers probably don't know they are doing anything wrong.

They don't realize that improper use of the signs detracts from their effectiveness on the back of a combine or planter unit.

They probably don't see how indiscriminate use of the SMV emblem lowers its effectiveness as a warning on the back of slow moving vehicles.

Farmers, too, can be guilty just as are other rural residents. We have a sampling on page B-15 of what would appear to be improperly displayed SMV signs.

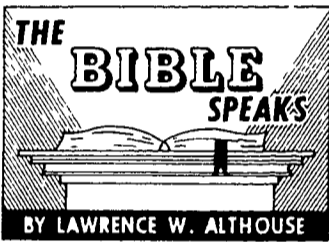
Those property owners probably didn't consider it would be even cheaper to buy reflectors on aluminum posts, available at any farm supply store or hardware shop for a dollar, than it is to buy SMV signs.

A friendly but stern warning from a patrolman passing by should be sufficient to encourage most folks to display the SMV sign properly: that is, on the center of the back of vehicles moving less than 25 mph, with the base of the triangle three to five feet from the road.

A lot of time went into developing the SMV sign. In some farm states like Nebraska, the symbol has been used since 1966 when the National Safety Council and Ohio State University came up with the idea.

It can save a lot of wrecked farm equipment and a number of farmers' lives. It's required under the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act regulations on equipment used by hired hands.

Like any tool, SMV emblems should be used properly so when the time comes that they're needed, they can do their jobs well.



### WHO ARE YOU FOR?

November 2, 1980

**Background Scripture:**  
Luke 4:16-30; John 13:31-35  
Mark 14:22-25

**Devotional Reading:**  
Hebrews 6:1-12  
The 1980 Presidential

election campaign has seen the injection of a new factor. the emergence of a partisan religious group that has publicly worked for the election of specific candidates and the rejection of others. Many have questioned the propriety of religious groups becoming directly involved in the campaign. At the same time we must remember that it was a similar point of view that kept the great majority of German churchmen and laity from opposing Hitler in the late 20's and early 30's.

#### THE SOCIAL MINORITY

It is not so much the direct involvement that disturbs me as it is the manner in

which that involvement has been conducted. The position of this so called "Moral Majority" has been more a matter of what or who these Christians are against, rather than what or who they are for. Even more, I am disturbed by the identify of many of those whom this group seems to be against: the poor (translate as "the welfare cheats"), the captives (translate as "the habitual criminals), and the oppressed (translate as "the vocal minorities").

Yet, when we look at Jesus' own ministry we find him defining it in terms of identifying with these very

people: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor, He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed" (Luke 4:18). Standing in his hometown synagogue, Jesus spells out the identifying marks of his covenant ministry.

Much later in his ministry, when the disciples of John the Baptist come asking, "Are you he who is come or shall we look for another?" Remember how Jesus answered them? Not with

doctrines or dogmas but with the ancient prophesis of Isaiah: "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them." (Matthew 11:2-6). These were the ones Jesus was for.

#### POURED OUT FOR MANY

On the night of the Last Supper Jesus reminded his disciples of the new covenant symbolized in their common meal together, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured

out for many" (Mark 14:24). Forever after, to participate in that sacrament is a challenge to renew the covenantal mission which Christ has given to us. If we are his followers, there is no way we cannot but be involved in the same mission of serving the down-and-outers, the oppressed who cannot help themselves. We cannot be against these people and still be for him.

These people looked no more attractive to Jesus' followers in his day than they do to us today. It is easy to give them labels and write them off. But if we are not for them, we are not for him and he is not for us.



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith Lancaster County Agricultural Agent  
Phone 394-6851

### TO HUNT SAFELY

The small game hunting season is at hand when many folks will be taking to the fields and woods. Guns themselves are not dangerous, but it is the persons handling the firearms that can be dangerous. We urge all parents to caution their families on good gun safety; there are many do's and don'ts that could save a life.

Space does not permit this listing. However, keep in mind that too many "unloaded" guns have been responsible for shooting or killing someone. Be sure they are empty when stored or being handled. All hunters should wear bright clothing and be sure to know where other hunters are located. Don't shoot at anything that moves; be sure it is the game that you are shooting.

### TO VACCINATE FOR BRUCELLOSIS PREVENTION

Over the years there has been considerable discussion regarding the merits of

calfhood vaccination to prevent brucellosis. Now, it appears that most authorities support the practice and urge all cattlemen to get their heifer calves vaccinated when 2 to 6 months of age. In light of the recent outbreaks of brucellosis in Pennsylvania, it seems highly important that herd owners get as much resistance to the disease as possible. We hope that more producers will accept this practice of protecting their up-coming herd. I'd suggest that local veterinarians be consulted if additional information is needed.

### TO PLAN 1981 SOIL FERTILITY PROGRAM

It's not too soon to be planning for your soil fertility program for next year; and where do we start? Yes, you guessed it; we start with a complete soil test. There's no better way to learn of the actual needs of a soil than to have it tested frequently. And you don't need to wait until next spring. In fact, this fall is a much better time to do testing for the 1981 cropping season.

If you do the sampling correctly, the test will be just as accurate as waiting until next March or April.

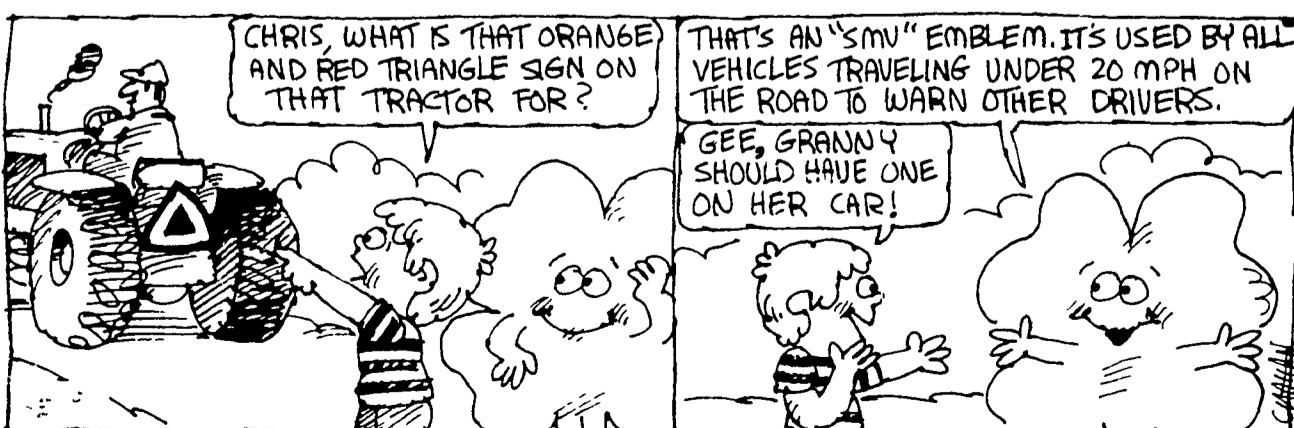
Also, you will get faster service and have the information for the early ordering of materials. A good fertility program needs planning and includes complete soil tests. Try to make every lime and fertilizer dollar a needed expenditure and one that will increase crop yields. All acres should be expected to produce maximum yields with proper planning and management.

### TO CHECK

**CHIMNEYS AND FLUES**  
The heating season is here when many stoves and heating units will go into

service. Is your system safe from a fire hazard standpoint? In this part of the state many tobacco sheds, and barns, have stoves for winter working conditions. There are many things that can happen to a stove pipe, flue, or a chimney that will permit sparks to get out into the building. We suggest these items be carefully checked before a fire gets started. In some cases the chimney may need to be repaired or re-pointed in order to make it tight. Don't take chances with heating units. Building replacements are very costly at this time.

## CHRIS CLOVER



## Farm Calendar

**Today, November 1**  
Southeast Region 4-H Leaders Forum; Montgomery County 4-H Center; Lansdale; 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Sunday, November 2**  
Arabian Horse Show and Sale; Stampes Arabian Farm; Lewes, Del; 10 a.m.

**Monday, November 3**  
Farm Equipment

Manufacturer's Assn., Penn National Racetrack; Grantville; 5:45 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 4**  
Election day  
Dairy feeding meeting; 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Farm and Home Center; Lancaster

County FFA Land Judging (Turn to Page A14)