



# Off the Sounding Board

By Sheila Miller, Editor

## It's about time

How many times have we heard people say, "There aren't enough hours in the day to get everything done?"

Well, for those people, especially our growing number of part-time farmers who need those extra hours more than their full-time counterparts, this may be a timely tidbit of news.

There is current legislation in Washington D.C. which could possibly extend those light-filled hours of the day.

No, they have not added more hours to our 24-hour day. What's proposed is an extension of the Daylight Savings Time period.

Recently, HR 3952 passed out of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. What this piece of legislation would create is a DST that would extend from the first Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October.

This would add about two months of extra daylight hours for farmers in the evenings, even though it would mean mornings would be darker. This should not outweigh the benefits of extended evening working hours since it's generally too cool to get out in the fields for work early in the morning. And, for the part-time farmer, the mornings mean driving to 'the other' job, anyway.

Another proposal, Senate Bill 879, shifts the current start of DST from the last

Sunday in April to the last Sunday in March. This proposal would give us a month of extra evening daylight hours.

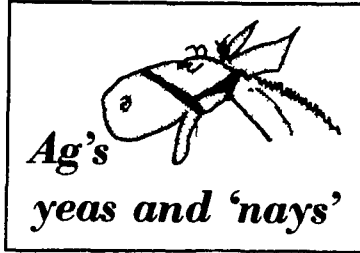
There is yet one other legislative proposal concerning DST. S 1151 calls for DST to run from the first Sunday in March and end the first Sunday in November rather than the last Sunday in October — adding one more week to the HR 3952 proposal.

The last two proposals, however, have been postponed.

As we see it, no matter which bill is passed, any extension of the daylight time during the planting and harvest season is a help to the farmer. And, since statistics show more and more farmers having to work off the farm and doing the field work in the evenings, this will surely be a welcome change.

It is surprising to us then to find the American Farm Bureau Federation has taken a stand against the DST extension proposals. As a matter of fact, this farm organization has recommended that Daylight Savings Time be shortened. They say that they would like to see it run from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

AFB's reasoning behind this recommendation is they "feel there is no major benefit to agriculture in the proposed



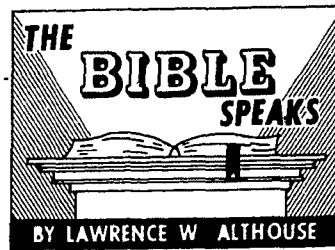
extension of DST. They say it creates more rural problems with school children waiting for buses in the dark," according to a Pennsylvania Farmers' Association spokesman.

We don't see this as a sound enough reason to hold back on a beneficial change for farmers. The children who wait for school buses have to get through the dark-morning winter months, too.

And, let's face it, children don't walk for miles along highways to wait for the bus as they did a number of years back. Most of those kids who have to wait are transported to the bus stop in a car, where they sit in the comfort and safety of the vehicle as opposed to standing out in the weather.

Granted, parents will have to stress continuing to be careful on darker mornings. But, we don't see where this is a problem.

Giving farmers a few more hours to get the job done is the least our legislators can do to help out the agricultural community. It's about time.



### THE STEP BEYOND BEING SORRY

August 16, 1981

**Background Scripture:**  
Deuteronomy 29:16-28; 30:1-10  
**Devotional Reading:**  
1 Kings 3:5-14.

Earlier this week a young man sat in my study and wept softly as he confessed all the ways in which he had hurt and saddened his parents. "I can't understand how I could have done that to them," he said, tears streaming down his face.

This afternoon his father sat in the very same chair and with tears barely hidden in his eyes he told me that, despite the young man's apologies the evening after his session with me, this morning his son was back into the same destructive pattern, seemingly indifferent to the feelings of those who love him.

#### Return and Obey

Was it that the son had deceived me? No, I think he was genuinely sorry as he spoke to me. The son cared deeply enough to feel sorry, but not deeply enough to take the next step beyond being sorry. Repentance is more than feeling remorse, it is acting out of our remorse in a positive way that is calculated to keep us from feeling remorse once again over the same cause.

In Moses' final discourse to the people of Israel, he calls them to

"return to the Lord your God" (30:2). If we feel sorry for what we have done, there is a sense in which we need to 'come back' or 'return' so that we may be forgiven. But repentance calls, not only for a return, but for a positive, obedient course once we have returned. Thus, Moses calls the people to both "return to the Lord" and "obey his voice . . . with all your heart and with all your soul" (30:10).

If we are truly sorry, we will change the course of our lives. We will give up the things that cause us remorse. We will begin to do the things we know God wants of us. "And you shall again obey the voice of the Lord and keep all his commandments which I command you this day" (30:8).

#### God Will Gather You

I realize it is much easier to say than to do and the fact is that sometimes the sinful, destructive patterns are grooved so deeply into our lives that, despite our genuine remorse, we find ourselves soon slipping back into the old ways. I once watched some scouts construct a rope bridge across a ravine. They began by throwing one single strand of rope across the chasm and then returning it to the other side. Back and forth went the strands until the bridge could bear the weight of many hikers.

Habits are formed the same way—one strand after another is added to the pattern, until at last the pattern is so strong that it has become a part of our lives. But, just as bad habits are formed through repetition, so are good habits to replace bad ones. If we are truly sorry whenever we fail and resolve to change our lives, we can take that extra step beyond being sorry and begin to build a new set of habits that is pleasing in God's sight.

## OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

### Saving time

In the recent issue of "The Voice," published by the Pennsylvania Farmers Association, there was an article on changing Daylight Savings Time to run from Memorial Day to Labor Day. I would like to express my opinion on this subject, plus hear what other farmers have to say on this change.

In response to changing Daylight Savings Time from Memorial Day to Labor for the safety of the school children, I ask: "Why impose this

on many part-time farmers who would like very much to be able to get into the fields with at least an hour of daylight?" Remember some of these guys have already put in a full day somewhere else, and fatigue and darkness adds up to a potentially hazardous situation.

Why not ask the local school boards to just start school an hour later?

Edwin S. Garlick  
Montoursville, Pa.

## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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#### To Plan For Fall Wheat Seeding

The time is fast approaching here for our wheat growers to be making plans for their fall seeding. Some of the local wheat may not be satisfactory due to the wheat scab found in the county this year. If you use local wheat, be sure you know the source and have it cleaned and treated for disease. Also, if you had a scab problem this year, do not plant seed in that same field this fall; the fungus can remain in the soil.

Certified seed would be the best route to take if you experienced any problem with scab or powdery mildew this year. The extra cost for certified seed is well worth it to help insure a good crop next summer.

Plan your seed needs now so you are ready to plant when the conditions are right.

#### To Check Silo Size

How much silage or high moisture corn must you feed each day to keep ahead of spoilage in the silo? The amount will vary considerably from cold days to hot days. Can your herd consume this much feed? The answer to these

questions depends on the diameter of the silo, how well the feed was processed and packed when it was ensiled, herd size, feeding program, season of the year and type of storage structure, according to our Dairy Agent, Glenn Shirk.

If you are ensiling high moisture ground shelled corn in an upright conventional silo, you'll need to remove at least 2 inches of grain a day in warmer weather to keep ahead of spoilage. For a 14 foot silo, that is 1400 pounds or more of corn per day - 24 pounds per cow in a 60-cow herd. If you're ensiling whole shelled corn or ground ear corn, the material does not pack as tightly, and up to 4 inches may have to be removed daily. Four inches of this material in a 4 foot silo is 2456 pounds - 41 pounds per cow in a 60-cow herd! In the latter situation, a 10 foot silo would require 21 pounds of corn be fed. If a limited-oxygen storage unit is used, sizing is less critical. Feeding 2 inches of corn per day year round would require a silo 61 feet tall; 4 inches per day requires a total of 122 feet of silo height.

#### To Renovate Old Pastures

Late August and early September are good times to establish a new pasture, or renovate an old one. In fact, this is a good time of the year to make any pasture or lawn seeding. The old sod should be destroyed by cultivation or by a herbicide. After the soil has been treated with lime and fertilizer, according to a complete soil test, it can be seeded and should produce good grazing for next summer.

The advantage of a fall seeding is to permit time for the new plants to become established before the 1982 hot weather arrives. The cool, moist fall months should give the plants a good start. The Agronomy Guide lists some good seeding recommendations.

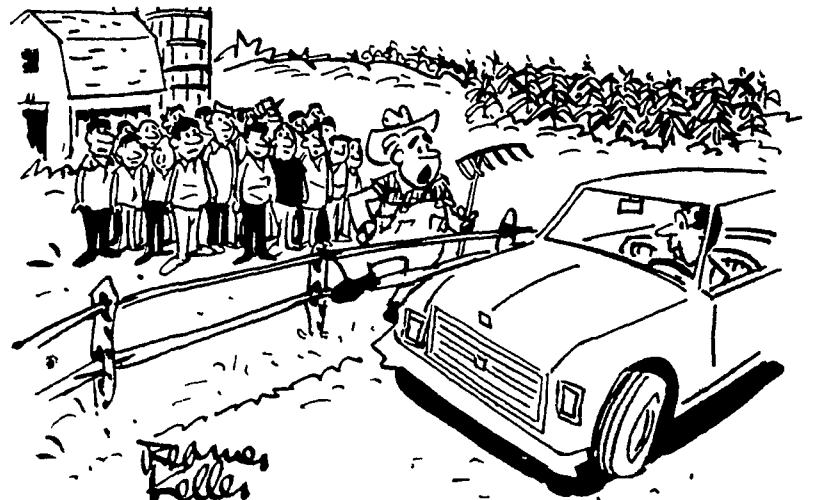
#### To Plan Herbicide Changes For Next Year

By this time of year, any weed problems in your fields are fairly evident and probably beyond control. But now is a good time to develop an effective program for next year.

The easiest way to check for the effectiveness of different herbicides is to leave a small part of

(Turn to Page A12)

## HAY HAWS



"No, I'm not over-staffed. I do the work and the others keep the records for the government."