

**OUR READERS WRITE,
AND OTHER OPINIONS**

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**Send a
letter now**

A movement toward Federal legislation on farm animal regulations is now being actively pursued by Congressman Ronald Mottl (D-Ohio). An extensive study was done at the Congressman's request by 24 scientists associated in agricultural fields and included Dr. Michael Fox.

They could not substantiate adverse effects from confinement rearing. But, because of a letter-writing campaign by animal welfare groups, Congressman Mottl now wants House Joint Resolution 305 passed and a 16 man commission established. This commission will recommend codes and laws regulating production of livestock, farms, etc. They will establish guidelines within two years of its inception.

Tell Congress we are against regulation. We need a letter-writing campaign by farmers — the ones who are going to be regulated. Write to your congressman in Washington at 2411 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, and write to the Hon. Tom Harkin, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

Tell them you oppose any legislative action on house joint res. 305.

**Now is
the Time**

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To Plant Trees

Trees are a very important part of our landscape; this is true in the urban areas as well as in the rural areas. This time of year is best suited for planting all kinds of trees. Some are used for landscape purposes, some for shade and some for windbreaks. Trees are important to our environment and add grace and beauty to many areas. Trees provide shelter for many kinds of birds and wildlife, as well as the ability to conserve soil and moisture. If you desire to plant trees, it should be done before hot weather arrives. Trees should be moved with a ball of soil wrapped in burlap. After planting be sure to keep the soil moist throughout the summer. Be a tree planter, you'll feel better for it.

To Avoid Sudden Feed Changes

Cattle should be introduced to pastures gradually for several reasons according to our Dairy Agent, Glenn Shirk. A sudden change to a pasture feeding program can upset a cow's rumen causing her to go off feed. As a result, fat tests and milk production can decline. Excess consumption of grass early in the season can also cause grassy odors and flavors in milk. That's one thing we do not need as we are trying to increase milk consumption!

If production increases when cows are turned out to pasture, it could be an indication that your winter feeding program was not properly balanced. To avoid these problems, feed the cows forage before turning them out to pasture. Limit the amount of time they have access to pasture initially, and bring them in from pasture well before milking time.

To Check Corn Planters

Corn planting season is just around the corner. And just because your planter worked well a year ago is no guarantee that it'll work this year, unless you've given it a thorough check-up this past winter or early this spring. Wear and tear over the years may have taken its toll. Many farmers jeopardize their crop stands each spring simply because they don't take the time to give their planters a thorough maintenance check. Worn parts, easily replaceable, or mechanisms that need a simple shot of grease, are common reasons for reduction in yield.

Check your planter to make sure the drive chains are tight, that all bearings are in good condition, the seed and fertilizer tubes are clean and free of dirt and make sure the tires are in good condition, and most importantly, be sure you are

**NPPC president seeks
Reagan's help for farmers**

DES MOINES, Ia. — In a recent letter to President Reagan, John Saunders, president of the National Pork Producers Council said that while trade policies and inflation have taken their toll, the single greatest factor affecting the survival of farmers is the unprecedented high interest rate.

"Farmers are being forced to give up their own family farm operations because of factors they have never faced before," Saunders said in the letter. "If a farmer doesn't make it through the short-term, the long-term makes very little difference."

Saunders expressed NPPC's

concern over the "meat ax" approach being applied to programs vital to food production and asked for presidential intervention to insure discretionary cuts.


using the proper plates where plates are used and for plateless planters that the mechanisms are properly adjusted. Give the planter a good once-over ahead of time. This will help eliminate problems during the very busy planting season.

above all, Saunders asked that every means be provided in the short-term to retain the highly credible career farmers in food production.

"We understand the \$600 million is available to fund the Farmers Home Administration's program of economic emergency loans to farmers. We recommend that it be used to assist those farmers who have a record of being a good risk, but are victims of the current farm depression," stated Saunders.

Saunders added that this could be the "make or break" year for the agricultural economy, with surpluses turning into drastic shortages because of factors beyond the farmer's control.

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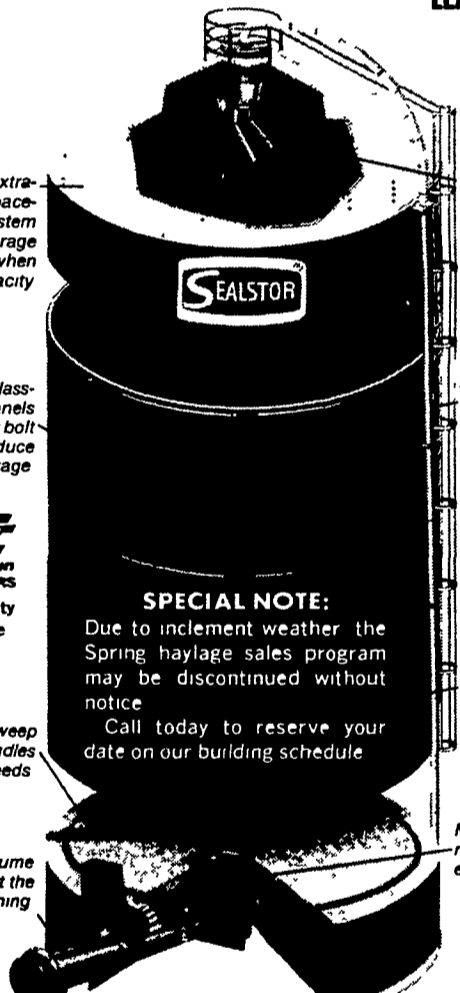
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