



# Off the Sounding Board

By Sheila Miller, Editor

## It's everybody's problem

In just one short month the townships of Caernarvon and East Earl in eastern Lancaster County will begin hearings on a most controversial subject — a proposed hazardous waste landfill.

Both of these townships will pass judgement on plans submitted by Envirosafe Services Inc. The township officials will have to vote yea or nay on whether to grant ESI a special exception in order to turn the old Narvon clay mine site into a home for hazardous waste.

Already there is a charged feeling stirring the local residents into speaking out against the proposed landfill. A sense of mutual need has brought together farmer and nonfarmer in a common effort — to stop the landfill which they feel threatens them.

Their cause has brought forth strong voices out of a normally quiet people — the Mennonites and Amish of the community. Together with their neighbors, these soft-spoken people are leaving no doubts in the minds of others that they are not happy with the idea of perhaps someday dealing with another Love Canal situation.

These individual landowners are not alone in opposing ESI's planned landfill. Just last Friday the Lancaster Environmental Action Federation went on record as "strongly opposed" to the landfill. And on Wednesday evening the Lancaster County Conservation District followed suit.

In citing their reasons for opposing the Narvon landfill, LEAF pointed out their belief that "much of the hazardous waste targeted for Narvon could be recycled or rendered harmless. The wastes are being buried in the ground simply because this is the least expensive means of disposal. We believe industry and government should redouble their efforts to encourage the reuse of these wastes which should be viewed as a valuable resource — not just something to throw away. If waste volumes can be reduced by recycling, the need for landfill sites such as that proposed at Narvon would be greatly reduced."

The Federation also pointed out the fact that Lancaster County is the most agriculturally productive, non-irrigated county in the U.S. and therefore "is not the place for a hazardous waste landfill. There are many places in less populated areas where agriculture is not a major industry that would be suitable for such a facility."

Recalling the negative impact that the world-famous TMI nuclear reactor had on Lancaster County agriculture, as well as surrounding counties, it is not hard to fathom how consumers also could boycott food produced close to this hazardous waste site. Since this part of Lancaster County is experiencing an ever-increasing trend for truck crop production along with the traditional crops of corn, tobacco, and small grains, any

food scare would inflict grave financial impacts.

Now you might be saying "Isn't that too bad for those unfortunate Lancaster County farmers who are unlucky enough to live next door to the Narvon clay mines?" But what's at stake here goes much deeper into the heart of agriculture than the misfortunes of just a few farmers.

Ever since the pioneers settled this nation, it has been the practice to take the best the land has to offer and then, when it's worn out and ruined, to move on to "greener pastures." Well, we ran out of virgin land many years ago and now we're forced to make do with what we've got.

But the competition for our land is so intense that we find farmers fighting factories and families just to hold on to their fertile cropland rather than succumbing to the monetary temptation of selling out at top dollar for an industrial site or a new housing development.

It's a proven fact that prime farmland also is prime land for just about every other use, including landfills. And after the first farmer gives in to the lure of the greenback dollar, others follow either because they too seek a windfall profit or because they no longer can tolerate the annoyance of big business right next door. And so it mushrooms as more farmland feels the biting teeth of bulldozers.

We Americans also are guilty of believing that "out of sight is out of mind." We bury our sorrows, our guilts, our pasts in hopes that they won't come back to haunt us. But, when we start burying potentially lethal wastes, the ghosts we fear will be real ones and not just figments of our imaginations. Reality will be in the form of contaminated ground water and surface water, and we won't be able to wake up from this nightmare and have it disappear.

That is why the Narvon fight is not just a Lancaster County issue. As industry produces more hazardous wastes than it can handle profitably, there will be increased pressures on all farming areas to serve as a convenient disposal site. Farmers will have to defend themselves against these intruders who will offer enticing financial gains in order to dump their "garbage" in the country.

Industry must be forced to deal with the wastes it creates and bear the cost of rendering it harmless. Although there are cries from industry as to what this additional expense will do to the cost of manufactured products, current estimates show the average business spends only one-tenth of one percent of its cost of doing business on getting rid of wastes. Even if that cost escalated to six-tenths of one percent, it would be worth it.

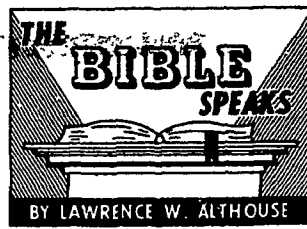
As one East Earl township farmer said, "I'd rather pay for it up front now, than a few years down the road have my kids paying the price with their health."

## OUR READERS WRITE

### Explaining the relationship

The editorial entitled "Battle of the Oct. 2 issue of Lancaster Farming contained some erroneous information. Presently, the National Farmers (Turn to Page A12)

OTIS



**DELIVERANCE!**  
October 10, 1982

Background Scripture: Exodus 11 through 12.

Devotional Reading: Exodus 12:37-42.

If you have never participated in a Jewish Seder—the celebration of the Passover in a Jewish home—you have missed, I believe, a most valuable and moving spiritual experience. On several occasions I have been invited to share in the Seder of one or more of my Jewish friends and I have deeply valued those experiences.

Perhaps it may seem to you a bit strange or even unfitting for a Christian to celebrate the Passover. I have never felt that it was anything but most appropriate, for the passion of our Lord was inextricably bound to the Passover. The Christian understanding of the experience of salvation is tied to the meaning of the Passover.

#### It Is The Lord's Passover

Yet, even beyond that, I believe that the Passover is for all God's children. True, it is a Jewish celebration, but, as Exodus makes it clear, "It is the Lord's passover."

The Jews have preserved this sacred celebration down through the centuries and we are all indebted to them for doing so. We need to join them in celebrating God's deliverance of his children from tyranny to oppression.

In this particular case, Egypt

was the oppressor and the people of Israel were the oppressed. But just as God delivered the people of the Jews from tyranny, so God is always at work in the world to accomplish deliverance for the captives. When we speak of God as our Saviour, we need to remember that a Saviour is a Deliverer. A God who saves his Children is a God who liberates them.

So the story of the Passover is a specific example of God's liberation of a particular people at a precise moment in history. But the Jew today knows that Passover does not stop with ancient Egypt and the Israelites. It is also the story of God's continuing work to free the world of bondage, oppression, and injustice. Wherever that is happening, there is Passover.

#### When Your Children Ask...

Political freedom, thus, is, at least in the Judao-Christian tradition, a religious or spiritual issue. It was one of the most important perspectives of this country's struggle for and attainment of independence. God does not intend for us to be merely holy. He also intends for us to be free.

And perhaps even more pertinent, having secured for us our freedom, he intends for all his children to be delivered from bondage. One cannot be in harmony with that aspect of God's will and be indifferent about the freedom of other peoples. If we are for freedom, we must be for freedom for all.

Moses tells the people, "And when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' you shall say..." It is a message that must be passed on from one generation to another. It is a revelation from God to his people that must go on and on and on: the will of God for all who are oppressed is DELIVERANCE!

## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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#### To Manage Horizontal Silos

Most of our permanent silos are filled, but we do have some livestock and dairy producers that need to store silage in temporary structures. In many cases this is a trench or a bunker silo, mostly above ground. In these cases, it is very important to keep out excess water and air from the silage mass. This will require tightening down the plastic cover week by week as the silage settles. Also, surface water should be drained away from the silage area. There are cases that the black plastic is flapping in the wind during the fall months. This will usually result in larger amounts of spoiled silage.

#### To Check Bulk Feed Bins

We have a lot of bulk feed bins on our farms today. And at this time of the year and through the winter months, a lot of operators are bothered with the problem of condensation which causes feed caking and mold growth. This condition can be improved by insulating the bins that are outside. The insulation reduces the condensation because it reduces the rapid temperature fluctuation.

The cold mornings along with warm noon temperatures and then cool nights will cause moisture to form on bulk bin walls. The feed caking on the walls would likely contain mold. This moldy feed can reduce feed consumption and affect production. Also, feed

medications, particularly poultry feeds, may not be effective in the presence of mold.

It's always a good idea to thoroughly clean bulk feed bins regularly, especially during this period of rapidly changing temperatures. After cleaning out the bin, it should be sprayed with a mold inhibitor and allowed to dry. Calcium propionate solution may be used as the inhibitor at the rate of 2 ounces per gallon of water.

#### To Beware of Grazing Hazards

Dairymen who are grazing their milking herds in woodlots, or in pastures with oak trees, should be on the alert for fallen acorns. Our veterinary science people tell us that acorns are somewhat toxic to cattle and will dry up most cows for the rest of their lactation. We are aware of many oak trees in pastures, and in most years there will be a pretty good acorn crop.

If the cows start eating these acorns, then the milk flow will be reduced drastically. Either the cows should be removed from the area, or someone should pick up the acorns before the cows are turned out daily.

#### To Prepare for Cold Weather

The month of October is a good time to get ready for freezing weather. Water cooled motors should be treated with anti-freeze

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