

## Self-help vs. bailouts

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

A time of decision is coming in Pennsylvania agriculture when livestock producers are going to have to make a decision whether their future is going to be determined by self-help or continued hope of bailouts.

The decision involves whether through self-help producers are going to take the initiative to help guide their own future or if they're going to continue to gamble that government will bail them out when the going really gets rough.

Also, this decision goes to very core of what many farmers believe in -- personal initiative should guide a person's future rather than welfare handouts.

This is why the suggestion of Rep. Terry Scheetz outlined on Page One deserves the close scrutiny of everyone in agriculture in the Commonwealth. It is a concept whose time has truly come.

Rep. Scheetz is quick to point out that he's offering the concept of a Pennsylvania Pork Producers Promotion and Indemnification Fund and Board as an idea for review -- a point to start from to launch discussion.

Rep. Scheetz brings a unique perspective to this concept -- he's both a hog producer and although only a freshman legislator he's well aware of the raised eyebrows and voices that are developing in Harrisburg to ag bailouts.

It may be hard from a rural and agricultural standpoint to understand the reasoning that urban legislators and voters apply to these million-dollar bailouts. Two million here for Al cleanup and 2.5 million there for dairy farmers hit by bankruptcies.

These urban legislators view such things purely and simply as ag welfare. And, it comes at times that welfare of a different sort is being criticized and cut for their inner-city constituents.

In all reality, there's no basic difference in state allocations for dairy or chicken farmers or for center-city welfare. It's all general tax money going only to a specific group of people.

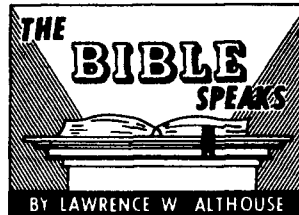
Farmers got to be realistic about all of this -- the days of ag bailouts in Harrisburg are numbered. Each one becomes more difficult to get through. And farmer-legislators are far outnumbered in Harrisburg just as farmers are far outnumbered in the state's and nation's population.

So, if you can't count on help from Big Brother in Harrisburg, the only other way is to help yourself.

Such a fund, in essence, amounts to livestock producers putting something back each time they sell an animal for a rainy day. I heard that principle preached many times as a youngster and I'm sure it still is a basic belief throughout rural areas.

And the beauty of Rep. Scheetz' idea is that, while he's suggesting it for his own swine industry, it's something that could easily be adapted to dairy, poultry or whatever. Separate funds and separate producer boards could be set up.

So, give his idea the attention it deserves. I'm sure he'd like to hear your comments and ideas at his Reamstown or Harrisburg offices or his Stevens farm.



THE SAME,  
BUT DIFFERENT  
September 2, 1984

**Background Scripture:**

Acts 7:54 through 8:3; 9:1-19;  
Galatians 1

**Devotional Reading:**

Acts 9:20-31.

Before the Damascus Road experience, Saul was clearly an enemy to Christ and the Gospel. At the martyrdom of Stephen, Acts tells us, "Saul was consenting to his death" (8:1). And when, on the heels of that, persecution broke out against the Christians, Acts tells us, "Saul laid waste the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison" (8:3). It was still in this mood that Saul later set off for Damascus: "breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord..." (9:1).

**Saul To Paul**

After the Damascus Road experience, Saul became an ardent disciple of Jesus Christ. Even before he left Damascus, Saul appeared in the synagogues proclaiming Jesus, "saying, 'He is the Son of God'" (9:20). From this day forward, Saul had a new vocation: an apostle of Jesus Christ.

Not only did Saul have a new vocation, but a new reputation as well. In fact, people didn't know what to make of this man. In Damascus they were amazed and asked, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called on this name?" (9:21).

And, later in Jerusalem, when he "attempted to join the disciples," Acts tells us "they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple" (9:26). Later, they would start referring to him by his Roman name, Paul, instead of the Hebrew name, Saul.

Was this the same man, or someone different?

Actually, Saul the persecutor of Christ -- Paul the Apostle for Christ were both the same and different persons. Paul was still as intense, ardent and zealous as he had always been. He was still a man of deep dedication and commitment. He was still a rugged individualist and even perhaps a bit eccentric. He still was a well-educated and talented man who knew both Jewish and Roman worlds. He was still a doer, a man who made things happen.

**A New Direction**

But Paul was also different, too. The difference was not so much in his personality, but in the use to which he put that personality. Whereas once his intensity, ardor, and zeal had been for Pharasaism, now all of this single-mindedness was harnessed for Christ. His dedication and commitment were focused upon the Gospel and his fine education and remarkable talents were now dedicated to the church.

There may be people who, when confronted with their own Damascus Road encounters, become completely different people. Most of us, however, need only to change the course of our lives. What talents and gifts we give to lesser pursuits need to be dedicated to Christ. Christ does not ask us to be someone else, but rather to use who we really are -- as we were created to be -- for him and the Good News of the Christian message and mission.

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# NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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**To Be Extra Safe During This Busy Season**

We are entering one of the busiest and most hazardous times of the year ... silo filling and corn picking time. Blend into that time wheat and barley planting and the last cutting of alfalfa. This means a lot of farm machinery will be on our highways during semi-dark or dark hours.

Slow moving vehicles such as farm equipment traveling on highways present a real traffic hazard. The motorist must recognize that a tractor traveling at 10 to 15 miles per hour is almost standing still compared to a 55 mph car. Most highway drivers have never driven a farm machine on the highway and simply do not realize how slow they do travel.

Proper identification and warning is real important. Let's keep alert this busy fall season both on the highways and in the fields.

**To Mow or Not To Mow Alfalfa**

The annual question comes up, should I mow alfalfa the first part of September or not. According to crop authorities it is not just a simple yes or no question. If you have left one of your cuttings go into full bloom, then you do not need to be concerned; however, if you have not, then do not cut the first two weeks of September. The reason for this is, it's the period when the plants are storing food in developing rhizomes for next year's growth. To disturb this development will result in less rhizomes and less growth next year. The final cutting can be made in late September or early October.

The application of a phosphorus-potash fertilizer this fall is a good managerial practice. Use your soil test results as a guide on rates of application. On stands that have been established this spring, from which one or two cuttings have

already been made, it's best to allow it to stand; this will give a little better winter protection.

**To Control Johnsongrass**

This sorgum-like grass is a problem on many farms in this part of the state. There are cases where nothing is being done to control this weed, for those I would remind you that Johnsongrass is listed as a noxious weed in Pennsylvania. In corn there is little that can be done at this time of year; it requires treatment with Eradicane at planting time.

However, in other fields such as small grains, when the growth of Johnsongrass reaches 2½ to 3 feet ... in the boot stage ... the plants may be sprayed with Roundup for good control. These plants are very heavy seed producers; a few plants allowed to go to seed this fall will mean hundreds of plants next summer. Johnsongrass is fast growing and will crowd out most farm crops. We urge landowners to

**Saturday, September 1**  
Juniata County Fair, continues through next Saturday.

**Sunday, September 2**  
Spartansburg Community Fair, continues thru Saturday.

**Monday, September 3**  
Cambria County Fair, continues thru Saturday.  
Ox Hill Fair, continues thru Saturday.  
Waterford Community Fair, continues thru Saturday.  
West Alexander Fair, continues thru Saturday.

**Thursday, September 4**  
Jamestown Fair, continues thru Saturday.

**Wednesday, September 5**  
Hunterdon County N.J. Board of Agriculture; 8 p.m. at the extension center. Topic: "Cyst Nematode in Soybeans."  
Luzerne County Fair, continues thru Sunday.

**Thursday, September 6**  
Cumberland County Fall Field Day, Francis Mains Farm.  
Bottle bill hearings, 1 p.m., Room 418 Main Capitol, Harrisburg, continues tomorrow.  
Pa. Holstein Championship Show, Kutztown.

**Friday, September 7**  
York Fair, continues through Sept. 15.

make every effort to eliminate all Johnsongrass from their farm.

**To Test Forages**

It is always nice to have a balanced feeding program in your

hands, ready to use when you need it. And fall is one of the times you usually need to make some adjustments as you switch from your summer forages to your winter forages. If you wait until all the hay is in, the silo full, and the silage fermented before you start doing any testing, you lose a lot of valuable time. Get a headstart. Take as much of the guess work as possible out of your feeding program. Test the hay that is dry enough to test (about 10% moisture) and the last of the corn that "tops off" the silo, as you are filling. Request a feeding program based on the use of these forages. Later on, when the silo is fermented and all the hay is in ... and dry, you can test again and fine tune your program.

**Otis**

