



Bay cleanup...

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

Talk in Harrisburg says that Governor Thornburgh will officially commit a million dollars in state money next week to Chesapeake Bay cleanup in the publicity limelight with William D. Ruckelshaus of the EPA in Philadelphia.

As the Commonwealth -- one of the major contributors to Bay problems -- prepares to get involved with this modest sum, let's ask some pretty pointed questions:

First, just how serious is Pennsylvania about footing its share of Bay cleanup costs?

Second, if the state's role increases in the future is it equipped to handle it?

Third, and most controversial -- Will a continuation of a voluntary program get the job done?

The state's first-year financial commitment totals one million dollars and will be devoted entirely to aiding farmers install Better Management Practices to reduce erosion and nutrient runoff.

This financial commitment doesn't compare too well with neighboring states, particularly Maryland, which is devoting some \$60 million to cleanup efforts. Virginia is allocating about \$6 million over two years.

In fact, some conservation personnel openly say that the state is doing little more than paying lip-service to the cleanup program and see little hope for improvement in the future.

Obviously, if the job is to get done future commitment by Pennsylvania must be in-

creased. But is the Commonwealth in a position to step up such a commitment in coming years?

Continuing revision of the state's program -- three versions within a six-month period -- suggests otherwise. It's been said that the DER has had to scramble just to be able to plan to carry out the present \$1 million commitment by Pennsylvania.

And now to the most controversial part of the program. For an agricultural publication to even look at the question of voluntary participation by farmers will likely be considered heresy by some. But the real issue of concern is not how it gets done but getting it done.

Let's look at the record of voluntary compliance and farmer participation in Bay cleanup to date.

For more than three years a federally-sponsored, cost-sharing Rural Clean Streams program has been under way in northeastern Lancaster County

In that time some 47 commitments have been made to install Better Management Practices. That averages out to about 15 farms per year.

If that rate continues for the larger Pennsylvania voluntary program, it would probably take about 600 to 700 years for BMP's to be installed on livestock and dairy farms needing them in the critical watersheds of the Susquehanna River.

But the DER has left itself an out in its latest program report:

"Regulatory, including enforcement activities, will be stepped up if nonregulatory programs fail or do not achieve expected results. There may be a need for appropriate enforcement activities in the event that farmers, after given ample technical assistance, information and incentives, deliberately remain uncooperative."

So, the way it looks from here, there are some tough decisions facing both farmers -- principally in Lancaster, Lebanon, Chester, York, Adams and Dauphin counties -- and the state.

Farmer cooperation will determine if a voluntary effort will work.

And, the state must come up with a long-term commitment to Bay cleanup if the magnitude of the problem is to be approached realistically.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

DIVINE OR DEPRAVED?
September 16, 1984

Background Scripture:
Romans 2:1 through 3:20.

Devotional Reading:
Romans 2:3-16.

Thirty years in the Christian ministry have led me to the conclusion that there are essentially three erroneous views of human nature.

One of these is the conviction that human nature is "totally depraved." Another: that human beings are basically "good." Both of these have had their champions in Christianity: the former in ages past and the latter in our present time.

Today I find that many people who have been born and raised in the Christian church are reacting vigorously against the concept of sin. As someone told me a few weeks ago, "I've spent too much of my life agonizing over this idea that, because of sin, I am a worthless wretch."

THE DARK SIDE

As one who has spent many hours in pastoral counselling, I would have to acknowledge that one of the most persistent problems that plagues people raised in the Christian church is a crippling lack of self-esteem. Most of the people I counsel have learned all too well to think of themselves as sinners. They have focused much too much on human depravity and neglected to consider the divine potential with

which we are also endowed. It is a serious distortion of human nature because it sees only the dark side of our nature.

On the other hand, that human nature may be equally distorted if we think of it as only "good." And the consequences are grave because our experiences with people will not long live up to our expectations. We will find it hard to deal with the tons of human failure and sin that is all around us all the time. Go to Dachau some time and then see how persuasive is the concept that essentially human beings are "good." Pick up your morning newspaper and read the grisly accounts of rapes, murders, and betrayals and then see how long you can continue to reject the Christian concept of sin. It just won't work.

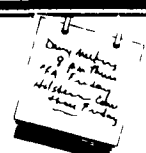
There is, of course, a third erroneous view of human nature and it was to this to which Paul was addressing himself in his Epistle to the Romans. In Judaism in those days -- and in much of the Christian church as well -- there was an assumption that some people are essentially "good," while others are basically "evil."

NO, NOT ONE!

This is still a popular view today: the "good guys" vs. the "bad guys" -- the "good guys" being us, our church, our brand of the gospel, and the "bad guys" being those who don't follow our way. But Paul made it clear in Romans that that idea too is in error, for, as he puts it, "None is righteous, no, not one" (3:10). All of us belong to the "bad guys" for there are none of us who are without sin.

The "good news" on Christianity, then, is neither "all-pie-in-the-sky" nor all "gloom-in-the-tomb," and we can never truly understand and employ our true human nature until we acknowledge both the depravity and the divinity that co-exist and struggle in the same human being.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, September 15
Private Landowner's Conference, Pa. Forestry Association, Ramada Inn, Breezewood.
Delaware Valley Old Time Power and Equipment Association annual show, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Washington Crossing State Park, N.J.; continues tomorrow.
Forestry Association Conference, Cook College, New Brunswick, N.J.
Annual Home Gardeners' School, Cook College, New Brunswick, N.J.

Demonstration Meeting, 7 p.m., Jackson Dairy, New Salem.
Adams County Pork Producers meeting, 7:30 p.m., Extension Office.
York 4-H sheep and lamb roundup, 4 p.m., Thomasville Livestock Auction.
Beaver Community Fair opens; continues through Saturday.
Aratz Fair opens, continues through Saturday.

Sunday, September 16
Dairy Dash, 10 kilometer race and 2-mile fun run, Courthouse Square, Scranton.
National Farm Safety Week begins; continues through Saturday.
Ag in Action, Tom D'Altrive's Horse Farm, Belle Mead, Somerset Co., N.J., 1-4 p.m.

Tuesday, September 18
Harmony Grange Fair, Westover, opens; continues through Saturday.
No-till corn plot tour, 9 a.m. Starts at Solanco High School, Quarryville.
Milk Marketing Shortcourse, Sept. 17, 18 at Penn State.
Downtown revitalization video conference, Penn State.
Annual meeting, Allied Florists of Del. Valley. Ziegler and Sons Wholesale.
Remote Sensing symposium, Md. Dept. of Agriculture.
Senate Ag and Rural Affairs Committee, 12:30 p.m. Room 459, Main Capitol.
Meeting on Lancaster County's Impact on the Chesapeake Bay, 7:30 p.m., Farm and Home Center.
York 4-H sheep and lamb sale, 7 p.m., Thomasville Livestock Auction.

Monday, September 17
Fayette Co. Alfalfa Variety

Wednesday, September 19
Inter-State District 6 meeting, 7 p.m., Blue Ball Fire Hall.
Hunterdon Co., N.J., Ag Development Board, 8 p.m., Extension Center.
Northeast Community Fair opens; continues through Friday.
Solanco Fair, Quarryville, opens; continues through Friday.

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NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent
Phone 717-394-6851



To Be Aware of the Century Farm Program
The Century Farm Program is aimed at recognizing the efforts of Pennsylvania's farm families which have preserved the traditions of the rural heritage of the pioneer farm.

The program was initiated as part of the Nation's bicentennial observance in 1976, but is being continued for its value in promoting the ideals of the family farm and the importance of farming to Pennsylvania's economy.

To be eligible for certification as a Pennsylvania Century Farm, a farm must have been owned by the same family for the last 100 consecutive years, and a family

member must currently reside on the land. In addition, the farm must consist of ten or more acres of the original holdings or gross at least \$1,000 a year from the sale of agricultural products.

We encourage you to participate in this program that is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Applications are available at the County Extension Offices.

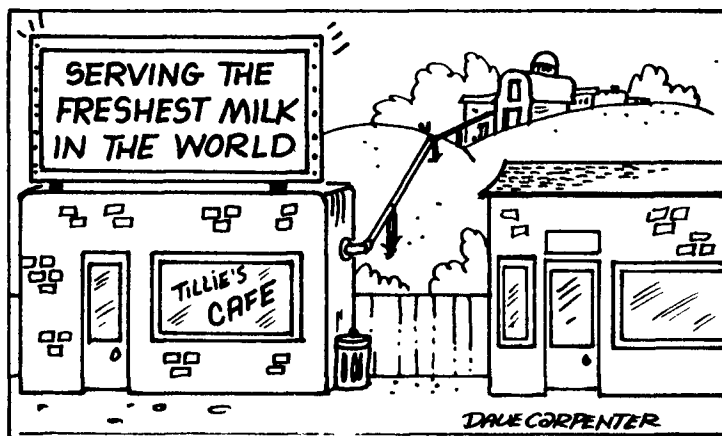
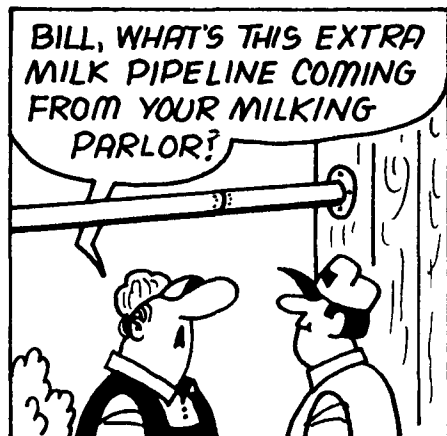
To Mow Weedy Pastures

If your pasture is weedy, get out the mower. There are two good reasons for this; one it eliminates the production of weed seeds and two, it removes mature forage which lets plants send out new and tender growth. But, before you

mow, you should graze the pasture heavily. With grazing you can utilize all the available feed. The animals eat some weeds, but they also eat some of the tall grasses that would be wasted by mowing. If the drying condition is taking its toll, it would be better to mow only one-third of the land about every two weeks to allow for regrowth. Remember to mow closely... 2 to 3 inches. And instead of trashing the clippings, save them. Many farmers recover enough hay from pasture mowings to winter their cattle.

To Observe National Farm Safety Week
The 41st Annual National Farm
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Otis



DAVE CORPENTER