

Bottle Bill reintroduced in Pa. Senate

HARRISBURG — Sen. Edward W. Helfrick, R-27, reintroduced legislation this week which would require a nickel deposit to be paid on beverage containers sold in Pennsylvania. This deposit would be refunded to consumers when the bottles and cans were returned to a retail store or a redemption center, Helfrick explained.

"I introduced a similar Bottle Bill last session," said Helfrick. "Unfortunately, that piece of legislation never made it out of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. This time I am optimistic that this legislation will not get bottled up by a committee stalemate. We've made a number of important changes to the bill which should help it move and get the votes it needs for passage."

Helfrick pointed out that one major change in the bill was transferring administrative responsibility from the state's Department of Environmental Resources to the Department of Agriculture.

"In working with Secretary Penrose Hallowell and his staff, we felt the best place for administering this kind of legislation was with the Department of Agriculture. They already have responsibilities for inspecting retail food markets, and they were willing to get involved in issuing the necessary permits for redemption centers where consumers can return empty beverage containers and get their refund," Helfrick explained.

The senator emphasized farmers in Pennsylvania suffer millions of dollars in damage each year due to carelessly discarded beverage containers. "They can lacerate the stomachs of livestock grazing in the fields where these cans and bottles are thrown," said Helfrick. "They can puncture farm equipment tires as fields are prepared for planting and harvesting crops, and can con-

taminate entire wagonloads of livestock feed as the harvesting machines pick up and shred the roadside litter, mixing the fragments of glass and tin with tons of grain and silage.

"When surveyed, about ninety percent of the farmers in Pennsylvania say they favor a returnable container law," said Helfrick. "And, there is a growing sentiment among the general public that a deposit law, like the ones in New York and Oregon, would go a long way in cleaning up our state and reducing the pressure on our landfills which are fast running out of room to bury the tons of garbage we generate each day." A recent report by the Department of Environmental Resources stated that by 1992, Pennsylvania's landfills will be completely full, added the senator.

While retail stores will charge a nickel deposit for beer and soft drink bottles and cans less than a gallon in size, they will not be charging the deposit on bottles and cans of noncarbonated water, soups, milk, fruit juices and medicines. The beverage containers holding the beer and soft drinks can be made out of glass, metal, plastic or any combination of these materials. Paper containers are exempt.

Retail stores and redemption centers will collect the returned beverage containers and will then be able to return the bottles and cans to a local distributor to receive a five-cent deposit plus a two-cent handling charge, or sell the collected cans and glass to a recycling center. Beverage distributors can return the containers to the beverage manufacturer for a nickel refund and a two-cent handling fee, or they have the option to sell to a recycler. Manufacturers that reuse refillable bottles help to conserve energy, reduce air pollution, and save natural resources, noted Helfrick.

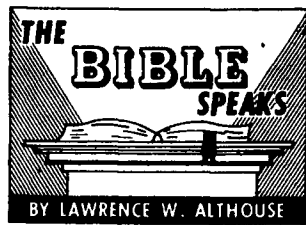
"Oregon was the first state to pass a Bottle Bill back in 1972," said Helfrick. "Their Environmental Council reports that roughly 1,400 billion BTUs, enough energy to heat 12,000 Oregon homes, are saved each year due to their returnable container law. Vermont, which passed their bottle legislation in 1973, estimates a savings of 708 BTUs of energy each year due to bottle and can recycling."

In the area of air pollution, Helfrick noted an Environmental Protection Agency study which stated that one refillable bottle used ten times creates less than half the air pollution emissions and less than one-third the industrial wastes as ten throwaway containers.

One of the major arguments against a bottle law, said Helfrick, is loss of jobs. Experience in other states, he noted, show actual increases in total jobs as a result of deposit legislation. "Oregon's experience shows that warehousing and truck driving positions increased by 715, while production jobs in the packaging industry declined by 350. This same sort of increase was predicted in Massachusetts where the bottle law went into effect in January 1983. Their Environmental Affairs office expected a net gain of 1,800 skilled and unskilled jobs."

Admitting that this is a controversial bill, Helfrick said he is resolved to see this kind of legislation passed this session. "We've been dragging our heels on this issue for too long. It's time the public outcry for a cleaner, better Pennsylvania is heard above the well-financed roar of the bottle and can industry lobbyists who have managed to squelch all the previous efforts."

Cosponsors of Helfrick's bill, Senate Bill 191, include Sen. Noah Wenger, Sen. Guy Kratzer, and Sen. Anthony Andrezeski.



TO KNOW GOD
January 27, 1985

Background Scripture:
John 5:19-24; 8:12-59.
Devotional Reading:
John 8:31-35.

Once again, we find that, although many people heard Jesus gladly and became his disciples, many others preferred to haggle with him over questions of theology. They accuse him of bearing witness to himself, of making blasphemous claims, of denigrating their spiritual status as true sons of Abraham, and of consorting with the Devil.

Jesus tries to help them to understand that he is not directing attention to himself, but to the God whom he represents: "I came not of my own accord, but he who sent me" (8:42). And later he says, "...I do not seek my own glory" (8:50). "I honor my father," he proclaims.

THROUGH, NOT AT

Those who contended with Jesus were having what one commentator calls "the optical problem." They were looking at Jesus, when they should have been looking through Jesus. They were stuck on the question of who Jesus was and were failing to focus on the One who sent Jesus in the first place.

It is like a picture window in your

house: the purpose of the window is not served very well if you spend all your time looking at the window, but fail to see through it the object or scene on the other side. A window's purpose is not to divert attention to itself, but to serve as the medium by which we can see something on the other side.

So it is with Jesus Christ, he always tries to see God in him. "If you love me," he says, "you would know my Father." (8:19). That's really the heart of the gospel: if we get to know Jesus we will also be close to the Father. People may spend their time disputing as to how Jesus can be the Son of God, how he could say, "before Abraham was, I am" (8:58) and countless other points of theological and doctrinal contention, but you do not have to have the answers to those questions before you can experience the reality of God in Christ.

SET FREE

Some of those who heard Jesus bristled when he promised to set them "free" with his truth. "We are descendants of Abraham, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will be made free'?" (8:33). The worst part is that they don't even realize that they are not "free." Their relationship to Abraham has made them, not free, but slaves to a deadly legalism that kept them from recognizing the validity of this man from God. If they had been truly "free," they would have recognized that the was from God.

None of us is ever truly "free" when we are so encumbered by our religious ideas that we fail to let Jesus show us the God whom he came to earth to reveal.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, January 26
York County 4-H Beef Banquet, 7 p.m., at Seven Valleys Farm and Home.

Monday, January 28
Pa. State Council of Farm Organizations Annual Meeting, Hershey Convention Center, opens at 10:30 a.m. Dinner and speaker at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, January 29
State Fruit and Vegetable Conference, Hershey Convention Center. Continues through Thursday.

Interstate Milk Producers #3 meets at noon at the Chestnut Level Presbyterian Church.
Cumberland County Extension Annual Meeting, South Middletown Township Firehall, Boiling Springs, 6:30 p.m.
DHIA Records, Genetic Improvement, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center.
Tri-State Horticultural Meeting at the Hershey Convention Center.

York County Sheep Producers Meeting at Bair Station.

Wednesday, January 30
York County Corn Clinic, Bair Station

Lancaster Pork Day, Farm and Home Center, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Lancaster Conservation District Board Meeting, Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.

Beef Producers Meeting, Shippensburg Jr. High School, Shippensburg, 7:30 p.m.
Farm Builders Conference, Montgomery County. Continues tomorrow.
York Corn Clinic, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the 4-H Center.

Thursday, January 31
Farm and Home Foundation Annual Meeting at the Farm and Home Center at 6:30 p.m.

Pa. Dairy Promotion Program Advisory Board, Room 309, Ag Building, Harrisburg, 10:30 a.m.
York County Beef Producers Meeting, Bair Station.
Cumberland County Corn Clinic, Embers Restaurant, Carlisle, 9 a.m.
Manor Young Farmers Corn Management Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Penn Manor Ag classroom.

Saturday, February 2
York County Sheep Annual Banquet
Ephrata Area Young Farmers Banquet, 6:45 p.m., Mount Airy Fire Hall.
Pre-Teen Retreat Program for parents and 4-H leaders, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Bradford County Extension.

Sunday, February 3
Del. Valley Milk Goat Association panel discussion on normal and problem birthing of goat kids; 7 p.m. in the Boyertown Municipal Building.

Monday, February 4
York County Swine Producers Seminar, 4-H Center, Bair Station, 7 p.m.

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NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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To Make Sure Ponds Are Safe

Over the last couple of weeks I've noticed a lot of people, both young and old, ice skating on farm ponds. It's good exercise and an excellent sport. But, be sure you are prepared in case of an accident. Owners should be certain that rescue equipment is handy and not in the barn or garage several blocks away. Wooden ladders, boards or other items can be shoved out to the person in the water if needed; it should be large enough to distribute the weight of the person making the rescue. A rope is also a good item to pull people out with.

Skating is a very enjoyable winter sport. Don't be the victim of

an accident that could have been prevented.

To Exercise Dairy Cows

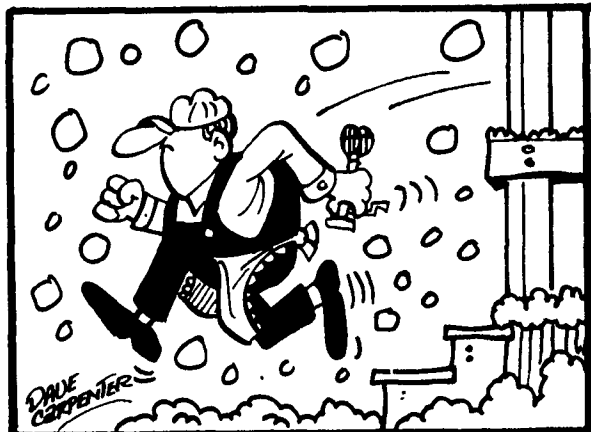
The importance of turning out the dairy herd each day from stanchions or comfort stalls should not be overlooked. As we expect more production per cow, the stresses are greater, and if not given exercise, more breeding problems will result. Dairymen with free-stalls have the opportunity of observing heat periods all the time. However, cows that are confined to stalls present a problem with heat detection. There are very few days that the weather is so bad that the milking herd should not be turned out for a few minutes. If the dairymen is alert

and observing, cows that are in heat can be observed and bred. Exercise may help the herds with breeding problems.

To Review Forage Crop Fertilization

The correct use of fertilizer is extremely important in time of tight margins. Many agronomists feel that too many farmers do not use enough fertilizer on their grass and hay crops. In general terms we can expect about \$3 in return for every dollar spent for fertilizer on the average farm crop. On many forage crops acres this return can be greater when properly fertilized. Just because the land is covered with grass or a grass-legume mixture, we should not

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DAVE CARPENTER