

# NOW IS THE TIME

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### To Be Aware of Feeding New Grain

The barley harvest is nearly complete and some farmers may be considering using this new grain in their feeding program. Feeding new grains to livestock is possible, under very careful management.

If fed in too large amounts, digestive disorders such as bloating and scouring may occur. We suggest that the grain be allowed to go through a two-week curing period before being fed. Then it should be included into the grain ration at a slow rate—10 to 20 percent.

Barley is a popular livestock feed and is a good substitute for corn. In a week or two wheat will be ready and may also be fed with care. Again, it should be allowed several weeks to cure before feeding.

Wheat is not used as much for feeding purposes because of the digestive problems. Smaller amounts in the ration, compared to barley, are suggested. Barley and wheat can be used as livestock feeds, but need special care when mixing in livestock rations.

### To Control Erosion

We have been blessed with timely rains this spring and early summer but, some of these rains have been very heavy and created considerable run-off. It emphasizes the need for terraces, contours and strips to control these

large amounts of water.

The use of diversion ditches and sodded waterways above the area to be protected should be considered. When surface water is not controlled around the premises we also have the added danger of surface water entering our well water supplies; this may contaminate it and make it unfit for human consumption. We need to be concerned with controlling these large amounts of water on the land and around farm buildings.

Another important item—if flooding occurs, use your camera to take pictures of the damage so you can identify the extent of the damage if a claim is submitted.

### To Use Caution When Shipping Hogs

Far too many hogs are fed up to market weight each year only to be lost because of careless hauling during hot weather.

There are ways to prevent these losses. Whenever it's possible, haul the hogs to market early or late in the day—when it's coolest. Avoid mid-day or early afternoon trips. That's when temperatures are the worst.

While the hogs are being loaded onto the trucks, take things easy. Don't hurry them. If you do, they'll just become overheated. And, to make sure they can be comfortable in the truck, use wet sand for bedding. Don't use straw or other

materials that hold heat and fail to cool the animals.

Once the animals are loaded, start right for the market—and go directly to the market without stopping.

Take these few precautions and you'll market all your hogs instead of just some of them.

### To Prepare For Fire Protection

Our barns are filling up with new crops of hay, straw and grain so we need to be concerned with fire protection. We urge farmers to give some thought to water supplies for fighting fires.

Many farmers indicate that their fire company will be unable to supply adequate water; this increases the risk of serious fire losses. Farms with streams nearby should have plans developed to move the fire engine within 25 feet of the water.

Owners of farm ponds should have an all-weather driveway to the pond. There have been cases where buildings burned while the fire truck was mired down in the mud trying to get to the pond.

It's a good idea to inform your local fire company of the source of water supplies for fighting fires. A good water supply for fighting fires is good insurance against severe losses.

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**THE BIBLE SPEAKS**  
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE  
**THE HIGH COST OF LOVE**  
July 7, 1985

### Background Scripture:

Hosea 1 through 3.

### Devotional Reading:

Hosea 4:15 through 5:7.

"Go again, love a woman who is beloved of a paramour and is an adulteress" (Hosea 3:1). This was God's unequivocal command to Hosea. And what a difficult command it must have seemed to Hosea.

Put yourself in his place. Suppose God said something like that to you? Keep in mind that Hosea's wife, Gomer, has betrayed his love, broken their covenant, and subjected Hosea to much humiliation. His wife, whom he had rescued from harlotry in the first place and given her a decent home life, had left him and their children to go back to her deplorable life of promiscuous sex. She had degraded herself even more than when he first met her.

### LOVE A WOMAN

Who among us would fail to sympathize with the prophet if he had protested that God was asking too much of him? It was too much when you view it from the perspective of the injury and pain she had caused him. She hadn't just gone home to be "with mother" for a little while. She had repaid his kindness with injury, his trust with treachery. He didn't owe her one remaining thing. She had willfully

broken the relationship that lay between them.

Yet, regardless of how justified Hosea may have felt in despising this woman, nevertheless, he was more eager to satisfy God than his own wounded ego. God said, "Go again, love..." and Hosea did just that. He probably didn't feel very loving toward Gomer, but he didn't let that keep him from doing the loving thing that God demanded.

So, he ignored his pain, swallowed his pride, and sought out Gomer once again. In doing so, he paid a very high price, far more, of course, than the 15 shekels of silver and an homer and an half of barley he mentions in Hosea 3. Probably the biggest cost of obeying God was the cost to his pride and self-respect.

Gomer also had to pay a price. When she returned to Hosea, she could not expect that everything would be just as it had been before. Their relationship had been severely injured and it would take time to heal it once again.

### THE WAY OF LOVE

That's the way it really is with love. Often, we must pay a terrific price for it. It costs us because love is very valuable. To be able to restore it without paying some price would demean it. It means we have to bear the cost of damaged egos and wounded pride. Forgiveness and reconciliation always come high.

That is what Hosea learned about the love of God for his people from the situation in his own domestic life. When he realized what God was asking of him, he also came to understand the basis of God's love for us. It is a love that seeks us, pays the price of our redemption and restores our relationships.

Love makes the world go 'round, but it never comes cheaply.

## America has real stake in family farms

NEWARK, DE — Congress has come up with many alternatives to the president's proposed farm and food policy. There will probably be more, before the debate is over. What's the best way to evaluate these proposals and pick one that works?

University of Delaware extension farm policy specialist Gerald Vaughn suggests farmers, policy-makers and consumers ask themselves three key questions, as they sort through the alternatives:

\* First, does the proposal pay more than lip service to the survival of family farming?

\* Does it put greater agricultural stability ahead of increased farm income?

\* Finally, is it flexible enough to respond quickly to changing economic conditions?

Vaughn feels these three questions are critical at this time. Here's why.

"The 1980s is probably the decade of decision for the survival of family farming," he says. "Family farms can be as efficient as larger ones, but they're rapidly disappearing because of current economic pressure." Full-time family-run operations are being replaced by smaller ones (mostly part-time farmers living on off-

farm income) and by larger farms which depend heavily on hired labor. Many of these large farms are owned by industrial corporations.

"No more than half of our nation's farm production now comes from family farms," the economist says. "U.S. tax policies which favor larger farmers and wealthy investors are a major cause of family farming's decline. Tax shelters to large farmers and nonfarm agricultural investors are partly to blame for today's depressed farm commodity prices, since such shelters encourage surplus production.

Why should the public care about the loss of America's family farms?

"The main reason is the widely held, and probably correct, consumer view that family farming is preferable because it's decentralized and likely hasn't enough market power to push up food prices," the economist says.

Also, he feels, farm families who own and control at least part of their land enjoy a pride in performance, sense of community responsibility, and social standing that could be lost if agriculture were structured differently. "The family farm has been the backbone

of American agriculture," he reminds.

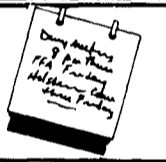
As to the need for greater stability, Vaughn points to American agriculture's heavy dependence on volatile foreign trade, wide annual fluctuations in production, the dim outlook for commodity price improvement (at least in the short run), and the trend toward fewer and larger farms.

"Fluctuations in export demand compound the perpetual problem of sharp year-to-year variations in production — variations associated with weather, farm programs, and U.S. economic policies," the economist says. "These factors foster agricultural instability."

Recurring instability may outweigh concerns over cash flow and encourage development of a 1985 farm bill aimed at reducing price variability and improving overall stability. But, warns Vaughn, agriculture's problems are so entwined with those of the general American and world economy that farm programs alone can't promise more than a little relief. Sustained general economic recovery must precede agricultural recovery, he feels.

The third essential ingredient in

## Farm Calendar



### Sunday, July 7

Pride of York County Day and Silent Auction, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Indian Steps Museum, Airville. Summer Youth Program, Pa. Association of Farmer Co-ops, Juniata College; Continues through July 10. Youth Camp, Pa. Farmers Union; Contact Cheryl Cook at 717-234-4311. Continues through July 11.

### Monday, July 8

Cumberland County Fair, today through Saturday, County

any effective farm bill — flexibility and quick response — would remedy what he calls the major weakness of 1981 farm legislation.

"A sound farm bill should not assume a future of either farm commodity surpluses or shortages, or even a good supply/demand balance," the economist says. "Agriculture is inherently unstable, and sound public policy would recognize this. The crisis that led to the creation of PIK illustrates how incapable the last farm law was of dealing with changing conditions."

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Fairgrounds on Carmel Road at Sherman Ave. in Millville.

### Tuesday, July 9

Baltimore County Md. 4-H Fair, Timonium Fairgrounds; Continues through Saturday.

### Wednesday, July 10

Semi-annual Delegate Meeting, Milk Marketing Inc., Ohio State University.

### Thursday, July 11

Annual Meeting, Pa. Inland Fertilizer Association, Landisville Experimental Station.

### Friday, July 12

Pa. Angus Breeders Show, Centre Hall.

### Saturday, July 13

Pa. Polled Hereford Association Field Day, Falklands Farm, Schellsburg. Phone: 814-733-2818.

### Monday, July 15

Summer Field Tour of Westmoreland and Allegheny County vegetable operations, Pa. Vegetable Growers Association; Continues tomorrow.

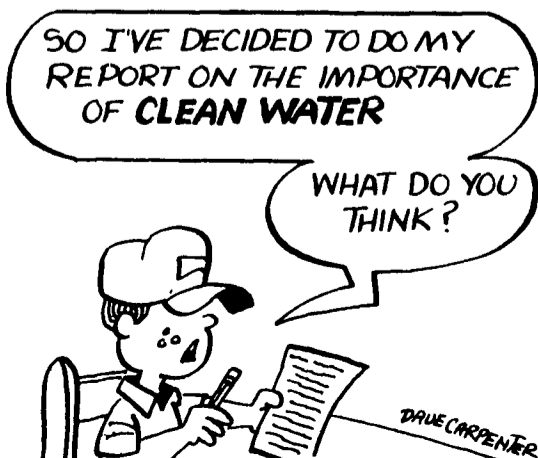
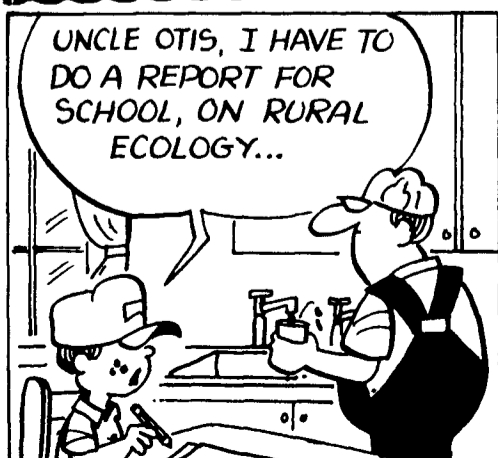
Annual Meeting, Pa. Ag Teacher's Association; Penn State University; Continues through July 17.

### Wednesday, July 17

W. Pa. Tillage Field Day, Richard Kind Farm, Slippery Rock. Co-op Couples Conference, Pa. Association of Farmer Co-ops; Continues to July 19.

### Thursday, July 18

American Simmental Association Annual Summer Conference, Americana Host Inn, Lancaster; Continues through July 20.



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