

## Editorial Assessment vs. price cut

Congress is considering an industry-backed proposal to allow the money saved by a 4.3-percent Gramm-Rudman cut in milk support prices to be raised by a producer assessment.

Let's emphasize from the outset that no one likes to see prices drop for any reason. But a 10-cent assessment is better than a 50-cent drop in support price. And it makes a lot more sense for America's hard-pressed dairymen.

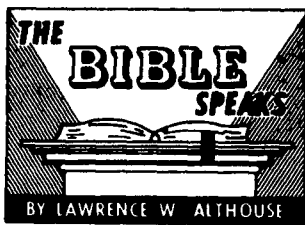
Farmers have been the first to call for fiscal responsibility in Washington...and they're not being hypocritical in asking for relief now. They're willing to accept the burden of Gramm-Rudman, but they'd like a more equitable way to distribute it.

Congress presumably had a reason for establishing dairy price support figures contained in the 1985 Farm Bill. Are we to accept the idea that Congress didn't really mean what it said, or worse yet, has changed its collective mind in just two short months?

For many producers, the rapid decline in milk prices over the past two years has driven much of the profit out of dairying. And given the startup costs, a whole generation of younger dairymen may be squeezed out of business.

The 50-cent Gramm-Rudman cuts, on top of those reductions, we feel, could play havoc with the dairy industry...and ultimately with the supply of milk to consumers.

It's time for Congress to think of the long-term consequences, and pass legislation substituting a 10-cent assessment for a 50-cent Gramm-Rudman cut in support prices.



GLAD TO SUFFER?  
March 9, 1986

Background Scripture: 1 Peter 2:11 through 5:14.  
Devotional Reading: 1 Peter 2:21-25.

I cannot remember ever having to suffer for being a Christian. No one has attacked me physically for my faith, nor have I even been forced to suffer any verbal abuse or discrimination. Actually, my Christian discipleship has been pretty safe and secure — and perhaps yours has been, too!

So, in 1 Peter when we are told to "rejoice in so far as you share Christ's sufferings . . .", I find it difficult to identify with what the writer is saying. To be sure, I live

in a relatively tolerant and secure society and the original readers of 1 Peter did not. Because they confessed and attempted to follow Christ, they were vulnerable to terrible persecution.

REJOICE IN SO FAR . . .

But, there's more to it than that, isn't there? 1 Peter is not just warning them that the Christian faith may be dangerous for their health, but, on a much more positive note, he is suggesting to them that in suffering there is something for which they can rejoice — and that is where I find myself having trouble. How can I be glad to suffer? There seems to be something unnatural in that.

This difficulty I have with the concept of suffering is further engendered by some experiences I have had with a few Christians who actually sought to suffer as martyrs. They wanted to be martyrs and they enjoyed their martyrdom. Does God want us to go out and actually find ways so that we can suffer for his sake?

I doubt it. I really doubt it. But then what do I do with 1 Peter and his admonition to rejoice in suffering?

Perhaps the clue is to be found in 1 Peter 3:17 when he says: "For it is better to suffer for doing right, if

that should be God's will, then for doing wrong." And in 1 Peter 4:15: "But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or a wrongdoer, or a mischief-maker..." Let none of us seek to suffer or be martyrs, but if suffering does come, let it be because of our faith in Christ, not our wrongdoing. Let us be glad that, if we must suffer, it is for our refusal to betray our Christ with words and deeds. And, if we are able to do that, is that not cause for rejoicing?

ENTRUST YOUR SOULS

Christian martyrdom, then, is not something to be sought, nor is it to be run from. If we are confronted with the choice of suffering or debasing our discipleship, let us choose suffering as the better of the two evils. Because no good thing can result from my failure to remain loyal to Christ, but very often with the help of God we can turn our suffering into something good — particularly "good" for the cause of Christ. And let us then rejoice that we have found the faith to make that choice, to "do right" and "entrust" our souls to "a faithful creator."

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## NOW IS THE TIME

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### To Plan Weed Control Program

Weeds continue to be one of the major factors in reduced crop yields. This is true in the garden as well as in the field. The battle to control weeds is not a new one; years ago cultivation was the only method of weed control. Now, herbicides are widely used for weed control. However, we still have too much crop damage from weeds.

An agronomist once said that for every pound of weeds produced, the crop yield was reduced by the same weight. Some weeds amount to several tons per acre; this means that much less of the desired crop. Follow the recommendations in the Agronomy Guide and plan for a better weed control program this year.

### To Be Aware of Rural Crime

Crime in rural areas continues to climb. Many thieves are drawn to rural communities because of the attitude that crime is a city problem, so it's safe to leave your doors unlocked. As long as this notion persists, rural areas will remain a thief's paradise. You can make it less so by forcing a burglar to work harder. Install dead bolt locks on all exterior doors and windows. Keep in mind they work only if you use them.

Get to know your neighbors; they can be a great crime deterrent. Agree to watch their place while they're away and they'll gladly do the same for you. It's important to identify your property. Police won't return items unless they're positively identified. Private gas pumps and

storage tanks are popular targets for thieves. Be sure to lock these up whenever you aren't around. Exterior lights around your home, garage and barn will also do a lot to ward off burglars.

### To Avoid Soil Compaction

One of the real dangers of being in too big a hurry in getting on the soil in the spring with heavy equipment is that we pack this wet soil so hard that poor yields result. With modern machinery, the weight is much more than a team of horses or mules. As a result we have ground that is as hard as concrete and it is slow to recover.

It is important to wait until the soil is dried out sufficiently before taking this heavy equipment over the fields. When the soil is worked too wet, it becomes hard and forms clods. This type of soil structure will not give you the best yields. Don't be in too big a hurry; slow

down and wait for the weather catch up to you.

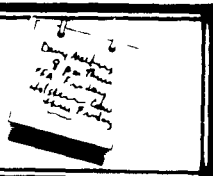
### To Prune Fruit Trees

Whether you have a few or several hundred fruit trees, orchard pruning need not be delayed until spring. It may be started in colder weather. But it is a good practice to work on the hardest trees first.

Early pruning can involve some problems from winter injury, but in many cases an early start will be necessary to complete pruning of large orchards before spring. By confining early work to the older, harder trees, fruit growers keep injury to a minimum.

Apple and pear trees are the hardest of the fruits, with plums and sour cherries next in order. Because peach, and sweet cherries are most tender, delay their pruning, particularly the younger trees, until later in March.

## Farm Calendar



### Saturday, March 8

Berks County Guernsey Breeder's Association Meeting, Shartlesville Grange Hall, 11 a.m.  
Raising farm animals on limited acreage seminar, Delaware Valley College, Doylestown, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### Monday, March 10

Cumberland County 4-H Dairy Banquet, Penn Township Fire Hall, Hantsdale.

### Tuesday, March 11

Pa. Corn Conference, University Park, Keller Conference Center, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dairy Day, Mercer County Sheraton Inn, West Middlesex, 9:30 a.m.

Lancaster County Ayrshire, Jersey, Brown Swiss 4-H Club meeting, 7:30 p.m., Farm and Home Center.

### Wednesday, March 12

DHIA meeting, Jo-Lyn Diner, 10 a.m.

Berks County Extension milking school, Berks County Ag Center; continues through tomorrow.

Lehigh Valley Farmers Annual Meeting, noon, Host Farm.

Shade Gap Mills Crops Day, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Hilltop Restaurant.

### Thursday, March 13

Farm Transfer Meeting, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.

Penn State Turkey Conference, Sheraton Inn, Gettysburg, 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Mercer County Sheep and Wool annual meeting, New Vernon Grange, 6:30 p.m.

Inter-State Dinner Meeting, District 18, Zimmies Diner, Mifflintown, 11:30 a.m.

### Friday, March 14

Pa. Guernsey Breeders 55th annual meeting at the Quality Inn in Lebanon; continues tomorrow.

Inter-State dinner meeting, District 26, 7 p.m., Kauffman's Ruritan Building.

Lancaster County Kids and Kows 4-H dairy club meeting, 7:30 p.m., "new" building at Solanco Fairgrounds, Quarryville.

York County Extension banquet, Wisheaven Restaurant.

Northeast Regional Christmas Tree Growers Meeting, 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m., Luzerne County Community College, Nanticoke.

Pa. Ayrshire Breeders Annual Meeting, Grantville Holiday Inn, 10:30 a.m. Contact Mill Brubaker, 717-626-5788.

### Monday, March 17

Sullivan County 4-H Leader Dinner, Forksville.

York Sheep Management Meeting, 4-H Center, Bair Station, 7:30 p.m.

Small Fruit Seminar, Warrendale Sheraton Inn, 8:30 a.m.

Bucks County Milking School, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Delaware Valley College, Doylestown; continues tomorrow.

Potter, McKean and Cameron counties Calf and Heifer Management Workshop, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church Youth Center, Coudersport; continues through tomorrow.

### Tuesday, March 18

Crop management meeting, 7:30 p.m., Blue Ball.

Pesticide handling and safety, 10 a.m. to noon, Jefferson Fire Hall, Jefferson; 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Dover High School.

### Wednesday, March 19

Future of Pa. Ag Conference, Holiday Inn, Harrisburg; continues tomorrow.

### Thursday, March 20

Pequea Valley FFA banquet, 6:45 p.m., Plain and Fancy Farms.

Holstein Investment Opportunities Inc., merchandising workshop, 8:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Bird-in-Hand Motel, Bird-in-Hand.

### Friday, March 21

Crops Day, Berks County Ag Center.

Lancaster County Conservation District Banquet, Brickerville Fire Hall, 7 p.m.

Red and White Dairy Cattle Association show, Guernsey Sales Pavilion.

### Saturday, March 22

Montgomery County dairy princess pageant, and Montgomery County Holstein Club annual banquet, 7 p.m., Towamencin Fire Hall.

Red and White Dairy Cattle Association's Sale, Guernsey Sales Pavilion.

Looking For THE UNUSUAL? Find It In The CLASSIFIEDS.

