

PFA Supports

Farm Legal Cases

CAMP HILL — Since many of the decisions that affect farmers are now finalized in the courts rather than in the state legislature, the Pennsylvania Farmers Association has established a legal defense fund. This fund was mandated by the delegate body at the 1984 annual meeting. Kent Shelhamer, chairman of the PFA legal fund board of directors and Steve Crawford, PFA director of employer programs, told Lancaster Farming this week that farmers have come to expect the PFA's work with the legislature to be successful. But now the legislative branch of government is not our only problem. The courts have suddenly become involved. They are rewriting the interpretation of the laws. We are in a new ballpark.

While many court cases involving farmers can impact upon the entire agricultural community, they always start with the individual farmer. Unfortunately more often than not individuals do not have the financial resources to get the legal representation they really need. As it stands now individual farmers are getting caught up in a system where the justice they get is the justice they can afford.

We sometimes forget that we have three branches of government, the legislative, executive and judicial branch. PFA banded together to collectively effect legislature in favor of farmers back in the 1950s. But we are in danger of losing ground we have gained over the past 36 years, because now the best place to instigate change is in our court system.

Often farmers are forced into legal problems through no fault of their own. Typical examples of this kind of litigation would be environmental cases, migrant labor cases, or real estate reassessment. We are now seeing individual judges putting more strict regulations on farmers than are called for in the Department of Environmental Resources. In Northampton County a case about application of sludge is still being processed. Here the judge imposed standards on a farmer much more strict than DER standards. The judge did this based on the complaints of neighbors.

In North Carolina reassessment took place and agriculture didn't fair well at all. The legal fund of the North Carolina Farm Bureau stepped in and litigated that case. They spent almost all of their money, \$40,000 to \$50,000. But they won the case and saved the ag industry about \$40 million.

Shelhamer and Crawford both agreed that when you get into court, it's different than working with the legislature. In the legislature you have some friends. But when you're in court you never know how it's coming down. You have much less influence in the courts than in the legislature.

"With a legal fund, we are able to get involved in several different ways," Shelhamer said. "We can give an outright cash support to farmers in court to help with legal fees. Or we can help farmers get proper legal representation. Or we can file a legal brief as a friend of the court."

Farmers across Pennsylvania now have the opportunity to help develop a fund to protect rights and fight legal battles that will affect all of agriculture. The driving principle behind the PFA legal fund is simple. Utilize the collective strength of the agricultural community to come to the aid of the individual farmer.

The fund is controlled by a volunteer board of directors. It is a feature of PFA. But it is not run by PFA.



You can't afford to plant second best

■ Don't be misled by cheap seed treatments that only provide limited disease protection. The systemic activity of Vitavax® -200 protects your wheat and barley against disease losses from true loose smut, common bunt, scab seedling blight, seed rots and seedling diseases.

■ Vitavax is patented as a growth stimulant. Under field stress conditions, like drought or cool, wet weather, Vitavax-200 treated plants normally emerge faster, develop more extensive root systems and larger crowns, and produce healthier stands that contribute to higher yields.

Vitavax gets to the heart of the problem. ♥ It gets to the heart of the seed.

SEEDWAY VARIETY SELECTION GUIDE

BARLEY			
VARIETY	HEAD TYPE	RELATIVE MATURITY	RELATIVE STRAW STRENGTH
BARSOY	BEARDED	EARLY	VERY GOOD
HENRY	SMOOTH	MEDIUM	VERY GOOD
MAURY	SMOOTH	MEDIUM	EXCELLENT
PENNRAD	SMOOTH	MEDIUM	GOOD
POST	BEARDED	MED LATE	VERY GOOD
SUSSEX	SMOOTH	MED EARLY	VERY GOOD
WHEAT			
HART	BEARDED	MED EARLY	VERY GOOD
SCOTTY	SMOOTH	MED EARLY	VERY GOOD
TITAN	SMOOTH	LATE	VERY GOOD
TYLER	SMOOTH	MED LATE	VERY GOOD
SALUDA	SMOOTH	MEDIUM	VERY GOOD

SEEDWAY'S SMALL GRAIN DISTRIBUTED THROUGH ASGROW/O'S GOLD, TODD AND EASTLAND DEALERS

Hall, N.Y.
14463
(716) 526-5651

SEEDWAYTM
INC.

55 Willow Springs Circle
York, PA 17402
(717) 764-9814

Mifflinburg Warehouse
(717) 966-3841

Cimarron Alfalfa Proven Performance

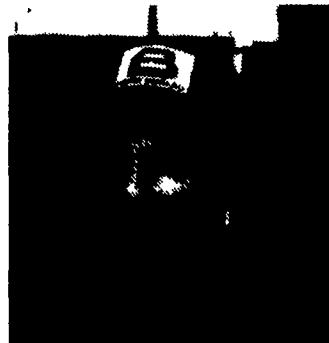
Charles Moyer, Bernville, PA

"All the alfalfa on our farm is Cimarron"



Edward Shuhler
East Greenville, PA

"After the alfalfa was out there was a two inch regrowth in five days"



Gene Moser, Oley, PA

Cimarron yield check results, 9.99 ton per acre from a three year stand



Cimarron The high yield, high quality alfalfa.

DISTRIBUTED BY

SEEDWAYTM
INC.

THE HOME OF QUALITY SEEDS