



OPINION

Now Is The Time

Now half the battle has been won. The Pennsylvania State Senate passed the Ag Land Preservation Bill this week sponsored by Senator Noah Wenger. That's good news for every friend of agriculture.

The major reason the ag land preservation programs were not effective up to now was because there were no funds available to pay the difference between land values for farming and the same land values for development. The Senate bill takes into consideration that every citizen benefits from open farm land and provides the money to do something about it.

Now it's on to the House of Representatives where an almost identical bill is sponsored by Representative Samuel Morris. And while the Senate passed the bill unanimously, more opposition is expected in the House. That's why everyone who wants to keep our heritage of balance between industry and farming should contact their state representatives today and tell them of the support for House Bill 442.

If we are going to save our prime farm land from eternal ruin, now is the time to do it. This generation holds the opportunity as well as the responsibility for the future of ag land preservation in Pennsylvania.

FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

Editor:

I am in agreement with the gentleman that says the Co-ops are for the over-order as they have the most to gain.

Another article in the same paper written by Mr. Zuber, President of RCMA, says the Northeast is closer to being united than ever before. United is right, right into one big Co-op. It seems to me that they are trying to kick the independent man right out the door.

If we sit down and think about what RCMA is going to do to us: not for us, we should certainly be able to see the writing on the wall.

If the Co-op gets control of all the milk, which is what they want to do, then they can set the price of milk being sold to their individual buyers who will not be able to pay their prices because they will be so high - then where will the farmer be - worse off than we are right now. Consumers won't buy the milk because the price will be too high so there we are with an over abundance of milk and no where to go. I say forget about RCMA and support the smaller individual companies. You know it is not always good to get too BIG.

Graham
Christiana

Editor:

We have enjoyed your farming paper for sometime. We've had good results selling items through your Mailbox Market and through your classified ads.

We were very disappointed that John Brockett has retired and will no longer have a column in your paper. So you can imagine how pleased we were to see the announcement of the Penn State Farm & Dairy Business Seminar. Many of us should attend the seminars put on by the professors at Penn State, but all too often we are so busy trying to make a mortgage payment on the farm or trying to get a crop to market that there isn't the time or money for the education we need so badly.

By running this material in your newspaper, we can read it at our convenience, reread it and save it to check back on later. This is better than going to a seminar and taking reams of notes that are thrown out in a wastebasket upon arrival at home.

Thank you so much. It is difficult to put into words the help we have received from your good publication—the articles, livestock reports, auction notices, hay market reports, the ads, etc.

NOW IS THE TIME
By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Manage Alfalfa Stands
With nearly every species of livestock, the feeding of top quality alfalfa hay or silage is highly recommended.

At dairy meetings we hear how good alfalfa is in the ration, and at sheep meetings we learn that good alfalfa hay is the backbone of the ewe feeding program. Alfalfa meal is often used as a source of protein in other rations. It all adds up to the fact that alfalfa is one of our most important forage crops. Every farmer should make a special effort to produce maximum yield per acre. This takes management along with proper lime, fertilizer, insect and disease control. Since we are now at the beginning of another cropping season, more attention to alfalfa may benefit many farmers.

We look forward to each issue and are deeply disappointed if it isn't in the mailbox on Saturday, May 1987 be your best year.

Willard & Helen Redman
Shirleysburg

Farm Calendar

Saturday, April 11
Maryland State Holstein Show, State Fairgrounds, Timonium, Md., 9 a.m.
Pa. Jersey Bred Heifer Sale, Mercer.
McKean County All-Ag Banquet, 7 p.m., Eldred American Legion.

Monday, April 13
Breakfast Meeting, N.W. Pa. Sanitarians, Days Inn, Meadville, 8 a.m.
Franklin County Conservation District Director's Meeting, 8 p.m., Franklin County Conservation District Office, Chambersburg.

Tuesday, April 14
Schuylkill County Beekeepers meeting, "Introduction to Beekeeping" video, Farm Credit Service Building, Hegins, 7 p.m.
PAFC Dinner Meeting, Pat Leminbach, speaker, VFW, Venango, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 15
Conewago FFA annual parent/member banquet, New Oxford High School, 6:30 p.m.

Lancaster County FFA Land/Agronomy Contest, Willow Street.

Thursday, April 16
Small Fruit and Bramble Meeting, Biglerville Fruit Lab, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, April 11
Little International Livestock Show, Penn State University, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
NW Pa. All-Breed Calf Sale, Fairgrounds, Meadville, 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 21
Ephrata Area Young Farmer Association monthly meeting, planning questionnaire and FFA slave auction.
Poultry Sales and Service Conference, Keller Conference Center, Penn State University; continues through April 22.
Lancaster County Co-op Day, Farm and Home Center, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Don't be satisfied with a poor stand. The crop is worthy of our best efforts.

To Consider Others

This is the time of year when relations become a bit strained between farmers and non-farm residents of the rural community. This does not have to be this way if each person tries to understand the feelings and intentions of the other person. When livestock and poultry waste is spread on the farm land, which is an excellent practice, some people think they are going to be permanently injured by the odors. When farmers understand the possible reactions from others in the community, they should attempt to spread this waste on fast-drying days and then incorporate it into the topsoil just as soon as possible.

On the other hand, non-farm people should understand this practice is part of modern farming and a part of rural living. It may be unpleasant for a short time, but as far as I know, rural odors have never been proven to be health hazards. We hope everyone tries to understand the needs and cares of others.

To Start Grazing Gradually

With the amount of moisture in the soil this spring, warm weather will bring growth very rapidly in most pasture areas. This will also be true with producers that are planning to graze winter grains such as rye or barley. The herd or flock should be controlled at first and not allowed on the area for

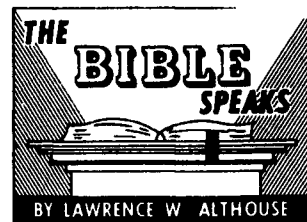
more than a half hour; bloating and scouring may result if they consume too much of the lush forage the first few days. Also, it's best to feed the animals some dry matter such as silage, hay or straw before turning them out to pasture the first few times. Dairy farmers should keep milking cows from the grazing area at least 4 to 5 hours before the milking period.

To Treat Farm Pond Weeds Early

Pond owners who experienced weed problems last summer will undoubtedly have similar or worse problems this year. Aquatic vegetation will have a tendency to increase where no control measures were taken the year before. These weed problems unfortunately multiply.

Early in the growing season is the better approach to gaining control of pond weeds. Aquatic plants are most susceptible to control by chemical herbicides when the plants begin to grow rapidly; if mechanical controls are to be used there will be less bulk in plant materials to contend with; control of the unwanted plants before flowering and seed setting occurs has benefits. Early treatment means less interference with fishing, boating, swimming or whatever other pond activities are involved.

Always follow label directions carefully where chemical controls are used and be sure you have a permit from the Pa. Fish Commission before applying any chemical to your pond.



SAVE YOURSELF
April 12, 1987

Background Scripture: Luke 23:26-49.
Devotional Reading: Psalms 22:1-5.

That the secular authorities — Pilate and Herod — should have assumed that Jesus's death would settle the matter, is not difficult to understand. Temporal authorities seldom look beyond the realm of the temporal. But how could the spiritual leaders of Israel have made that mistake? How could they have assumed that the way to resolve a spiritual dispute is to kill

Thursday, April 23
Annual Fundraising Banquet, Pa. Poultry Federation, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center.
Lancaster County Ladies Day Out, tour and luncheon, 9 a.m.

Saturday, April 25
Witmer Fire Company Ox Roast, noon, Witmer.
NE Regional Seminar, "Women in a Changing World," Bloomsburg University, Bakeless Center, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Penn State Dairy Expo, Ag Arena, 8:30 a.m.

one of the disputants — that the spiritual is limited to a physical dimension?

The story of Jesus's Passion makes it clear that the religious leaders of Israel believed that salvation was strictly a temporal, physical reality. As Jesus hung on the cross, Luke tells us that the rulers scoffed: "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" (23:35). In their view of things, Jesus would be "saved" only if he could be freed from the cross and escape death.

IN YOUR KINGDOM

A similar challenge comes from one of the criminals who is crucified with Jesus: "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" (23:39). Once again, his concept of salvation is that of the chief priests: rescue from captivity and death. In short: salvation is rescue in the here and now.

How interesting, then, that one person who understood that there was a salvation beyond the here and now should be not a priest, nor a scribe, nor a pharisee, but a common thief: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (23:42). He looked to a reality that goes beyond the here and now of the temporal world. Of all those people there on Calvary that fateful afternoon, he seemed to be the only one beside Jesus who realized that death on a cross would not be the end.

TODAY: PARADISE

The response of Jesus makes it evident that he shared the repentant thief's understanding of what it would mean to be truly "saved" from Calvary. "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise" (23:43). Yes, Jesus would be "saved" and so would the repentant thief. They would be "saved" because there was a reality beyond death, a spiritual kingdom where no religious or secular authority would have any authority over the will and purpose of God.

Furthermore, because that spiritual kingdom is an even higher reality than the temporal world, the truth of Jesus was not destroyed on a cross. As Martin Luther was to put it in his great hymn, "A Mighty Fortress":

**The body they may kill,
God's truth abideth still.**

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