



OPINION

Another Disruptive Road In Progress

Discussion about a bypass for Route 72 around Lebanon has generated farmer dissatisfaction. If the proposed two-lane road were to be implemented, some farmers' fields would be cut off from the main buildings and the country roads would dead end.

And farmers aren't the only residents who are concerned. Members of RE-SOLVE (Reach Everyone-Save Our Lebanon Valley Environment) have raised questions about PennDOT's proposals also. These members say a two-lane bypass would be too narrow and primitive. In addition, surveys show that the city of Lebanon is the most common origin and destination. A survey of over 10,000 motorists, who were randomly stopped and asked about their destination, indicated a need to get into Lebanon. Most of these local motorists do not use the other

major travel routes in the area such as I-81, I-76, US 322, US 22, I-78, PA 934, and PA 343. Of course, a lot of traffic on Route 72 has connections in Lancaster, too.

RE-SOLVE plans to have educational efforts at the Lebanon Fair and at shopping malls. And PennDOT has now started the study to determine the feasibility of improving existing Route 72.

Farmers in the area could probably tell you the common sense way to go without spending money on another study. To widen the existing route would accomplish the needed expansion of roadway and would not jeopardize nearly as many farms and would allow the existing side roads to continue as useful country routes through Lebanon's fertile farmland. Let's hope the farmers' opinions are heard in Lebanon.

Farm Calendar

- Saturday, July 16**
 PA Angus Summer Field Day, Loysville (Perry)
 PA Ayrshire Field Day, Wentworth Farm, Quarryville, 10:30 a.m.
 Maryland Jersey Cattle Field Day, Frederick Co. Fairgrounds, Md., 10 a.m. Contact Stan Lutz at Ag Center, Westminster.
- Sunday, July 17**
 Schuylkill County Holstein Picnic
 New York State and Southern Tier Ayrshire Club Field Day, Blue Meadow Farm, Oneonta, N.Y., 10:00 a.m.
- Monday, July 18**
 Biotech Insect Management Conference, Boyce Thompson Institute, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., through the 20th.
 MAMMA Annual Meeting, Stouffer Harborplace Hotel, Baltimore, through the 19th.
 PFA meeting, Chester/Delaware Co. 7:30 p.m.
 Berks Co. Extension picnic, Shearer's BBQ Ranch, 6 p.m.

- Tuesday, July 19**
 Pennsylvania Holstein Executive Committee Meeting, State College, 1:30 p.m.
 Ice Cream Social, Capitol Steps, Harrisburg
- Wednesday, July 20**
 Jefferson County Holstein Show, Sykesville, 9:00 a.m.
 Western Pennsylvania Tillage Field Day, Robert Smith Farm, New Alexandria, 9:30 a.m.; contact the county extension office for information
 Lycoming County Holstein Show, Hughesville, 10:00 a.m.
 Pennsylvania Holstein Board of Directors Meeting, Holiday Inn, State College
 York County 4-H Dairy Roundup
 Berks Co. Dairy Council Meeting, Berks County Ag Center, 7:45 p.m.
- Thursday, July 21**
 York County Holstein Show, York County Fairgrounds, 10:00 a.m.
 Lancaster County Holstein Show, (Turn to Page A31)

FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

Editor:

I think the author of the STUPID editorial in the July 2, 1988 issue suggesting that the Beef Referendum vote and passage drive down the price of cattle owes all cattlemen who worked hard and

long for this project an apology. When are you going to realize the sun does not rise and set by what you egotists in Lancaster County believe or say. You made a big issue over cattle dropping \$10 per cwt., but nothing about big price



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
 Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

Prevent Nitrate and Prussic Acid Poisoning

Annual crops AND weeds such as sorghum, sudangrass, sorghum-sudangrass hybrids, corn, johnson-grass, ragweed and lambsquarters can accumulate toxic levels of nitrates in dry weather. The problem is worse on heavily-fertilized fields and in the 3 to 5 day period following a drought-recovering rain. Problems have also occurred in new seedings of alfalfa. If you suspect problems, test feeds and water for nitrates. Dilute high-nitrate feeds with lower-nitrate feeds and water, and maintain adequate levels of vitamin A in the ration.

Sorghums and sudangrasses can also contain toxic levels of prussic acid (HCN). Levels are highest in the young, rapidly-growing shoots, and in plants damaged by drought or frost. To reduce the risk of poisoning, do not harvest or graze sudangrass until it is at least 18 inches tall; sorghum-sudangrass hybrids should be at least 30 inches tall. Dilute suspect forages with other good quality

feeds.

Emergency Field Corn Management Decision For A Drought Stressed Crop

Our Penn State Agronomy Specialist, Dr. Joe McGahan, gives us some valuable information in guiding our decision making process for drought stressed corn.

One study reports yield losses from four consecutive days of wilted corn as: *Prior to silking - 5%; *During silking - 40%; *Blister stage - 20-30% loss; *Dough stage - 10 to 20% loss. Extended temperatures - moisture stress periods beyond the four days increase the percentages in all the above categories.

Another report from the National Corn Handbook indicates that following crop losses:

* Drought during early vegetative growth will induce deeper, expanded root systems which will tolerate more moisture stress later on.

* Drought during later vegetative growth (3 to 4 week period before silking) will result in a 2-3% loss per day of stress.

* Drought during tasseling, silking and pollination will result in a 5-13% loss per day depending on the degree of stress.

* Drought during grain filling period - a 3 to 4% loss per day from initial grain fill to black layer.

At this stage, we'll continue to pray for rain.

To Take Time To Be Safe

Once every four years the average farm laborer can expect to be injured so severely that medical attention is required. Our safety engineers tell us that agricultural workers are much more suscepti-

ble to accidents and injury than industrial workers.

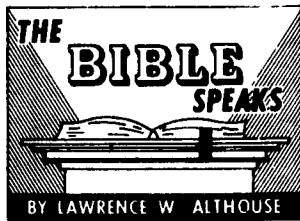
Many pieces of farm machinery need to be repaired and adjusted on the job. Some of this is done while the machinery is operating and on the run. This is dangerous and we urge you to stop the machine and shut it off before any adjustments are made. Just a few seconds of patience could save a life or a vital part of the human body. Farm accidents has replaced mining as the most hazardous occupation. During the hot summer weather our reflexes are slower, so be patient when working with all equipment. Keep in mind however, it is not the machinery that is at fault in most cases, but the operator who does not take time to be safe.

To Plan For Fall Seeding

The dry spell appears to be 'breaking a bit as a few showers move through the area. Hopefully this will continue as we plan for late summer and fall seeding. August seeding of alfalfa should now be in the planning stage. Winter wheat and barley seedings should be planned and orders placed for the right kind of seed for your farm. Don't wait until seeding time and then discover the supply is exhausted. Certified seed is highly suggested in order to realize the most from all inputs.

If you plan to use homegrown seed from a healthy field, they should be tested at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture seed lab; don't waste time and money on poor quality seeds; you could be spreading disease and more weeds.

The Penn State Cooperative Extension is an affirmative action, equal opportunity educational institution.



DO YOU KNOW IT? July 17, 1988

Background Scripture: Exodus 16.

Devotional Reading: Mark 6:30-44.

The Hebrews in the wilderness were much better off than they had been in Egypt. The problem is that many of them didn't know it. They had forgotten the slavery imposed

swing in grain prices.

And now all we'll hear for the next three months is how the poor dairyman will have to pay more for feed.

I wonder how the dairyman would do if he had to take his milk to auction and take whatever he gets instead of the government buying up his surpluses that he had been bailed out over and over again by taxpayers' money?

Dick Price

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upon them by the Egyptian Pharaoh. They had forgotten all the hardships they suffered. They had also apparently forgotten the promised land to which Moses was leading them. How could they have forgotten all of that?

I guess they forgot all those things the same way we forget our blessings whenever we are confronted with challenges. We too may tend to concentrate on what we don't have, forgetting all that we do have. We may concentrate on what has gone wrong, instead of all that has gone right. And when we concentrate on obstacles more than on blessings, the obstacles will dominate everything we do.

WHAT WE HAVE

Normally, many of us have little or no appreciation for all that blesses our lives. It may be only when we lose what we have--a loved one, a job or situation, our health, etc.--that we suddenly come to realize what it is that we have lost. How often people find themselves saying, "Oh, if I could only have it--her/him--back!" As a pastor I have heard that lament many, many times. If only we could realize how good God is to us every day!

Having been led from their captivity and saved from capture by the Pharaoh, one would think the

people would be counting their blessings with joy. Instead we find them doing what it seems they do best--complaining: "Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." (16:3).

POSTPONEMENT & PATIENCE

There are two reasons for this response from the people of Israel. First, they placed immediate security over eventual fulfillment. They wanted God's promises fulfilled immediately--if not sooner! Instant gratification was more important to them than ultimate satisfaction. They failed to realize that often, for the sake of the long run goal, we must be able to handle postponement. Some of them, however, were un-willing to postpone anything--even though Moses sternly told them to wait.

And the second reason is that they failed to consider and count all of God's blessings to them. Like them, each of us is richly blessed every day. So the question is not whether we are blessed, but whether we know it.

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Lancaster Farming
 Established 1955
 Published Every Saturday
 At Record-Express Office Building
 22 E. Main Street
 Lititz, PA 17543
 -- by --
Lancaster Farming, Inc.
 A Steinman Enterprise
 Robert G. Campbell - General Manager
 Everett R. Newswanger - Managing Editor
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