



OPINION

Something You Should Support

The proposed tax reform bill is now in conference committee in the state legislature. This proposal would give counties in the Commonwealth the option to shift property taxes partly to income and sales taxes.

No one knows better than farmers do how burdensome property taxes are in relationship to farm income. Especially in the southeast part of the state, tourists, shopping malls and just a general increase of citizenry have increased the use of local services. And property owners, including farmers, foot the bill.

While legislation to accomplish tax reform is now pending, major obstacles before this reform can be passed. Compromises must be made and the final bill brought up for a vote—before the end of November. That's right. The present legislature has only six working days left.

To exert pressure in legislators, Governor Robert Casey has designated Tuesday, November 15 as Legislative Rally Day. While we know the nitty-gritty work to get legislation passed goes on in the trenches behind the scenes, yet we think farmers should take the opportunity to visit their senators and representatives on Tuesday. Farmers do have a lot to gain from property tax reform. And we find both sides are attempting to get reform without raising windfall taxes at the expense of the payers. If a large group of farmers show up on the Capitol steps, Congressmen may get the message and work a little harder to get the job done.

So, if you're a farmer, here's something you should support. That will mean a trip to Harrisburg on Tuesday. But you might also get the chance to meet the governor.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To "Push The Pencil"

Farm records are a very important part of modern farming; they are needed for tax purposes and for the benefit of farm planning. Since we are at the end of the cropping season, and the end of the calendar year, it might be a good time to do some office work and determine the best enterprises for the past year. You'll need to consider any unusual circumstances.

The time you spend in analyzing farm records, and in planning the future based upon these records, should be very worthwhile. Major decisions are hard to make but are very important in today's farming. We hope that good farm records can contribute in these decisions.

To Repair Machinery During The Winter

Most of the outside field work is finished for this year. I also know that every farm has machinery that needs repair and service. If you are planning to have this done at your machinery dealer, it would be wise to contact him in the near future so it's on his work schedule. I'm aware of the spring rush next March and April; and I know your local serviceman will appreciate the work during the fall and into the long winter days. It can also save time in case parts need to be ordered to complete the job. The objective is to be planning for this repair work now. Have it done so your machinery is ready to go early next spring.

To Knock Out Those Alfalfa Weeds

Winter weeds in our alfalfa fields are every bit as predictable as summer weeds are in corn and soybeans.

Colder weather is here and hay fields are dormant. We now have a choice to use different herbicides, depending largely on the kinds of weeds present that need to be knocked out. The most commonly found winter annuals at this time include chickweed and the four

mustard weeds — shepherd's purse, pepperweed, pennycress and yellow rocket. Also, expect to see seedlings of other weeds plus some tough perennials, too. It pays to know your weeds present before selecting the herbicide.

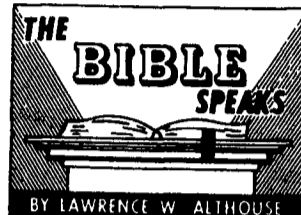
Check the "Agronomy Guide" and READ THE LABEL on the container or package. There are directions and limitations to get the job done right ... in the next six weeks.

To Be Aware Of Wild Birds

Most livestock producers have faced the problem of wild birds during the fall and winter months. These birds come by the thousands and feed from livestock bunks and feeders. They not only eat feed but their droppings present very unsanitary conditions for everyone. Also, since the birds fly

from farm to farm, they are a definite source of spreading various diseases. Unfortunately, we do not have a real good cure for the problem. They can be screened out of confinement buildings. One farmer obtained results by dropping a half inch rope in turpentine, then tacking it on top of the roosting area, giving discomfort by irritating the feet. Another farmer suggested using a shallow pan with about a half inch of salt on the bottom with a thin layer of lard over the salt so as the bird pecks through the lard they pick up the salt. In buildings without livestock, a rotating light makes the birds dizzy and they will not stay long. In any event ... good luck.

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DOING WORSE THAN OUR FATHERS?

November 13, 1988

Background Scripture: Jeremiah 7.

Devotional Reading: Jeremiah 2:4-13.

When I was a very young man, I was quite critical of the world the youth of my day were inheriting from our fathers. In my eyes, it fell so far short of justice, liberty, brotherhood and Christian charity. As far as they went, my judgments and those of my peers were all too correct. Most of us vowed that we would deliver to our children a much better world.

I'm not sure just which generation is in charge of the world just now, but there are many times when I realize ruefully that my generation has handed or is handing over a world that is certainly different, but perhaps no better than the one that was passed on to us. In fact, when I consider the extremely high rate of youthful suicide, the evergrowing drug culture and the threat of global nuclear destruction, I can't help suspecting that our heritage to the next generation may be even a step or two backward.

SLICK & SHINY

Yet, how can that be? When I was a boy the churches could not measure up to most of the churches we have today. Our Sunday school curriculum was but a shadow of what is available today. Even small churches today are so much better equipped, teachers are better trained, and congregations so much more sophisticated. Participating in the life of a church today is generally so much more fun; lots of organized activities, programs, and opportunities.

Obviously, that is not what makes a difference in the long run. The people in Jeremiah's day

could also point to a prosperous and popular Hebrew religion, but Jeremiah makes it clear that that is not what God is looking for. Business might be "as usual" or even "better than ever" at the temple, but that didn't mean that people took God seriously. They were proud of their elegant temple, to be sure, but they were proud for the wrong reasons.

So through Jeremiah, God comes to them, saying: "Do not trust in these deceptive words: 'This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord'" (Jeremiah 7:4). No one is saved from God's judgement by a glorious temple or a "well-fixed church."

THE SAME PEOPLE

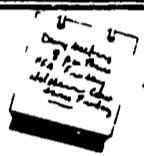
What God really wants from them — and from us — is a life that tries to incorporate the moral precepts of the religion. The same people who cried so confidently, "The temple of the Lord!", were the same ones whom God addressed when he said through Jeremiah: "Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, and then come and stand before me in this house... and say, 'We are delivered!' — only to go on doing these abominations?" (7:9-10).

Actually, their religion had become a shield behind which they lived lives that were more attuned to the pagan religions around them than the high moral level demanded by the Lord. Their "church-going" kept up the appearances of the traditional Hebrew faith, but in their private and public lives they were living by hedonistic standards.

And what of us? Is it possible that we too are vulnerable to Jeremiah's searing prophecy? What "abominations" do we perpetuate as we continue to "come and stand before me in this house"? And when the records are totaled and balanced, it is possible God's prophets will say of us: "They did worse than their fathers?"

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Farm Calendar



Saturday, November 12
1988 Southeast District 4-H/FFA Club Calf Sale, New Holland Sales Stable, New Holland, 2:00 p.m. Calf sale will follow the 4-H Baby Beef Sale, which begins at 1:00 p.m.

Monday, November 14
Lancaster County Poultry Management & Health seminar. PFA annual meeting, Hershey, 11/14-16.

Tuesday, November 15
State Farm-City Kick-off banquet, Kauffman's Community Center, near Chambersburg, 6 p.m. Ephrata Young Farmers' Welding Clinic, Hoover Agway Store, 7:45 p.m.

Berks County Ag Nutrient Management Tour. Contact extension office for directions, 9:30

a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Carlisle Livestock Market, Carlisle, 5:30 p.m.

Lancaster Co. 4-H Capon Round-up, Andy's Catering Service on Millersville Pike near Manor Shopping Center, 10:30 a.m. Cumberland County 4-H Beef, Lamb Roundup, Carlisle Livestock Market, Show at 9 a.m.; sale at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 16
American Agri-Women Convention, Holiday Inn-Center City Philadelphia; 11/16-20. Marketing Conference, Willow Valley, Lancaster, 11/16-17.

DHIA East annual meeting, North Orwell Community Hall, 7:45 p.m.

Thursday, November 17
Atlantic Dairy Coop, annual meet-

FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

It's that time of year again the annual Red Rose 4-H Baby Beef Sales is here again. So SAVE THE TURKEYS and serve beef that is a complete nutrition and fed naturally. The sale will be held on November 12, at the New Holland Sales Stables at 12:30 p.m.

This year I have a Keyana Angus crossbreed steer. His name

is Hightower. I keep him on my grandfather's farm. He get's lots of exercise from walking him many times a week.

Hope to see you at the sale on November 12 at 12:30 p.m. at the New Holland Sales Stables. Thanks for your support.

4-H Member,
Jennifer Shellenberger
Witmer

ing, Sheraton Lancaster Host Resort, Rt. 30, Lancaster, 9:45 a.m., 11/17-18.

Clarion County annual PA Holstein Association meeting.

Berks County 4-H recognition night, Berks County 4-H center, 7 p.m.

DHIA West Bradford County annual meeting, Windall (Turn to Page A31)

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WOW! JUST LOOK AT THE CARS THAT THESE CELEBRITIES HAVE

WHY HERE'S ONE GUY WHO DRIVES AROUND IN A \$40,000 SPORTS CAR.— AND HERE'S ANOTHER WHO RIDES AROUND IN A \$60,000 LIMOUSINE

HECK! THAT'S NOTHING, I SPENT LAST WEEKEND DRIVING AROUND A \$90,000... DRUGS

DAVE CARPENTER

... COMBINE