



# OPINION

## What Do You Think?

Here's a fictitious letter of satire to the National Ag Secretary that's been circulating around the farm community:

**Honorable Secretary of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C.**

Dear Sir:

My friend, over at Canby, Minnesota, received a check for \$1,000 from the government for not raising hogs. So, I want to go into the "not raising hogs" business next year.

What I want to know is in your opinion, what is the best kind of farm not to raise hogs on, and what is the best breed of hogs not to raise? I want to be sure that I approach this endeavor in keeping with all governmental policies. I would prefer not to raise razorbacks, but if that is not a good breed not to raise, then I will just as gladly not raise Yorkshires or Durocs.

As I see it, the hardest part of this program will be in keeping an accurate inventory of how many hogs I haven't raised.

My friend is very joyful about the future of the business. He has been raising hogs for twenty years or so, and the best he ever made on them was \$122 in 1968, until this year when he got your check for

\$1,000 for not raising hogs.

If I get \$1,000 for not raising 50 hogs, will I get \$2,000 for not raising 100 hogs? I plan to operate on a small scale at first, holding myself down to about 4,000 hogs not raised, which will mean about \$80,000 the first year. Then I can afford an airplane.

Now another thing, these hogs I will not raise will not eat 100,000 bushels of corn. I understand that you also pay farmers for not raising corn and wheat. Will I qualify for payments for not raising wheat and corn not to feed the 4,000 hogs I am not going to raise?

I want to get started as soon as possible as this seems to be a good time of the year not to raise hogs and grain.

Also, I am considering the "not milking cows" business, so send me any information on that, too.

In view of these circumstances, you understand that I will be totally unemployed and plan to file for unemployment and food stamps.

Be assured you will have my vote in the coming election.

Patriotically yours,

P.S. Would you please notify me when you plan to distribute more free cheese?

What do you think about this?



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

### To Attend The Mid-Atlantic Conservation Tillage Conference

"Conservation Tillage: Getting The Full Picture," is the theme of the 1988 Mid-Atlantic Conservation Tillage Conference scheduled for Wednesday, December 14 at the York Fairgrounds, York, Pa.

The program committee has arranged for prominent speakers to cover such timely topics as: Resources at Risk; How Water Quality Issues Are Shaping Your Future; Conservation Tillage and Groundwater Quality; Progress on Genetic Engineering; Round-up Tolerance in Crops; Improve Nutrient Efficiency With No-Tillage and Tillage Alternatives. The keynote speaker, Dr. John F. Marten, Farm Journal Staff Economist will speak to "Farm Production, Prices and Politics in 1989." He is an authority on crop outlook forecasts and analysis.

There are a great many commercial exhibitors with representatives eager to greet and help you. The program starts at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 3:15 p.m. The exhibits open in Memorial Hall at 8:00 a.m.

Tickets and program details are now available from county extension offices.

### To Take A Look At New Weed Control Methods In The Future

Research is always looking for new and better ways to do old jobs. First there were hoes, then animal drawn cultivators and finally herbicides to control weeds. Scientists are always developing new herbicides, but now researchers are looking in other directions.

According to Robert Anderson, our Extension Agronomy Agent, researchers in both Vermont and Quebec have been looking for non-conventional ways to control velvetleaf, a major weed problem in corn and other crops. Velvetleaf is a difficult weed to control by chemicals, mechanical or cultural methods. Future control may be through the use of a bioherbicide. Research has isolated a pathogen from foliar lesions that may offer a new control possibility.

Research by USDA and University of Minnesota has found a new way to control grass weeds in corn. Once a pre-emergence grass herbicide fails in corn, the use of a postemergence herbicide does not exist. There are some good post-

emergence herbicides used in other crops, but these materials are fatal to corn. Plant breeders have isolated corn cells that are resistant to the herbicide (Poast) and believe that resistance can be transferred to hybrid corn varieties... what's next?

### To Be Careful When Cleaning Manure Pits

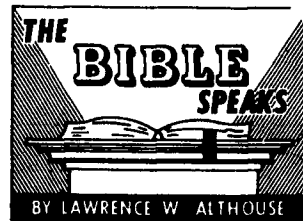
Many manure pits will be emptied at this time of year, it's an opportunity to clean out the pit before cold weather arrives. When this volume of manure is agitated there is greater danger of toxic and explosive gases being released. Every precaution should be taken. If there are animals above the pits, then maximum ventilation should

be provided. When the pit is empty or partially empty, no one should enter the pit without a respirator or gas mask. There may be dangerous gases present. Also, no smoking or open flames should be nearby. These pits are the modern way to store manure, but they do present a hazard to both man and animal.

### To Appreciate Harvest Completion

Once again we have come to the end of another growing season and the end of the harvest.

The 1988 year was favorable in most areas for field, orchard and garden crops and this has meant good production of food and feed. Some neighboring counties cannot say the same.



ANY WORD FROM THE LORD?  
November 20, 1988

Background Scripture: Jeremiah 37:1 through 38:13.

Devotional Reading: Jeremiah 37:11-21.

This is a story too human to be fictitious. In fiction, King Zedekiah would have been an arch villain. Instead, we see him as a tragically weak and indecisive man. Unfortunately, he was the king of Judah and we do not have to wonder why the people of Judah fared so tragically under his leadership -- or the lack of it.

King Zedekiah is like so many of us: he knows so much better than he does. When the Chaldeans (Babylonians) have surrounded Jerusalem and are besieging the city, Zedekiah knows who it is to whom he must turn for intercession with the Lord. So, he sends high-ranking officials of his court to ask Jeremiah the prophet to "Pray for us to the Lord our God" (37:3). Zedekiah knew that Jeremiah was the only who could enlist God's help in driving away the Chaldeans. Yet, at the same time, the writer tells us: "But neither he (Zedekiah) nor his servants nor the people of the land listened to the words of the Lord which he spoke through Jeremiah the prophet" (37:2).

### AUTHENTICITY

So, on the one hand, Zedekiah recognized Jeremiah's link to God as an authentic one; while on the other, he refused to heed Jeremiah's warnings. That sounds strange, doesn't it: to recognize someone's authority, but failing to take the advice that authority dispenses. The problem, it would seem, is not that Zedekiah didn't believe Jeremiah, but that he didn't like the message he was given. Isn't that our problem, too, sometimes? It is not that we don't

believe the message from God, but that we don't like it. And that is why we often do not respond.

Obviously, the people didn't really understand much about prophets. They thought they could pressure Jeremiah to change his message from defeat to victory over the Chaldeans--or at least to drive them away. Jeremiah, however, made it clear that it was not just a matter of changing his message, but changing the reality behind that message. The Chaldeans will prevail, not because they are invincible, but because it is God himself who is acting through them. "For even if you should defeat the whole army of the Chaldeans who are fighting against you, and there remained of them only wounded men, every man in his tent, they would rise up and burn this city with fire" (37:10).

Again King Zedekiah turns to Jeremiah for good advice from God, but typically Zedekiah, he didn't want it to be known in public. The king questioned him, but privately so no one would know: "King Zedekiah sent for him and received him. The king questioned him secretly in his house, and said, 'Is there any word from the Lord?'"

### ANY WORD FROM THE LORD?

Any word from the Lord? Yet Zedekiah is the king who fails to heed Jeremiah's prophecies. Why, then, would he send for him again? Did he think that if asked often enough, God would change his mind or the prophet would soften the message? Zedekiah knew better than that, but still he asked his fearful questions and hoped that at last the word from the Lord would be favorable.

Zedekiah is believable, because he is like many of us: we want to do right, but we find the pull to do wrong so much more powerful. We go through life limping between what we know we ought to do and what we would prefer to do. But, unless we're willing to hear and respond to his message, there's no point asking, "Is there any word from the Lord?"

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## Farm Calendar

### Saturday, November 19

First annual antique model and toy show. Benefit Denver Fire Company, Denver Fire Hall, from 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Berks County 4-H horse club banquet, 6:30 p.m., Berks County 4-H Center.

Lancaster County Farm City Tour runs Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Call the extension office 394-6851 for directions.

### Monday, November 21

ADA/DC District 18 annual meeting. Holiday Inn, Grantsville, 7:30 p.m.

Octorara Young Farmers, 7:30 p.m., Demonstration of new shop equipment purchased with federal funds in the name of Octorara Young Farmers.

### Tuesday, November 22

12th annual Lancaster Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Industry Banquet, Willow Valley Resort and Conference Center, 7 p.m.

Ephrata Young Farmers' Dairy Management Meeting, Ephrata High School, 7:45 p.m.

Annual Forage Conference, Keller Auditorium, University Park, 9 a.m.

Crawford County Cooperative Extension annual banquet and meeting at Elk's Club, Meadville, 7:30 p.m.

Franklin County, DHIA annual meeting Kauffman's Community Center, 7 p.m.

### Saturday, November 26

Mercer County Holstein annual meeting, Mercer extension office, 8 p.m.

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## Uncle Otis's RECIPE CORNER

HOW TO PREPARE THANKSGIVING DINNER

BY DAUE CORPENTER

### Thanksgiving Dinner

STEP 1. STUFF THE TURKEY WITH YOUR FAVORITE STUFFING INGREDIENTS.

STEP 2. COOK TURKEY FOR THE PRESCRIBED AMOUNT OF TIME

STEP 3. WHILE TURKEY IS COOKING, PREPARE ALL TRIMMINGS TO BE SERVED WITH THE TURKEY

STEP 4. AFTER MEAL IS PREPARED, THEN COMMENCE TO STUFF YOURSELF.

