



# OPINION

## Do Likewise

The American Heritage Trust Act would establish a \$25-\$30 billion trust fund for acquisition of private lands by federal, state and local government agencies. Within five years, \$1 billion per year in interest accruing from the fund would be spent for land acquisition. Appropriation would be automatic, requiring no additional congressional action.

Jim Hess, Vice President of the Lancaster County Farmers' Association thinks the following should be of concern to all members. And we think it should be of concern to everyone in the agricultural community.

The American Heritage Trust Act would create a huge, new, off-budget spending program outside the regular appropriations process. Last year, the office of Management and Budget estimated that this legislation would increase annual federal outlays \$1.2 billion by fiscal year 1990.

Large-scale land acquisitions resulting from this legislation could impact local communities by transferring large amounts of land from private to public ownership. Government land acquisition on this large scale would also increase property tax burdens on remaining landowners, especially in areas which already have a high percentage of public lands.

Another concern is that there is no provision in the legislation which requires that lands be purchased from willing sellers. For this reason, landowners fear that this legislation could result in widespread taking of agricultural land by federal, state and local government agencies.

Hess urges members of the Lancaster County Farmers' Association to contact their Congressman as soon as possible and express opposition to the American Heritage Trust Act and ask that he not cosponsor the legislation. And we urge everyone in the Ag Community to do likewise.



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin  
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

### To Check Pastures

With March arriving and moderating temperature, our thoughts quicken to early spring pastures. We need to be concerned with pastures and exercise lots along rural roads for discarded junk. Unfortunately, people still throw bags of waste from their cars into nearby fields. Some of the materials may be poisonous to livestock. Every producer should remove these materials before starting to graze. Also, in hay field the materials should be removed before growth begins. Bottles and tin cans will damage equipment and be a threat to the livestock eating the hay. Be sure your animals are not poisoned through someone's carelessness.

### To Be Aware Of Safe Drinking Water

A private water supply is just that -- private. The quality of your water supply is the responsibility of the homeowner or farmer, according to Mitchell Woodward, Nutrient Management Agent. State laws do not require testing and regulatory agencies do not monitor the quality of private supplies. Therefore, the only way you, as a water supply owner, can be certain that the water is safe to drink is to have the water tested periodically.

### \*WHAT SHOULD WATER BE TESTED FOR?

A comprehensive water analysis can be very costly. The following tests can determine the most common water quality concerns.

**BACTERIA:** A test for total coliform bacteria can determine contamination from septic tanks

or manure.

**NITRATES:** Excessive levels of nitrates can be harmful to human infants and some animals, although the occurrence of this is rare. A level of 10 ppm nitrate nitrogen has been set for humans, 100 ppm for livestock.

**pH:** Water with a pH less than 6.5 or greater than 8.0 can cause problems in plumbing. Corrosion shortens the life of the pipe and can introduce dissolved metals into the water that can stain fixtures and pose a poisonous health hazard.

To assure that a well supply is safe, it should be tested for bacteria and nitrate at least once a year, preferably during wet spells. Only after accurate testing can a decision be made on treatment equipment.

### To Plan Location For Tobacco Planting

We have been saying for years that animal and poultry manure is an excellent fertilizer. It still is... but not for tobacco. Research shows us that animal manure, particularly dairy, increases the chlorine content of the tobacco; this chlorine content reduced the "burn" quality of the tobacco, and buyers frown on that.

Locate the area that you plan to transplant your tobacco, and be sure NOT to apply any manure to

that area this year.

We suggest that a soil test be taken as an indicator of your present nutrient level. Then apply fertilizer at the recommended rates. The fertility program, recommended by Research Agronomists, for a 2,000-pound tobacco crop, should consist of 80 pounds of nitrogen, 35 pounds of phosphorus (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) and 165 pounds of potash from either sulfate of potash or potassium nitrate. This fertility program will increase quality and reduce buyer resistance.

### To Prune Fruit Trees

Whether you have a few or several hundred fruit trees, orchard pruning need not be delayed until spring. It may be started in colder weather. But it is a good practice to work on the hardiest trees first.

Early pruning can involve some problems from winter injury, but in many cases an early start will be necessary to complete pruning of large orchards before spring. By confining early work to the older, hardier trees, fruit growers keep injury to a minimum.

Apple and pear trees are the hardiest of the fruits, with plums and sour cherries next in order. Because peach and sweet cherries are most tender, delay their pruning, particularly the younger trees, until late March.

## Farm Calendar



### Saturday, March 4

Dauphin County Conservation District Nut Tree Grafting Workshop, Dauphin County Agricultural and Natural Resources Center, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

All Pennsylvania Sportsmen's Rally, Marianne Towers on Rt. 66 and 322 between Clarion and Shippensburg, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Ephrata Young Farmers annual meeting, Mt. Airy Fire Hall, 6:45 p.m.

### Sunday, March 5

Philadelphia Flower Show, Civic Center, Philadelphia; runs through March 12.

### Monday, March 6

Pesticide exam, Lancaster Farm & Home Center, 8:30 a.m.

Dairy Reproductive Management Seminar, Days Inn Conference Center, Allentown, 9:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; for program details and registration (Feb. 27) 215/588-3121.

Planning For the '90s, Part II, Penn State Schuylkill campus, 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

RCMA meeting, Region 14, Court House, New Bloomfield, 1:00 p.m.

Octorara Young Farmers Association banquet, W. Fallowfield School, 6:45 p.m.

Northwest Pennsylvania Cattlemen's annual meeting, Mercer Co. Extension office, 7:00 p.m.; make reservations by Feb. 27 at 412/662-3141.

Fayette County Cattlemen's Dinner, Hoss's, Belle Vernon, 7:00 p.m.

### March 7

Dairy Days, Day 2, Lancaster Farm & Home Center, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Multi-County Potato Meeting,

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## FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

### Editor:

The recent article by Everett Newswanger - Animal Rights Vol. 34 No 14, Sat., Feb. 18 was excellent and thoroughly reported. It ended with a positive and work-together note.

I am a N.J. Mini-Horse Farm owner with relatives in the dairy business in Upstate N.Y. Fortunately my husband and I enjoy reading about the farm industry in LF. It helps us to appreciate all farmers, their hard work vs. little rate of return. Thank you for putting the food on our table.

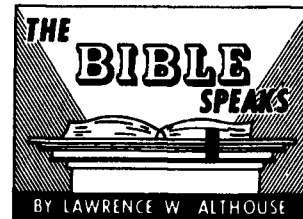
The point I would like to make

regarding this article is an objective one from a non-farmer. The issue is definitely animal welfare and this should be kept clear to the animal welfare activists out there.

As farmers you don't have the time to get involved with all these seemingly petty issues. Who has enough time in one day. So if you don't have time to beat them, join them.

My advice is DON'T BE NEGATIVE working with an attitude against the animal groups. Okay, yes some are overly fanati-

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## THE REAL PRISONER

March 5, 1989

Background Scripture: Philemon  
Devotional Reading: I Corinthians 13

"A weak letter" is the way in which I have heard some people describe Paul's letter to Philemon. "Weak," because although, as he says in this letter, he "could command" Philemon to accept the runaway slave, Onesimus, he makes only an "appeal" to his conscience.

At least one commentator has speculated that it was Paul's position as a prisoner when he wrote this letter that weakened his resolve to secure Onesimus's freedom. But, if you read this letter carefully, I think you will find that it is not "weak" at all. In fact, it is a very powerful response to a very sticky issue, but the power is more spiritual rather than temporal.

### FORMERLY "USELESS"

Just note all the ways in which Paul uses this spiritual power. He reminds Philemon what a fine Christian he has been up until now: "I thank my God...because I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus..." (Philemon 4,5). Next, he appeals to Philemon "for love's

sake," although reminding him "I am bold enough in Christ to command you" (v. 8). Then, he tells Philemon that his former runaway slave has, under Paul's spiritual guidance, lived up to his name. (Onesimus means "useful," but until Onesimus found Christ, he had been "useless" to Philemon). As he sends the slave back to Philemon, he is sending "my very heart" (v. 12). He points out that he could very well have kept Onesimus with him, but that his purpose was to persuade Philemon to do the right thing, not by "compulsion, but of your own free will" (v. 14).

### NO LONGER A SLAVE

Paul goes on to present the runaway slave "as a beloved brother" now that Onesimus has become a Christian. Philemon is reminded of his partnership with Paul and he now asks him to receive the runaway slave "as you would receive me" (v. 17). The Apostle also promises to make good on anything Onesimus might owe his master. Although he reminds Philemon that actually he owes something to Paul. Writing in his own hand, Paul says: "Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ." Confident that Philemon will do even more than he asks, Paul closes by saying that he will be visiting Philemon soon!

Paul may have written this from behind bars, but his position was not one of weakness. Paul, the "prisoner for Christ," writes to free his friend Philemon from his own spiritual imprisonment.

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## Lancaster Farming

Established 1955  
Published Every Saturday  
Ephrata Review Building  
1 E. Main St.  
Ephrata, PA 17522  
— by —  
Lancaster Farming, Inc.  
A Steinman Enterprise  
Robert G. Campbell General Manager  
Everett R. Newswanger Managing Editor  
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