



OPINION

Shall The Tax Laws Be Changed?

The tax reform referendum that comes up for a vote in the Pennsylvania primary next Tuesday has generated heated discussion. Sometimes more heat than light has been generated.

And while most of the farm organizations have officially supported the reform, the discussions still leave questions in the minds of voters. This is partly true because proponents of both sides of the issue quote possible figures of how much more or less a family in a sample situation will pay. One side says a family in Lehigh County that makes \$30,000 annually would pay about 12 percent less in local taxes under the reforms. And the other side says that same family would pay 17 percent more.

The Gov. Robert P. Casey administration, who developed the reforms and pushed them through the legislative process, says a positive response will shift the burden of taxes away from the property owner to a more equitable taxation on income of those able to pay. Opponents say the proposed changes in tax structure simply opens the way for local governments to increase taxes later.

But both sides seem to agree that no one can really know what will happen. There are just too many local variables. Certainly, it would seem that a farm owner who is "rich in land" but "poor in cash" would benefit. We have said for a long time that farmers pay more than their share of taxes for local services more needed by town people. But along with the local income tax, the reform also provides for a local sales tax. So, does this mean the farmer who rents or share crops his farm will pay more taxes than he did before? That will be in the hands of the local government.

But first, the voters will have their say. The question on the ballot will be as follows: "Shall Article VII, Sec. 2B, of the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to allow for legislation which would require or permit local government units to reduce residential real estate tax rates to the extent of additional revenues obtained from personal income taxes, while keeping all other changes in real estate tax rates uniform."

Confused or not, the vote is in your hands.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Be Aware Of Corn Insects

With the increased trend toward no-till corn planting or minimum tillage, we can expect more problems with corn insects. Past experience shows this. We urge corn growers to inspect their field frequently to observe any feeding on small plants. You can have cutworms, stalk borers and armyworms at any time feeding on the corn plant. The Agronomy Guide lists several materials for the control of cutworms and armyworms, including Sevin, Furadan, Lorsban, Pounce or Dylox. The stalk borer is very difficult to control because they work inside the corn

stalk.

Flea beetles are another insect that may feed on small corn leaves; they create small holes in the leaves but seldom do extensive damage. Sevin can be used to eliminate these small insects, if it is serious enough. Keep an eye on the corn field for the first several weeks and avoid serious insect injury. Always follow label directions when using any pesticide.

To Continue Forage Feeding

Dairymen and beef cattle producers should continue to feed some dry matter while the animals are on pasture. The feeding of hay or silage, when the cattle are turned out to pasture will result in more uniform production. Also, keeping some dry matter in the ration will help prevent serious scouring and bloating.

Some producers provide this forage by way of a portable hay bunk in the pasture area. The animals should consume some of the dry forage along with lush spring pasture. The hay should be fed early in the day, before the herd goes to the new pasture. Later in the season the stored hay or silage will continue to be useful when growth slows down due to dry weather and high temperatures.

To Read The Label

I am sure you have heard this

suggestion before, however, it is still very important to all farmers and gardeners.

Every pesticide carries a label with directions; this should be read and followed during the application of the material. Don't make the mistake of applying the material in error. The labels are required by law and should be respected by the user.

Serious losses may occur if the directions are not followed. Materials should always be kept in their original container and stored in a separate place under padlock.

To Do Spring Pruning

Many plants and bushes require some corrective pruning to improve their appearance, to hold them to desirable size, and to remove damaged and weakened sections.

There is a time to prune and a time not to prune, and this varies from plant to plant. A good time for pruning spring flowering plants is after they've bloomed and before they start forming next year's flowering buds. Pruning soon after flowering also gives more time for new growth to cover up that newly-pruned look.

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FARM FORUM

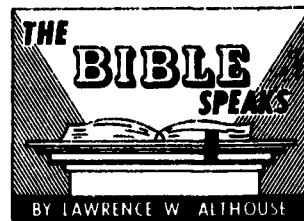
OUR READERS WRITE

Editor:

While I endorse staff writer Pat Purcell's call for farmers to "get all the facts" in her May 6 article "Tax Reform Referendum—Get All the Facts," several misleading statements and omissions in her article seem to defeat her intended objectives. In order for farmers to truly get all of the facts about the tax reform proposal, Act 145, a number of corrections and clarifications to her article are necessary.

First, it must be pointed out that the entire portion of a farm used by the owner-farmer or a family member as a primary residence should be entitled to the 25% residential real property tax reduction, not just the farm house and the land. Act 145 would define a "farm residence" eligible for residential realty tax treatment as the real property, i.e. land and buildings, of a farm used for residential purposes and includes land used in the commercial production of crops, livestock and livestock products. Only that portion of the farm that is utilized for processing or retail merchandising of products produced on the farm, a processing plant or a retail farm market, is not subject to residential realty tax treatment. All cropland on the farm will receive the tax break, regardless of whether the crops are marketed through a retail farm market.

Secondly, while any statute passed by the General Assembly can be subject to state constitutional challenge, the real focus should be the likelihood of such challenge's success. You must understand that our courts impose



WHEN YOU GET WHERE YOU'RE GOING
May 14, 1989

Background Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-16.

Devotional Reading: John 17:20-26.

In workshops, seminars, classes, sermons, and counseling sessions, my wife, Valere, and I over the years have never tired of asking: "When you get where you're going, where will you be?" It is a leading question that often is very provocative for people willing to do a little soul-searching.

Some people answer: "I'm not going anywhere any more." They assume they are going nowhere in life, that they're standing still. But the fact is, we're always moving in some direction. From the moment of conception we are moving on a course that carries us through life to death, and we trust, to something beyond. There may be times when we might want to stop the world and get off, but life moves on, even when we think we are standing still.

NO LONGER CHILDREN

So, the question is not are we going somewhere, but rather: *when you get where you're going, where will you be?* You are going somewhere in life, to be sure, but is it where you intend to go? Is the direction in which you are moving

the direction that will take you where you want to go?

Actually, none of us are created to stand still in life. We are created to grow and develop, not just in the beginning of life, but through to the very end. Paul says, "we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ" (4:15). Too many Christian adults assume that they've done all the growing that's expected of them. "How much more growing am I supposed to do?" some of them have questioned me. I can't improve upon Paul's answer to the church at Ephesus: "until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children..." (4:13,14).

MANY GIFTS, ONE SOURCE

What is true of us as individual Christians is also true of us as congregations: we are not finished learning and growing until we are fulfilling his plan and purpose as a church: "to equip the saints for the work of ministry for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God" (4:12,13). I've pastored a number of fine congregations, but I've never found a church that no longer needed to grow and develop in the Lord, that discovered and used all of its God-given spiritual gifts or that had learned to manifest at all times the ideal of "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all" (4:5). Until we reach that destination, we need to make sure we know where we're going.

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Farm Calendar



Saturday, May 13

Beekeeping Short Course, Townsend Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Western Pennsylvania Sheep & Lamb Club Sale, Mercer County 4-H Park, Mercer, 6:00 p.m.

New Hampshire Sheep & Wool Festival, Hillsborough County 4-H Youth Center, New Boston, N.H.; runs through May 14.

Christmas Tree Growers Short Course, Cook College, New Brunswick, N.J.; for more information, call 201/932-9271 or 201/932-8993.

Monday, May 15

Pennsylvania Dairy Sanitarians & Lab Analysis Conference, Penn State, University Park; runs through May 17.

Tuesday, May 16

Fayette County 4-H dairy goat meeting, Fayette County fairgrounds, Uniontown, 7:30 p.m.
Virginia Poultry Festival, Rockingham County Fairgrounds,

Harrisonburg; runs through May 20.

Wednesday, May 17

Food for profit seminar, Penn State Great Valley Graduate Center, Malvern, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; call Margaret Malehorn at 717/249-7220 for information.

RCMA informational meeting, Wayne County Extension meeting room, Honesdale, 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 18

Food for profit seminar, Lancaster Farm & Home Center, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; call Margaret Malehorn at 717/249-7220 for information.

Nockamixon Watershed water quality workshop, Regional Park Office IV, Nockamixon State Park, 3 Mile Run Rd., 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; for more information, call 215/345-7577.

RCMA informational meeting, Schuylkill County Extension

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$$7x2 + 13 = 29 \div \sqrt{16} + 3A = 13\frac{1}{4} \times 3 \times 4b + 16 - 4$$

$$+ 31,273 \times 4 \div \sqrt{123} \div .57 + \sqrt{16} \times 4 \pi R - 3 + \frac{1}{2}$$

$$= 2.754398 \times 127.13 = R + B^2 \div 146 \times 13 - 4.2$$

$$\times \sqrt{123} = \pi 3 + \frac{1}{4} \times 57.40009 = 2B + 3 \times \sqrt{121}$$

$$- 174.356 + 436.239A \div 123.74 = \pi 41 \div$$

$$\sqrt[3]{16} = 74\frac{3}{4} \div 7\frac{3}{8} + 2 \times B = C^2 - 126 \frac{1}{4} \times 13 = \text{BEEF}$$

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