



OPINION

KEEP FARMLAND UNDER THE PLOW

The Commonwealth court now has ruled that the Agricultural Land Condemnation Approval Board has the authority to make judgment on eminent domain proceedings that would swipe ag land out of an ag security area. Since this was the first test case of Act 43, the Farmland Preservation Act, the ruling was especially important. The court could have taken a broad view of the Northwestern Lehigh School District's attempt to take 24 acres out of an ag security area to build a new school. If that had happened, the court's view would have said that school boards are covered by Pennsylvania School Code and not by ALCAB. And the State's Ag land Preservation program would have been worthless.

But as the ruling came down, ALCAB has been specifically given the right by the state legislature to limit the power of eminent domain pursuant to the state's policy of preserving ag security areas. That's good news for those who want to keep their farms in agriculture but had the fear that even if they put them in an ag security area, any local or state government body could have come along and condemned the land at will.

Now, unless the State Supreme Court overturns the ruling, the precedent has been set to make the state's farmland preservation policy effective. And it gives some hope to those who think that the powers of eminent domain are now often abused by local governing bodies for uses the law never intended.

As for Raymond Snyder, who is 85-years old and his wife Elma Snyder, who is 90-years old, the potato rows remain 1,100 feet long instead of 200 feet long, and the state farmland preservation act with provision for ag security areas remains a viable way to keep farmland under the plow instead of under development.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Keep Pesticide Records

Today's battle with insects, fungus, rodents and weeds requires the use of many different chemicals. It is important to keep an accurate record of any chemical used. This would include the date, name of material, application rate, field number and even the direction the wind is blowing. This might save a lot of trouble and loss of income in case there is some question.

Many food items are being checked by Food and Drug representatives for pesticide residues. It is possible to find residues even where the producer followed regulations and every recommended practice. Your records would be very important in these cases. In any event, always follow label instructions.

To Handle Gasoline and Diesel Fuel With Respect

We use a lot of gasoline and diesel fuels on our farms and when they are not handled properly, they can be a source of a serious fire.

Gasoline should be stored in an underground tank. When it is necessary to store it above ground, then the tank should be located at least 40 feet away from any building. Small amounts can be stored in approved safety cans. Be sure to label all cans plainly so there is no danger of mix-up.

Diesel fuel and gasoline must be kept away from flame or heat. Strictly enforce NO SMOKING rules. Always refuel outdoors where vapors cannot accumulate.

If you spill some fuel, wipe it up before starting an engine.

Storing any fuels in glass jugs or bottles is inviting trouble. It is also dangerous to use them to start burning trash, leaves, barbecue pits or stoves. Gasoline should not be used as a cleaning or degreasing agent. During this busy season, take time to be safe.

To Encourage Water Consumption

In the managing of any type of livestock or poultry it is very important to obtain maximum water consumption. Some animals such as a heavy producing milk cow will drink 30 gallons of water per day. All animals should have a free access to water at all times. In the summer the water should be as cool as possible, and in the winter warmed water will increase consumption. Open troughs might be covered unless the water is flowing through them.

One way to encourage good water intake is to provide access to loose salt and minerals. These items will not only help water consumption but will balance the ration and help promote more complete digestibility. During warm, humid weather, we humans drink more liquids. Livestock and

poultry will do the same when given the chance. This is good management and will increase efficiency in production.

To Care For Your Lawn

Nearly everyone likes to have a good, attractive green lawn around their home. Also, a nice lawn feels good underfoot, and makes your home cooler during the summer.

Many homeowners could have a better lawn if they did not mow so closely. Cutting too short weakens the grass, gives it a poor color, and allows weeds, especially crabgrass to take over.

Since most homeowners can't get around to mowing more than once a week, they should mow higher than most people presently do.

A good height for Kentucky Bluegrass and fine leaf fescue is 1½ to 2 inches. Bunch-type grasses, such as tall fescue, should be cut 2 to 3 inches in height. To learn how high your mower is set, place the mower on the driveway or barn floor and measure the distance from the cutting edge to the pavement or floor.

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

Farm Calendar

- Saturday, June 10**
Franklin County Dairy Princess pageant, Kauffman's Community Center, Kauffman Station, 7:00 p.m.
Adams County Dairy Princess pageant, Biglerville High School, Biglerville, 7:30 p.m.
Western Maryland 4-H/FFA spring show, Hagerstown Speedway, Hagerstown.
- Monday, June 12**
Eastern Junior Simmental Association meeting, Springfield, Ohio; runs through June 15.
Dubois Gateway Fair, fairgrounds, Dubois; runs through June 17.
Venango County Shee & Wool Growers Wool Pool, Carl Gadsby farm, Grove City, 8:00 a.m. to noon.
- Tuesday, June 13**
Capital Regional Small Fruit Growers meeting, Funk Brothers, Wasington Boro, 6:30 p.m.
American Veal Association convention, Sheraton-Lancaster Golf & Conference Center, Lancaster; runs through June 14.
FFA Activities Week; runs through June 15.

- Wednesday, June 14**
Wayne County Wool Pool, Frank Machek farm, east of Pleasant Mount, 8:00 a.m. to noon.
Cumberland Cooperative Wool Pool, Carlisle fairgrounds, Carlisle, 7:00 p.m.
National Convention of the American Jersey Cattle Club, Stouffer
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FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

Editor,
As the American Veal Association (A.V.A.) arrives in Lancaster, PA for its 1989 national convention, the welfare of calves in "fancy" veal operations is sure to be questioned, and with good reason. Not only does basic common sense tell us that veal calves would be healthier and happier without being confined in veal crates, but scientific research has substantiated this claim.
In U.S.D.A. funded research, Dr. Ted Friend and associates at Texas A & M University found that calves confined in stalls typical of today's veal crates suffered a state of "chronic stress" while

calves in more spacious hutches and yards did not. Stress levels were measured physiologically through adrenal and hormonal testing. (This research is detailed in the "Journal of Animal Science" Vo. 60, No. 5, 1985.) When hutch calves were switched with stall calves, there was a reversal in adrenal function, supporting the contention that housing directly influenced stress levels.
Dr. Friend's research also concluded that close confinement adversely effected overall productivity and that calves confined in crates required five times as much medication as calves kept in open
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THE BIBLE SPEAKS

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

WHEN GOD SAYS "SHOUT!"

June 11, 1989

Background Scripture:
Joshua 6
Devotional Reading:
Isaiah 2:1-11

Is this any way to capture a city? "You shall march around the city, all the men of war going around the city once. Thus shall you do for six days...and on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times...as soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down flat" (Joshua 6:3-5)!

I know of no reference to anyone having ever tried this tactic either before or after Joshua. On the surface, we can see that it might well be "great theatre," but lousy military science.
IT WON'T WORK

The writer doesn't give us any indication of how the people of Israel reacted. Surely there must have been some in their midst who said, "This is a crazy idea; it won't work!" That is what I would say if I were in a comparable situation today. Wouldn't you?

Obviously, however, there are times when God calls us to follow paths that are totally different from the paths upon which human reason would direct us. There are times when we must remember that "...as the heavens are higher

than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8).
GOD'S HIGHER THOUGHTS
As Christians, we value very highly the power of reason which we regard as God's gift to us. When Jesus says, "Love one another as I have loved you," I not only receive that teaching on the strength of his authority, but also my powers of reason tell me it is true.

At the same time, however, not everything either in life in general or in particular can be comprehended with the powers of reason. There are times when life takes us beyond the limits of reason into a region where only faith can guide us. There are times when I simply cannot understand how God's way can possibly work, but I must strive to follow it anyway.

So it was with the people of Israel under Joshua before the city of Jericho. His instructions seemed totally useless, but the time had come for the people of Israel to trust God and follow him in faith. Sometimes, when reason tells us that nothing will make the walls come tumbling down, God commands us to "Shout!" — or something else that seems equally inappropriate—and that is exactly what we need to do.

(NOTE: Mr. Althouse's new book, *What You Need Is What You've Got—Finding, Developing and Using Your Inner Resources*, has just been published by Samuel Weiser, Inc. If not available locally, you can order it autographed for \$10.95 from New Dimensions Center, First United Methodist Church, Ross & Harwood Streets, Dallas, TX 75201.)

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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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