



OPINION

July 4 Celebrations

In refusing to hear the Dick Christy case, the Supreme Court of the United States has indicated there is no Constitutional right to protect property, said President of the American Sheep Industry Association Bill Schneemann. "That carries serious implications for the sheep business and other livestock operations. I am concerned these high court officials did not see the critical importance of this issue."

Stock grower groups from across the nation, including the ASI, joined Christy as Friends of the Court, encouraging the Supreme Court to test the case. The Montana rancher was charged by authorities after killing a Grizzly bear that had repeatedly killed his sheep that were grazing on leased land near Glacier National Park.

"It's a sad day to deny a citizen a Constitutional right to protect his property, and that's all I was doing in July, 1982," said Christy after hearing the decision. "Had I not shot the Grizzly bear, he would have killed more of my sheep as they had been doing in the previous two weeks. If we can't protect our flocks, how can we raise them?"

Christy has spent more than \$45,000 fighting decisions on this case. The Montana Wool Growers Association has raised \$6,700 from private donations to help defer costs. His attorneys are now investigating other legal recourse.

Supreme Court Justice Byron White wrote a dissenting opinion to the court's decision — an unusual move when the court is denying a hearing. White sided with Christy, saying a Constitutional question is involved. He called the right to protect property a liberty "deeply rooted in this Nation's history and tradition."

As we celebrate the birthday of the nation's independence, this week, these bits of history and tradition take on even more meaning. If farmers can't protect their property, we have established underlying implications for all U.S. citizens. Implications that don't line up with our July 4 celebrations.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Use Caution When Shipping Hogs

During hot weather we must be very careful when shipping hogs. Losses do occur because of careless hauling during hot weather.

There are several ways to prevent these losses. Whenever it's possible, haul these hogs to market early or late in the day — when it's coolest. Avoid mid-day or early afternoon trips...that's when temperatures are the worst.

While the hogs are being loaded onto the trucks, take things easy. Don't hurry them. If you do, they'll just become overheated. And, to make sure they can be comfortable in the truck, use wet sand for bedding. Don't use straw or other materials that hold heat and fail to help cool the animals.

Once the animals are loaded, start right then for the market — and go directly to the market without stopping. Take these few precautions and you'll market all your hogs instead of just some of them.

To Control Canada Thistle

Canada thistles are listed as a noxious weed in Pennsylvania; this means they should be controlled and not allowed to go to seed. Too often we see what some people call "summer snowflakes" floating through the air; these are not snowflakes but thistle seeds. We should insist that these be mowed or sprayed to prevent seed formation.

Most townships have noxious weed ordinances to prevent the spread of Canada thistles and other noxious weeds. These ordinances should be enforced for the best interest to all farmers. You can spot spray with Banvel or Roundup for control. Be sure to follow label instructions. We urge everyone to do something about this problem.

To Be Aware Of Feeding New Grain

The barley harvest is nearly completed and some farmers may be considering using this new grain in their feeding program. Feeding new grains to livestock is possible, under very careful management. If fed in too large amounts, digestive disorders such as bloating and scouring may occur. We suggest that the grain be allowed to go through a two

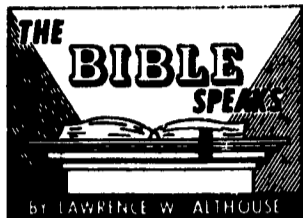
week curing period before being fed. Then it should be included into the grain ration at a slow rate — 10 to 20%.

Barley is a popular livestock feed and is a good substitute for corn. In a week or two wheat will be ready and may also be fed with care. Again, it should be allowed several weeks to cure before feeding. Wheat is not used as much for feeding purposes because of the digestive problems. Smaller amounts in the ration, compared to barley, are suggested. Barley and wheat can be used as livestock feeds, but need special care when mixing in livestock rations.

new crops of hay, straw and grain so we need to be concerned with fire protection. We urge farmers to give some thought to water supplies for fighting fires. Many farmers indicate that their fire company would be unable to supply adequate water; this increases the risk of serious fire losses. Farms with streams nearby should have plans developed to move the fire engine within 25 feet of the water. Owners of farm ponds should have an all-weather driveway to the pond. There have been cases where buildings burned while the fire truck was mired down in the mud trying to get to the pond. It's a good idea to inform your local fire company of the source of water supply for fighting fires. A good water supply for fighting fires is good insurance against severe losses.

To Prepare For Fire Protection

Our barns are filling up with



WHO HAS THE LAST WORD?

July 2, 1989

Background Scripture: Judges 1 through 2.

Devotional Reading: Genesis 12:1-9.

"Whatever possessed you to do that?" My father asked me that on at least several occasions and I suppose I have asked pretty much the same thing of my two sons from time to time. I don't know that I ever gave my father a satisfactory answer or that my sons ever answered it to my satisfaction.

When you are on the receiving end of this question, it seems to have no cogent answer. We can offer alibis and excuses, but, often when we have done something quite wrong or stupid, we really don't know why we did it. Generally it is not because we don't know any better. Usually we knew what we were doing was considered "wrong," but somehow our own judgement easily rode roughshod over that awareness. Only later, when our folly and willfulness had made a mess of things were we able to ask ourselves the same question: "Whatever possessed me to do that?"

THE FIRST WORD

After the heady mood of the end of the Book of Joshua, Chapter two of Judges comes as a severe disappointment. Now that the people of Israel have conquered the Promised Land and the various tribes settle down in their allotted places, things are looking up, are they not? They should be, but they are not, for as the angel of the Lord proclaims to them: "I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land...I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you'...But you have not

obeyed my command. What is this that you have done?" (Judges 2:1,2).

There's that terrible question again. And they don't have an answer either. The writer tells us simply that: "...the people lifted up their voices and wept" (2:4). Just as we cannot explain why we disobey God's will, neither could they. What makes it so particularly hard to understand is that our disobedience usually comes so close on the heels of God's promises and saving acts to us. The first word in this running conversation between God and his creatures is always the word of his promise.

THOSE OTHER GODS

Unfortunately, our response all too often is a silent but nonetheless telling word of disobedience or disloyalty. From our vantage point, we can't help wondering why the people of Israel would forsake God who had done so much for them — who led them out of Egypt, through the divided waters of the Red Sea, who fed them in the wilderness with manna and then led them into the Promised Land in victory.

What could the gods of the Canaanites, the Baals and Ashtaroah, offer them? Probably the Israelites were attracted by the same kinds of things that false gods offer us today: the thrill of forbidden fruit, unbridled self-gratification, salve for our sensitive egos, and the lure of "doing what we please!" There is a current fascination with evil. Righteousness seems "dull" and licentiousness "fun." We wink at government officials who lie a little, steal a little, and cheat quite a bit.

Still, just as God has the first word, he also has the last word. Our refusal to keep the covenant is not the end of the story. Neither is the judgement of God which comes upon us as a result of our infidelity. In the midst of all this comes the last word: "Then the Lord raised up judges who saved them out of the power of those who plundered them" (2:16). The last word is always God's word of redemption.

(Based on copyrighted Outlines produced by the Committee on the Uniform Series and used by permission. Released by Community & Suburban Press.)

Farm Calendar



Saturday, July 1

- World Guernsey Conference, Stratford, Ontario, Canada; runs through July 24.
- Kutztown Folk Festival, Kutztown; runs through July 9.
- NACAA Annual Meeting, New Jersey
- 5-Acre Corn Club enrollment deadline.

Sunday, July 2

- Pennsylvania Governor's School of Agriculture For High School Students, Penn State; runs through August 5.

Monday, July 3

- Butler Fair, fairgrounds, Butler; runs through July 8.

Wednesday, July 5

- Western Pennsylvania Junior Holstein Judging School, Beaver/Lawrence County, noon to noon on July 6.

Thursday, July 6

- Seventh annual Pennsylvania Angus Breeders Show, Center County Grange fairgrounds, Centre Hall, Junior Show begins 10:00 a.m. Friday, Open Show begins 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

- Keystone Lamb/Wool Festival, Ag Arena, Penn State, University Park; runs through July 9.

- Lancaster County Plant Clinic, (Turn to Page A31)

FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

Editor

Thank you very much for the beautiful, pewter milk pitcher which I received on June 17, the night of the Lancaster County Dairy Princess Pageant. It is an appropriate gift for an incoming Dairy Princess, in that, many of my future duties may include

servicing milk.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your gift, and for your continuous, generous support of the agricultural community of Lancaster County.

Angela Spickler
Lancaster County Dairy Princess

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

Copyright 1989 by Lancaster Farming

