



OPINION

Support Break-In Legislation

"We are absolutely opposed to the use of violence as a vehicle for the expression of political viewpoints." Those were the words expressed by David R. Brubaker, executive vice president of PennAg Industries Association, in voicing the Association's endorsement of legislation recently introduced by Sen. Jesse Helms (R., N.C.) that would make it a federal crime to break into a farm or agricultural research facility for the purposes of removing animals, vandalism or disrupting the activities of the facilities.

The Helms bill would be a "companion" to that offered by Sen. Howell Heflin (D., Ala.) that provides similar protection to biomedical research facilities. These bills would not amend the Animal Welfare Act, but would create a free-standing section in the federal criminal code.

"We live in a democratic society with institutions that have evolved for the debate of public policy questions and the resolution of conflicts between groups and individuals," stated Brubaker. "The First Amendment guarantees the right of each of us to express our own points of view, and ensures our right to protest peacefully. Terroristic threats and bombings are criminal acts that deserve the strict and severe treatment of law enforcement authorities."

PennAg Industries Association is an Ephrata-based agribusiness trade association representing more than 510 firms. This legislation would support the rights of members to engage in their business operations knowing that terrorists will be severely punished.

We're in deep trouble if our society condones or ignores violent actions against farmers. It does so to the detriment not only of agriculture, but to the very fabric of reason and of a free society.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Observe Poultry Month

The Lancaster County Commissioners have proclaimed August as Poultry Month. So, this is a real good time to reflect on the impact this important industry has on the economy of Lancaster County. Poultry products in Lancaster County provide nourishment for over seven million people. The value of the poultry products sold totaled over \$170 million. It is estimated that nearly 10,000 people are employed in the many different areas of the poultry industry in Lancaster County.

The industry is strong because of the dedicated, well managed poultry farms along with a highly efficient and supportive allied industry. Eggs and poultry meat are two of the most nourishing foods in your health diet. Let's be supportive of this important part of our agricultural economy during Poultry Month.

To Plan For Fall Grain Seeding

The time is fast approaching for our wheat and barley growers to be making plans for their fall seeding. It is most important to consider that most of the wheat and barley harvested this year was of very poor quality; very low test weight, poor yields, molds and the possibility of toxins. This is one year that certified seed would be highly suggested in an effort to avoid these problems. The extra cost for certified seed is well worth it to help insure a good crop next summer.

Equally important, do not plant wheat or barley in the same field this fall; the fungus can remain in the soil for up to five years, according to soil scientists.

Plan your seed needs now so you are ready to plant when the conditions are right.

To Renovate Old Pastures

Late August and early September are good times to establish a new pasture, or renovate an old

one. In fact, this is a good time of the year to make any pasture or lawn seeding. The old sod should be destroyed by cultivation or by a herbicide. After the soil has been treated with lime and fertilizer, according to a complete soil test, it can be seeded and should produce good grazing for next summer.

The advantage of a fall seeding is to permit time for the new plants to become established before the 1990 hot weather arrives. The cool, moist fall months should give the plants a good start. The Agronomy Guide lists some good seeding recommendations.

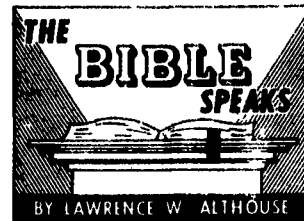
To Stay In Touch With Creditors

Maintaining a close friendship with your creditors and telling them about your financial status won't likely ease your debts, but will ease your creditors' mind.

Creditors get concerned when someone owes a sizeable bill and they never see them. By staying close to your creditors, you may be able to write another payment plan. Some bankers will renegotiate the payment schedule and add a year or two, thus cutting down the monthly or annual payments.

You may also need to visit about refinancing. In most cases you will be paying a higher rate of interest and it won't do that much good, but it still deserves a look. Sometimes by refinancing through another source you can often obtain a lower rate of interest. It's worth the time and effort to visit with your creditors.

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



Background Scripture:

Judges 16

Devotional Reading:

Ephesians 6: 10-18a.

The story of Samson is an example of God's gift of life ignored and wasted. Samson is not a heroic figure, but a tragic one, for he had the potential to be so much more than he became.

Born as a gift of God to Manoah, a member of the tribe of Dan, and his nameless, barren wife, Samson had a very special beginning. Even before he was born, an angel of the Lord informed his mother that Samson was to be a Nazirite, a person set apart for God by special vows. So, Samson grew up to be a man of prodigious physical strength and the purpose of that strength was to help the people of Israel.

POWER WASTED

Unfortunately, Samson did not use his power wisely. Furious that Timnah, his Philistine wife, had revealed the meaning of his riddle, Samson "went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty men..." (14:19). Judges is careful to tell us that he want to Ashkelon after "the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him," but there is nothing admirable, let alone godly, about his deeds. Still, terrible was this act, his contemporaries sang his praises for it. Although this is an ancient story of long ago, there is something disturbingly contemporary about it: the adulation of power, even when it is wrongly used. Our leaders bend over backwards to assure us that they are "tough" when it comes to dealing with those whom we regard as our enemies.

Another indication of Samson's frittering away of his God-given potential is his penchant for dallying with questionable women. His parents did all they could to dissuade him from marrying outside

his Israelite heritage. So, his desire to have this Philistine woman as his bride appears a willful, arrogant act. No one was going to tell him whom he could or couldn't marry! Later, after this disastrous marriage, Samson visited a prostitute in Gaza — an action even more reprehensible than his marriage to a Philistine. Because he is the powerful man of supernatural strength, he thinks he is above common morality. And that has a contemporary sound to it, too, doesn't it? When we have lots of power at our fingertips, we think of ourselves as being specially privileged.

POWER FOR VENGEANCE
Samson has a third and even more disastrous encounter with a woman. We all know the story of Delilah and how she finally wheedles the truth out of Samson, betraying his secret to the Philistines. Once again, as he is led away sightless and powerless, one cannot help but think: "What a waste of the power of God!"

And does Samson learn from his experiences? No, he does not. Instead of acknowledging to God that he has sinned and wants to be freed so that he may begin to use his power as it was intended, Samson prays so that he might wreak vengeance on his enemies. Note, please, that he has not used his power to help Israel; all his exploits far have been in his deplorable personal matters. Note, too, that, instead of repenting of his own weakness, he holds the Philistines responsible for the predicament he's in.

Since he did not get his way, instead of doing something constructive with his power, he will use it vindictively to drag his enemies into the grave with him. I can't help thinking of those who, with their hands on the buttons to unleash nuclear warheads, might just as likely decide to bring us all down in one final human abuse of power. It is then that I realize just how weak is the exercise of any power but of the spirit.

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Farm Calendar



Saturday, August 5

- Berks County 4-H Horse Round-up, Berks County 4-H Center.
- Adams County 4-H Fair, South Mountain Fairgrounds, Arendtsville.
- Pennsylvania Simmental Field Day, Oak Hills Farm, Butler, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Bradford County Holstein picnic, 4-H Building, Troy fairgrounds, noon.
- Pennsylvania's 11th Performance Tested Ram & Invitational Ewe Sale, Ag Arena Complex, State College, 1:00 p.m.
- Westmoreland County Cattleman's field day supper, Crossroads Farms, Ligonier, 2:00 p.m.; make reservations at 412/837-1402.

Sunday, August 6

- U.S. Feed Grains Council 29th annual membership meeting, Western Hotel, Chicago; runs through August 9.

Monday, August 7

- Bedford County Fair, Bedford; runs through August 12.
- Butler County Farm Show, Butler; runs through August 12.
- Clinton County Fair, Mill Hall; runs through August 12.
- Cochranon Community Fair,

Cochranon; runs through August 12.

- Elk County Fair, Kersy; runs through August 12.
- Schuylkill County Fair, Pottsville; runs through 12.
- Warren County Fair, Pittsfield; runs through August 12.
- Wayne County Fair, Honesdale; runs through August 13.
- Greene County Fair, Waynesburg; runs through August 12.
- Queen Anne's County Fair, 4-H Park, Centerville, Md.; runs through August 12.
- Washington County Agricultural Expo, Hagerstown Speedway, Hagerstown, Md.; runs through August 12.

(Turn to Page A38)

FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

Editor:

I sat down to watch television last Sunday night and got SO upset! The show was fine, but the advertisement made me crazy. Here were a man and woman lolling around in this beautiful bed waiting for their coffee to perk so they could get out of that bed and

face the day. Actually, I think the woman was doing most of the lolling and the husband was making the coffee -- (the coffee dealer is no fool. He knows full well who's going to go out and select that can of coffee.) Anyhow, when the woman took a drink, there

(Turn to Page A37)

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