



OPINION

A Look At Renewable Fuels

Recent statistics compiled by the World Resources Institute now show that carbon dioxide emissions — a contributing cause to our global "greenhouse effect" problem — are growing faster in the United States than in the rest of the world since 1986. These new statistics reflect a 7 per cent increase over the past two years in U.S. emissions of carbon dioxide. U.S. emissions of carbon dioxide in 1988 were the highest ever, equaling 1.42 billion metric tons.

The report of the World Resources Institute also showed the U.S. to be the largest generator of carbon dioxide, contributing 23.7 per cent of worldwide emissions last year.

These startling statistics reaffirm the dangers posed to our world environment. While many proposals have been suggested for dealing with these alarming trends — such as international controls, legislative limitations, and unilateral initiatives — it is important that the tools of our nation's technology be utilized in this battle for cleaner air.

One partial solution is a greater reliance on alternative fuels such as ethanol which has proven to be one of the most cost effective and environmentally sound public policy options for dealing with our air quality problems.

Recent studies have shown the effectiveness of ethanol in any clean air strategy:

A report by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) has shown that the use of ethanol in our nation's gasoline would help reduce automotive carbon dioxide emission. In the report CRS noted: "If global warming is a concern, ethanol — has a distinct advantage over gasoline." The report found that the use of 10% ethanol gasoline blends could reduce motor fuel emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. This report confirmed other studies which have demonstrated that the carbon dioxide absorbed by agricultural feedstocks — such as corn — at least offset and may surpass the level of carbon dioxide emissions when burned off as fuel.

Other studies have also demonstrated how ethanol can help with our environment and health problems, and as a nation it's time to take a more serious look at renewable fuels produced from agricultural sources.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Beware Of Grazing Hazards

Dairy farmers who are grazing their milking herds in woodlots, or in pastures with oak trees, should be on the alert for fallen acorns. Our Veterinary Science people tell us that acorns are somewhat toxic to cattle and will dry up most cows for the rest of their lactation. We are aware of many oak trees in pastures, and in most years there will be a pretty good acorn crop.

If the cows start eating these acorns, then the milk flow will be reduced drastically. Either cows should be removed from the area, or someone should pick up the acorns before the cows are turned out each day.

To Watch For Unwanted Guests

Now that the weather is getting cooler you may find some unwanted guests in your barn and home. You won't see them too often perhaps, but they're there. These guests will destroy more food and property than they eat. The guests in question are

FARM FORUM

OUR READERS WRITE

Editor:

RCMA has a future!

There is a shortage of total milk production in the U.S. for the strong demand for all dairy foods except butter. This shortage has pushed up the M.W. price (this is the basis for Northeast dairy farm pay prices) and will take up some of the farm income slack left by RCMA suspending its pricing for September and possibly longer.

This is not the end of RCMA or organized over-order pricing. RCMA did its job; it stabilized the Northeast dairy industry by getting 70 million dollars to its 22,000 members. The fluid processors were able to pay this money to RCMA and its members because they got the extra income for RCMA from the retail market and consumers. The consumers paid a little more and the processors, without hurting their profit structure, were able to pay farmers more through RCMA. With the recent very rapid increase in the government mandated prices, processors have not been able to pass all of their milk costs, including over-order premiums, on to the stores and thus have been allowed to cut back on RCMA. That doesn't mean that a strong RCMA won't be able to reinstitute over-order pricing in the future.

In the meantime, RCMA lead-

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rats and mice. As the weather gets colder, they migrate from outdoors to indoors.

Are you aware that one rat can cost you \$28 a year, and that rats cause an estimated 25 percent of all farm fires, and that rats destroy about 20 percent of all crops planted each year. Rats have a litter every 30 days — multiplying so rapidly a pair could have 15,000 descendants in a year's life span.

They kill small animals and chickens and also carry diseases to people and animals. Reasons enough to start a good rat control program.

To Practice

Good Public Relations

Farmers should be concerned about their image in the community. In most cases it's very good, and also the majority of non-farm people in the rural areas respect the needs and problems of the farmer. The image can be improved by getting better acquainted with your non-farm neighbors.

We urge farmers to invite their nearby neighbors to see their farm operation. In many cases a better understanding of the various operations will eliminate disputes and hassles

about noise and odors.

Also, I would encourage farmers to become involved with community activities. You'll find that people who understand each other seldom have serious problems.

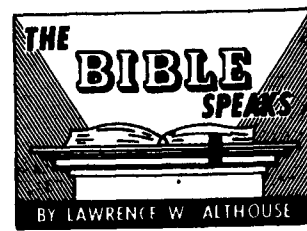
To Be Careful

Around Manure Pits

This is the time of year that many liquid manure pits will be cleaned out and spread on the land; the crops have been harvested and the ground is open enough to absorb much of the liquid; this is necessary rather than to apply it on frozen ground. After application, a pass over the field with a disc will reduce the possibility of odors a great deal.

When these pits are emptied there is a danger of poisonous gases being present. If the mixture is agitated before being moved then good ventilation must be provided above the pit. Also, never go into a pit without a gas mask or some type of respirator. Keep in mind that these gases can be explosive as well as poisonous to man and animal. Special care is needed in and around manure pits.

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



BY NO HUMAN HAND
October 1, 1989

Devotional Reading: Revelation 13: 1-10.

Background Scripture: Daniel 7.

In today's world, we see that there still exists oppressive political rulers which can be compared to the "evil empires" of the past.

In our own country, we are privileged to have a voice in the government of our nation, and we have the opportunity to debate the strengths and weaknesses of each political candidate running for public office. During presidential elections, particularly, we each have our personal worries as to whether we are choosing the individual who can handle the job with strength, intelligence, competence and compassion, among other things.

Overall, we feel safe in knowing that the president's power is delegated and will not get out of control. Still, Americans need to be fully aware of their government's actions and should exercise their voice in that government.

Unfortunately, many citizens in other nations do not have that privilege. Although Russia is now slowly allowing choices of religion and the distribution of Bibles within its borders, it is a country known for its suppression of religious freedom. Iran accepts the existence of a god, but their acts of violence and terrorism make it a fearful and evil place in which to

live.

There are many accounts of evil empires that have existed in our world. Daniel 7:3-7 speaks of four great beasts that came up from the sea. These beasts represented Babylon, Persia, Medea, and the empire of Alexander the Great. The writer of Daniel saw these empires as so cruel and inhumane that he characterized them with beastly figures.

In the Revelation of St. John, descriptions of a beast are also used to describe what was, according to John, the most evil power of all — the Roman Empire. John's beast had seven heads and ten horns, all of which symbolize the rulers of the Roman Empire since the time of Augustus. Frequently, the emperors were referred to as God or Son of God. This is what John means when he says that on the heads of the beast there were "blasphemous names." Citizens were forced to worship the emperors or suffer death.

Many people today still feel powerless when it comes to the political structures that control their lives. What are they supposed to do when faced with evil? As we have seen in the past, people have allowed themselves to be controlled by cruel, and sometimes insane, powers. In recent history, Hitler's Third Reich proved that citizens of a country will obey the commands of such a ruler.

Revelation 13:9 states, "If any man have an ear, let him hear." Be aware of what is going on around you. Listen to, and believe in, what you feel is right. Revelation 13:10 goes on to say, "He that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword."

On earth, political rulers may be powerful, but no one comes near to the power of God. His is the Kingdom that shall be everlasting.

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Farm Calendar



- Saturday, October 7**
Western Pennsylvania Sale of Holstein Sta's, Butler farm, Butler, noon.
Mifflin Area Young Farmers 50th Anniversary Celebration, Mifflin Area High School, 6:00 p.m.
Adams County Beekeepers Association meeting, General Lee Family Restaurant, Gettysburg, 7:00 p.m.
Apple Harvest Festival, South Mountain fairgrounds; runs through October 8 and repeats October 14 to 15.
- Sunday, October 8**
Berks County Poultry Fanciers Association fall show, 4-H Building, Berks County Ag Center, Leesport, 8:00 a.m.
- Monday, October 9**
Salmonella Enteritidis informational meeting, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- Manheim Community Fair, Manheim, October 9-13.
Tuesday, October 10
Home-Based Business Workshop, Part 1, Penn State York Campus, Administration Building Conference Center, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; register by calling 717/757-9657.
Lancaster County 4-H leaders banquet, Gathering Place, Mount Joy, 7:00 p.m.
Dairylea Cooperative annual meeting, October 10 & 11, Sheraton Inn, Liverpool, NY.
- Wednesday, October 11**
Berks County Swine Round-up, Leesport Market and Auction, Leesport, Pa., show begins 9 a.m.
- Thursday, October 12**
Bucks County Holstein Club barn meeting, Galen Leatherman's farm, Meadow Lane, Ottsville, 7:45 p.m.

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