



OPINION

Case Closed

According to Alexander Pope, who lived in the early 1700's, "To error is human, to forgive divine." And that's what happened this week when State Secretary Boyd Wolff brought Governor Robert Casey's apologies to the livestock industry at the Stockmen's Gala Monday night.

Earlier this year, a proclamation went out under the governor's signature in support of a "meatout day" that called attention to the position of Animal Rights groups who want to eliminate animal agriculture as we know it. But Secretary Wolff said it was a mistake done by staff persons who did not understand the position of the governor.

Reading from a letter to William Ringler, master of the State Grange, Wolff quoted the governor as saying:

"Every year, thousands of proclamations and citations are issued by branches of state government in order to acknowledge the efforts of particular groups and organizations. In this specific case, however, the proclamation released by my office did not and does not represent the position of my administration as it relates to meat production and the agricultural industries that depend on it.

"When I became aware of the proclamation, I immediately directed that the document be rescinded because of my strong belief that Pennsylvania should do all it can to promote our number one industry--agriculture. It is important to me that you know that I strongly disagree with any suggestion that farmers abuse animals. To the contrary, I cannot imagine a group more dedicated to the health and welfare of farm animals than farmers themselves."

And Ringler accepts the apology at face value. When contacted at his office later in the week, he said he was quite satisfied with the letter. "The governor has a nice tone to his letters and the man did all he could," Ringler said. "I understand how it could have happened and very frankly, he rescinded the proclamation and I have no more problem with it."

Neither do we. Case closed.

FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

Editor:

Hi! My name is Kelly Dutrey and this is my first year in the York County 4-H Lamb Club and The Swine Club. I have been helping my parents raise sheep since I was really little. I am nine years old. At the York Fair, I got first in my weight class. My sheep weighed ninety pounds. He's really doing well. I hope to do well with him at this coming Roundup. I really enjoyed working on my animals this year and have had fun keeping their records on my parents computer.

By the way, I would like to invite you to our Roundup. We are going to be selling cattle and sheep.

Our sale will be held on Monday, October 16 at Weikert's Buying Station in Thomasville. The Lamb Sale will start at 6:30 p.m. and the cattle sale will start at 7:00 p.m.

I hope you can make it to the sale. We have a buyer's social with refreshments at 6:00. Thank You.

Kelly Dutrey
Dallastown

P.S.: (If you cannot attend the sale, or cannot use my lamb at this time, you can still support the sale and get some public advertising by contacting the York County 4-H Extension Office and talking to Tony Dobrosky at 757-9657, or my parents at 244-7307 and arrangements can be made for my lamb to be resold to the Buying Station at an announced market price. All buyers are recognized in the York newspapers, Lancaster Farming and at our annual club banquet.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, October 14
Stock Dog Clinic, Tripoli; runs through October 15, call 215/285-2021 for information.
Sunday, October 15
York County 4-H lamb roundup, Weikert's Buying Station, Tho-

masville, 1:00 p.m.
Monday, October 16
York County 4-H beef roundup, Weikert's Buying Station, Thomasville, 9:00 a.m.
York County 4-H lamb, beef roundup sale, Weikert's Buy-

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NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Graze Cautiously

During this time of year we receive many phone calls concerning the damages of pasturing forage crops after being frosted. All of the permanent grasses such as bluegrass, orchardgrass or brome-grass can be safely grazed at any time of the year; this is also true of any of the small grain cover crops such as rye, wheat or barley. All of these are not toxic when frozen and usually do not present any bloating problems.

However, the legumes such as clover and alfalfa should be grazed very carefully. They are not toxic after being frosted, but will cause severe bloating if consumed while the frost is on the leaves. Allow the frost to thaw, and the plants to dry off before turning in the herd or flock.

Also, any of the sudan grasses or sorghum hybrids should not be grazed for at least a week after being frozen. Neither should the new growth, after being frozen, be consumed.

To Reduce Egg Breakage

Egg breakage is costing poultry producers a great deal. You would be surprised how much. Some poultry producers do not realize how many eggs they are losing because they're not keeping an accurate record of them. In studies where this has been checked carefully, the percentage of eggs broken range from 2% to 5% up to 10%. With a flock of 60,000 layers averaging 75% production, a loss of 4% is 1,800 eggs per day or 150 dozen. This loss comes to \$90 per day or \$2,700 per month when eggs sell for 60 cents per dozen.

Check the nests or cages for needed repair. Often we find eggs being broken right in the cages. Check the egg trays. If these are bent, they can break many eggs. Careful handling will reduce breakage if eggs are gathered by

hand. Trying for too much speed in gathering may cause more loss than a little extra time.

With mechanized gathering, check the escalators to be sure they are timed properly and are not breaking eggs. Check the orientors to be sure eggs are not piling up. This is an egg cracker on many farms.

To Plan Winter Weed Control In Alfalfa

As the alfalfa plant slows down and prepares to go into dormancy, other plant populations in that same field can be increasing in vigor and growth. These are the winter annual weeds: chickweed, shepherds purse, yellow rocket and some grassy weeds which overwinter. All are in their young stages of growth.

You'll not see crop injury now, but wait until that first cutting comes off next May. Those same little weeds all will have flowered and set seed by that time. Not only do yield losses occur but field cur-

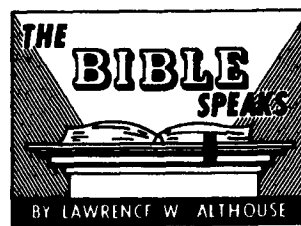
ing problems and lower hay quality results.

Fall applied herbicide(s) will largely eliminate the costly winter weed problem. The Agronomy Guide lists a number of effective materials. Follow label instructions for application rates.

For Farm Show Entries

January, and Pennsylvania Farm Show time, seems like a long time away. But, really it is not, because now is the time to be making your livestock and dairy entries for the Pennsylvania Farm Show. Just a reminder that November 2 is the deadline for these entries -- and that is close at hand. So, if you are interested in exhibiting at Farm Show, you can obtain entry blanks and a premium book from your County Extension Office. The Farm Show runs from January 7 through 12, 1990.

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



POLITICAL POWER

October 8, 1989

Background Scripture:

Daniel 12.

Devotional Reading:

Mathew 13:36-43.

People have argued over the meaning of Daniel and his visions almost from the first day that they were recorded. Was Daniel speaking only of his own times, or was he foreseeing a distant future that still lies beyond us and our world today? I don't wish to become embroiled in that argument because I think it fruitless. Besides, the scriptures are not really for argument, but for inspiration and performance.

Regardless of those arguments, there is something valuable in Daniel 12 that quite transcends the vagaries of interpretation. As in all of the Book of Daniel, the message is one of both warning and consolation and this two-fold message is for us as well as for those who lived in Daniel's time.

UNPRECEDENTED TROUBLE

Daniel's visionary dreams told him that "there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation til that time" (Daniel 12:1a). Quite unlike many of our contemporary visions of the future, things do not gradually evolve into some kind of paradise. In fact, according to Daniel, the culmination of God's plan is directly preceded by a time of trouble that has no precedent.

So this is the warning Daniel gives the people of Israel: before God's victory, a time of trouble. Daniel doesn't tell us anything about this time of trouble, but in the rest of the book he has consistently indicated a recurring

struggle between God's children and their enemies. The reason for the struggle, it would seem, is the failure of God's children to do and be all that they could. The latter, of course, earn "shame and everlasting contempt" (12:2).

What this says to us some two thousand years later is that times of trouble don't "just come," they are caused. The causes are many: human greed, enmity, injustice, unrighteousness, and so on. So whenever we find ourselves in a time of great trouble, we need to ask ourselves what we need to learn from it. Illness, for example, is often an outer signal that something is wrong with us within. Perhaps it means we are consumed by bitterness or prejudice, or that we live a lifestyle that takes too great a toll on us. Whenever trouble comes and in whatever form it comes: it has a message for us.

GOOD OUT OF EVIL

Secondly, trouble is God's opportunity and ours to turn our troubles into something else. There is never a trouble so great that we can't learn something from it. There is never a concern that we can't turn into something positive. This is one of the great themes of the Bible: that God is able to bring good out of evil and life out of death. This is the message of many of the Old Testament prophets and all of the New Testament. In a sense, the whole Bible is based on this theme. Many of us would probably prefer that the Bible told us how to avoid trouble. It doesn't. But it does tell us how to meet trouble and with the help of God to turn it into something redemptive.

If we do the rewards are boundless: "those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament" and "those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever" (12:3). In times of trouble that we cannot escape, we need to remember that by God's grace we can be victors instead of victims.

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