



OPINION

Your Right To Farm

You may not know it, but you have the right to farm in Pennsylvania. According to Act 133, better known as the "Right To Farm" law, the Commonwealth declares support of agriculture and limits the circumstances under which your farming operation may be subject to nuisance suits and ordinances.

To accomplish this purpose, the law says every municipality is to encourage the continuity, development and viability of agricultural operations within its jurisdiction. In addition, every municipality that defines or prohibits a public nuisance shall exclude from the definition of such nuisance any normal agricultural activities.

Another section of the bill says that if you are lawfully conducting your operation according to normal practices for good farming for more than one year, no one can move into your area and bring nuisance action against your operation as long as what your doing is what you have always done in the past. A new or expanded operation has the same nuisance action protection as older operations. After one year of operation the new or expanded operation also has Act 133 protection.

Fred Wertz in the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture legal division says the law is a "self-implementing law." This means that if it applies to your situation, you can use it to protect your operation without further action by the legislature or the courts.

Of course, you can't break any other laws--for example pollute streams or cause a public health hazard. But if one of your urban neighbors doesn't like the smell of your animals, check Act 133 before responding to a nuisance complaint. While common sense dictates that you be as accommodating as possible to your urban neighbors, you really do have the right to farm in Pennsylvania.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Control Winter Alfalfa Weeds

Winter weeds in our alfalfa fields are every bit as predictable as summer weeds are in corn and soybeans.

Colder weather is here and hay fields are dormant. We now have a choice to use different herbicides, depending largely on the kinds of weeds present that need to be knocked out. The most commonly found winter annuals at this time include chickweed and the four mustard weeds - shepherds purse, pepperweed, pennycress and yellow rocket. Also, expect to see seedlings of other weeds plus some old tough perennials, too. It pays to know your weeds present before selecting the herbicide.

Check the "Agronomy Guide" and READ THE LABEL on the container or package. There are directions and limitations to get the job done right...in the next six weeks.

To Repair Machinery During The Winter

Most of the outside field work is finished for this year. I also

know that every farm has machinery that needs repair and service. If you are planning to have this done at your machinery dealer, it would be wise to contact him in the near future so it's on his work schedule. I'm aware of the spring rush next March and April; and I know your local serviceman will appreciate the work during the fall and into the long winter days. It can also save time in case parts need to be ordered to complete the job. The objective is to be planning for this repair work now. Have it done so your machinery is ready to go early next spring.

To Be Aware Of Anti-Freeze Poisoning In Dogs

An increasing number of people are doing their own truck, car and tractor maintenance. This may include draining and changing the anti-freeze. If you are among this group of home mechanics, a word of warning is advised.

Dogs find the sweet flavor of anti-freeze solutions very tasty. So beware! Ethylene glycol, a chief ingredient in anti-freeze, is extremely toxic to dogs, causing severe kidney damage. Never leave open containers of automo-

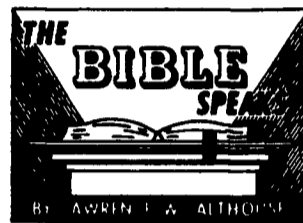
tive coolant lying where a dog might find and drink from them. If your car, truck or tractor leaks coolant or the radiator overflows onto the driveway, clean the spill and dispose of the soaked towels properly, so your own or your neighbor's dog cannot inadvertently harm itself.

To Order Small Fruit Plants Early

This may strike you as premature, but this is a good time to order small fruit plants for next spring. Although you won't put them in the ground until April, you should be flipping through catalogs now. Ordering early assures you of a wide selection of the best varieties. Companies begin filling orders with their best stock...if you delay you could be stuck with what's left over. Ordering early also means you'll get your strawberries or raspberries or whatever at the best time to plant.

So, dig out those catalogs now...get your order in...and be prepared for delicious fruit from your plantings.

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WHAT'S THE USE?
November 12, 1989

Background Scripture:
Revelation 7.
Devotional Reading:
Zechariah 6:1-8.

Of course, we need to be reminded that our newspapers tell us only part of the story: they are focused on the "bad news" about life, because that's what sells newspapers and keeps people watching television. But there is also some "good news" that can put the "bad news" in proper perspective. And this is why we need to "keep the faith," for that faith is founded on the "good news" of God in Jesus Christ.

What's the use in keeping the faith? The author of Revelation gives us two very good reasons. For one thing, he tells us that in his

ecstatic vision he was assured that God has a plan and purpose for both the universe and mankind. That is particularly "good news" for us when it seems that the world and all of us in it are out of control like a driverless car careening down a steep hill. In his vision, the destructive forces were prohibited from destroying the world until God's people had been "sealed" for salvation. Our earth, even our solar system, will someday come to an end, but the faith we "keep" assures us that God's plan for our salvation takes precedence over that destruction.

OUT OF TRIBULATION

Secondly, the writer of Revelation gives us the "good news" that our own tribulation is not the last word. In his vision, he is assured, "These are they who have come out of great tribulation...They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more...and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes" (7:14-17).

So, because we keep the "good news" and "bad news" in perspective, we know what's the use in keeping the faith.

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Farm Calendar

- Saturday, November 11**
Cumberland County Society of Farm Women 50th annual convention, Mariposa Ballroom, Best Western Inn, Carlisle, 10:00 a.m.
- Chester County Farm-City tour**, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; for brochure, call 215/696-3500.
- Sire Power annual meeting**, Tioga County fairgrounds, Whitneyville, 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, November 13**
Lebanon County farm-city week; runs through November 16, call Jodi Loose at 717/867-4474 for information.
- Pennsylvania Farmers Association annual meeting**, Hershey Lodge & Convention Center, Hershey; runs through November 15.
- Tuesday, November 14**
Lancaster County Holstein Club banquet, Country Table Restaurant, Mt. Joy, 6:45 p.m.
- Franklin County Horticulture Association executive board meeting**, Franklin County Extension office, 7:00 p.m.
- Forage alternatives for surviving winter of 1990 meeting**, Family Heritage Restaurant, Franconia, 7:30 p.m.

- Westmoreland County barn meeting**, Hutter Dairy, Kecksburg, 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 15**
Fish Farming Conference, Berks County Ag Center, Leesport, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; make reservations by November 6 at 717/334-6271.
- Thursday, November 16**
Berks County 4-H recognition night, Berks County 4-H Community Center, Leesport, 6:30 p.m.
- Lebanon County annual farm-city banquet**, Kenbrook Bible Camp, between Lebanon and Fredericksburg, 7:00 p.m.
- ADADC District 3 meeting**, Cnadlelight, Ellensburg, N.Y., 7:30 p.m.
- Environmental Challenges in the '90s seminar**, Adams Mark Hotel, Philadelphia; runs through November 17. Call Richard Kampf at 215/597-9072 for information.
- Friday, November 17**
Bucks County DHIA/Holstein Club banquet, St. Matthews Lutheran Church, Kellers Church, 7:00 p.m.
- Berks County DHIA/Holstein**

(Turn to Page A45)

Readers Write

To The Editor:

The Downstate Milk Producers Co-op from Orange County, N. Y., in the Lower Hudson Valley, has gone on record as opposing the use of BST.

In a September 21, 1989 meeting Downstates' 18 producers (who sell 30 million pounds of milk annually) voted unanimously to stand against the use of BST and to publicly state our position.

Here in the Hudson Valley we are keenly aware of the economic devastation brought to the apple growers and processors of the region by the "Alar scare." Almost a year later they are still experiencing a market that has yet to recover, leaving a number of businesses near bankruptcy. Those who argue in favor of BST say that as a natural hormone it would not hurt consumer confidence in our milk products. We feel that using BST will be viewed as tampering with a product we promote as "pure and wholesome." Therefore, we conclude that a "consumer backlash" is not only possible... but likely.

We, the dairy farmers of this

(Turn to Page A38)

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