



OPINION

Home-grown Fuels

Once again, America has been given a wake-up call. We are now on the brink of a military confrontation in the Middle East, threatening American lives, because of a decade of energy neglect and our long-standing and deep reliance on oil imports from that region. Because of a single unprovoked attack by Iraq on Kuwait, the U.S. is now compelled to offer assistance to protect our energy interests and those of the rest of the world.

Today, America is more dependent on imported oil than at any time in its history and that trend will continue to worsen. According to the Renewable Fuels Association, over 50% of America's oil is imported -- with about one-fourth of that demand being met by OPEC nations. U.S. imports from Iraq increased this year by 30 percent over 1988 receipts representing 6 percent of U.S. net imports. Currently, Iraq is the sixth largest supplier of U.S. oil. In addition, imports from Kuwait increased 70 percent between 1988 and 1989. In total, the U.S. imports some 716 thousand barrels per day from Iraq and Kuwait combined.

The costs attendant to such dependence are also overwhelming. In the ten years following the OPEC embargo, the U.S. paid more than one-half trillion dollars for imported oil.

We now know that our commitments to energy independence after the oil shocks of the 1970's were short-lived. Our national addiction to imported oil has not been tempered; our domestic production of oil has been curtailed, not expanded; and we have allowed a foreign power to again threaten our economic well-being.

It's clear that our nation needs to further the development of alternative fuels such as ethanol by extending marketing incentives which will help expand the utilization and production of such fuels. The fact is that a tripling of the domestic ethanol industry would completely eliminate our import needs from Iraq and Kuwait.

We need to once and for all temper our reliance on foreign oil while also making a firm commitment to the increased utilization of alternative and home-grown fuels like ethanol which can help reduce our import requirements. The time is now to limit our future vulnerability. We must reverse course and take vigorous action at once.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Determine Fertilizer Needs

The early fall months are good times to do soil testing and learn what plant nutrients will be needed for the 1991 cropping season. When the plant nutrient needs are known for this fall, some of them can be applied to the soil, and others can be ordered. Be sure to include the nutrient value of manure when planning your fertilizer needs. The appropriate nutritive values of the different manures are listed on page 19 of the 1989-90 Agronomy Guide.

With fall application, the plants will have time to absorb some of the plant nutrients and strengthen it for the winter. This is especially true with alfalfa and some of the perennial grass crops. When soil tests are made in the fall, the landowner has more time to locate and deal for his lime and fertilizer needs.

To Be Safe During This Busy Season

We are entering one of the busiest and most hazardous times of the year ... silo filling and corn picking time. Blend into that time wheat and barley planting and the last cutting of alfalfa. This means a lot of farm machinery will be on our highways during semi-dark or dark hours.

Slow moving vehicles such as farm equipment traveling on highways present a real traffic hazard. The motorist must recognize that a tractor traveling at 10 to 15 miles per hour is almost standing still compared to a 55 mph car. Most highway drivers have never driven a farm machine on the highway and simply do not realize how slow they do travel.

Proper identification and warning is real important. Let's keep alert during this busy fall season both on the highway and in the fields.

To Control Johnsongrass

This sorghum-like grass is a

becue, St. Marys Sportsmen's Club, St. Marys, 5:00 p.m. Indiana Co. Fair, Indiana, thru Sept. 1.

Soybean production and management meeting, Gratz Fire Com-

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problem on many fields in this part of the state. Those are cases where nothing is being done to control this weed; for there I would remind you that Johnsongrass is listed as a noxious weed in Pennsylvania. In corn there is little that can be done at this time of year except cut the seed-heads off and burn them. It'll require treatment at planting time.

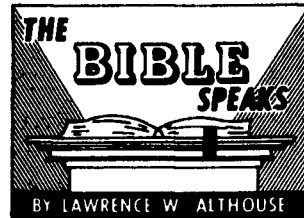
However, in other fields such as small grains, where the growth of Johnsongrass reaches 2-1/2 to 3 feet ... in the boot stage ... the plants may be sprayed with roundup. These plants are very heavy seed producers; a few plants allowed to go to seed this fall will mean hundreds of plants next spring.

Johnsongrass is fast growing and will crowd out most farm crops. We urge landowners to make every effort to eliminate Johnsongrass from their farms. The 1989-90 Agronomy Guide lists control information.

To Be Aware Of Animals In The Garden

In the last two weeks I've had many calls from gardeners having a problem with animals (rabbits, skunks, groundhogs, raccoons and possums) invading their gardens and taking a bite out of their cantaloupes, watermelons, corn and tomatoes. Most gardeners would not mind if the animals ate one entire melon but tend to get very angry when they take one or two bites out of almost every melon in their patch. We've had a good growing season so your garden looks real inviting to them. Unfortunately, there is very little you can do to discourage these visitors. Here are a few things gardeners have tried with varying success: animal repellents, dried blood, tobacco dust, lime, twine dipped in kerosene and human hair.

Many people want to use some kind of bait. To my knowledge there are no materials labeled for this use.



FAITH VS. WORKS

August 26, 1990

Background Scripture: James 1:22 through 2:26.

Devotional Reading: Psalms 119:105-112.

I apologize in advance! If you have read this column over any number of years, then what I'm going to say today I've said before: the controversy between faith and works in Christianity is an illusion. There really is no controversy. Nor does anyone have to decide to pick one to the exclusion of the other.

Yes, I'm aware that Paul and James are often quoted against each other, insinuating that Paul speaks of salvation by faith alone, while James advocates salvation by works. It is true that Paul says, "For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse... Now it is evident that no man is justified before God by the law; for 'He who through faith is righteous shall live'" (Galatians 3:10-12). And James writes in seeming contradiction: "What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but not works? Can this faith save him?... So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead" (James 2:14-17).

WHAT ARE "WORKS?"

But, before we swallow the old "controversy" line, we need to think about what both of these men are saying. For one thing, they do not use the word "works" in quite the same way. When Paul speaks of "works of the law," he is referring to the multitude of commandments that were the heart of the pharasaic party of Jews. These

had little to do with acts of mercy or compassion to others. In fact, as Jesus indicated, sometimes these rules and regulations got into the way of acts of mercy and compassion -- such as healing a man on the sabbath, associating with lepers and healing them. When James speaks of "works" he makes it very clear that he has something else in mind, giving clothing to the "ill-clad" and food to be concerned with keeping one's self "pure," James was thinking of being concerned with keeping others from physical misery.

Secondly, Paul and James do not mean the same thing when they use the word "faith." For James, "faith" is obviously subscription to right beliefs. It is concerned with what one says about their religious faith, not necessarily what one does about it. James knew it was quite easy for a Christian on Sunday morning to proclaim "I believe in God the Father almighty," and then to act as if God is not "almighty" at all. One can hold beliefs with the mind without them becoming convictions of the heart. James is quite right, mere words about what we believe are empty and meaningless.

WHAT IS "FAITH"?

If you read Paul's letters, however, you realize that when he uses the word "faith," he is speaking of something that goes considerably beyond saying what it is we believe in. Paul realized that kind of faith didn't move people beyond pharasaism. Paul, instead, used the word "faith" to indicate a person's trust in God and communion with him. Trust in God enables us to do the acts and produce the fruits that faith is intended to produce.

So, are we saved by faith or by works? Actually, we are saved by God who responds to our trust in him (faith) that is evidenced by our works rather than our words.

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Farm Calendar

Saturday, August 25

Maryland State Fair, Timonium, thru Sept. 3

Keystone Deer Classic, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg, thru August 26.

Cameron Co. Fair, Emporium. North Central Pa. 4-H District Horse Show, Elk Co. Fairgrounds, Kersey, 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, August 26

Maryland State Fair, Timonium, thru Sept. 3.

Keystone Deer Classic, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg.

Monday, August 27

Southcentral 4-H District Dairy Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.

Indiana Co. Fair, Indiana, thru Sept. 1

Pa. State Grange pre-convention legislative meeting, Grantville Holiday Inn, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Gilbert Co. West End Fair, thru Sept. 1.

Tuesday, August 28

Lancaster Co. Crop Management Field Days, Ed Zug farm and Greenleaf Jr. Farm, 9:30

a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Centre Co. Holstein Show, Centre Hall.

Fruit Field Day, Rock Springs Plant Pathology and Horticulture Farms, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Indiana Co. Fair, Indiana, thru Sept. 1.

Gilbert Co. West End Fair, thru Sept. 1.

Rochester Big Knob Grange Fair, thru Aug. 31.

Allentown Fair, thru Sept. 2.

Wattsburg Fair, Wattsburg, thru Sept. 2.

Newfoundland Green-Dieber-Sterling Fair, Newfoundland, thru Sept. 3.

Sullivan Co. Fair, Forksville, thru Sept. 3.

Wednesday, August 29

Maryland State Fair 4-H/FFA Holstein Show, Timonium, 8:30 a.m.

Penn State Turfgrass Field Day, University Park, thru August 30.

Elk/Cameron Counties Woodlots Program field meeting and bar-

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