



OPINION

Ag Budget In Jeopardy

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has begun sending out letters to its employees notifying them of a reduction of hours and others await word as Congress and the White House attempt to solve the government's budget crisis.

Under the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law, the 1991 budget deficit must be lowered to \$64 billion by October 1, or severe, automatic budget cuts of \$60 to \$120 billion will take place. More than \$22 billion of USDA programs would be affected. That's about a 32 percent cut in farm programs.

Budget watchers say the Middle East crisis could cause a suspension of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law IF there is a formal declaration of war. The only other way the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law could be suspended is if there are a set of conditions which meet the statutory definition of recession, that is: two consecutive quarters of negative economic growth.

The American Farm Bureau (AFBF), says the budget cuts could affect agriculture in several ways. First, there would be major staff reductions in state and county USDA offices. Many offices would be closed at least two days a week and some employees would go on a limited work schedule.

In program areas, farm price support payments and deficiency payments would be severely reduced. Housing and operating loans would also be curtailed, and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) could be affected. The cuts would also affect meat and poultry inspection, research and Extension.

Dairy farmers would be assessed approximately 8.7 cents per CWT of milk marketed, severely reducing cash receipts of the farm.

The Federal food stamp program, which is considered an entitlement program, would only lose about \$600 million out of its \$23 billion budget.

The Pennsylvania Farmer's Association and the American Farm Bureau is urging President Bush to immediately institute a spending freeze and no new taxes. They believe that a spending freeze, coupled with revenues from economic growth can provide the deficit reduction necessary to meet the expected budget summit requirements. Tax increases will harm an already faltering economy.

Farmers should ask their congressman why agriculture is called upon to take more than its share of budget cuts.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Control Weeds In New Alfalfa

Recent growing conditions have favored the growth of alfalfa and weeds. In many cases the broadleaf weeds will crowd out the small alfalfa plants, if not controlled. Early seedings of alfalfa without a nurse crop need some weed protection.

One practice suggested in the Agronomy Guide is to spray with 2,4-DB when the weeds are one inch tall. This will knock out the broadleaf weeds without harming the alfalfa plants. Be sure to follow label directions.

If the weeds are permitted to develop larger, they will be hard to kill without hurting the alfalfa. Alfalfa seeding is expensive; this investment needs protection by controlling the weeds. Many good stands of alfalfa have been ruined by excessive weed growth.

To Be Careful During Silo Filling

Two real problems occur during silo filling time. One is overloading wagons causing broken spindles, twisted frames and bent axles. Corn silage is heavy this year and overloaded wagons crossing ditches or ruts in fields causes excessive strain on equipment. If your wagon is full when you are only half way around the field, change wagons; the "down time" to make repairs is more costly than the time to change wagons.

The other problem is "silo gas". I've discussed it before but it is important enough to review again. One farmer called to inform us that chickens walking under the chute of his recently filled silo dropped over dead from the gases coming down the chute. These gases can develop from one day to 14 days after the silo is filled. Most of these gases have a chlorine-laundry bleach odor. Some are yellow and some are colorless. Don't take any chances -- never enter a partly filled silo without running the blower for at least 15 minutes. These gases are heavier than air and will come down the chute into the barn. For more information on how it affects your lungs, contact the Lancaster County Lung Association. Be very careful around

recently filled silos.

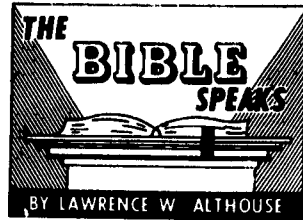
To Mow Weedy Pastures

If your pasture is weedy, and many are, then get out the mower. There are two good reasons for this; one it eliminates the production of weed seeds and two, it removes mature forage which lets plants send out new and tender growth. But, before you mow, you should graze the pasture heavily. With grazing you can utilize all the available feed. The animals eat some weeds, but they also eat some of the tall grasses that would be wasted by mowing. Remember to mow closely... 2 to 3 inches. And instead of trashing the clippings, save them. Many farmers recover enough hay from pasture mowings to winter their cattle.

To Store Pesticides Safely

Most producers are about fin-

ished with their spray materials for the year. Many of these can be held over until next year with good results. However, it is always best to buy only enough for one season at a time. When storing spray materials, always keep them in their original containers and away from children, pets and livestock. It is best to have a separate room or building for pesticide storage. Wettable powders are easy to store; however, emulsions and liquids may be harmed by freezing weather. Producers are urged to follow the label and instructions in this respect. It may be necessary to keep some of them in a heated building. Be sure they are not near feed supplies because accidents can happen. Pesticides kept in a room or building under a lock is a good way to prevent costly mistakes and tragedies.



FACING THE MUSIC

September 16, 1990

Background Scripture: 2 Samuel 11:1 through 12:25.

Devotional Reading: Psalms 51:1-15.

What is harder than "facing the music"? What is more soul-wrenching than acknowledging that we have grievously sinned? What is more difficult for the human mind than to accept the consequences of our own choices?

In fact, it is so difficult for many of us that the only way our minds can grasp these realities is to be tricked or finessed into it. Faced with an accusation of wrong doing, our minds become miraculously inventive in finding legitimate reasons for what we have done. We are rarely more creative than when trying to rationalize our sins. In fact, that's one of the reasons that the word "sin" is no longer in vogue. It is too stark, too clear-cut. What we want is something a bit more fuzzy and equivocal.

The prophet Nathan was facing just such a situation with King David. Nathan knew that David had sinned grievously: coveting another man's wife, committing adultery with her, and then plotting to have the husband killed to cover up Bathsheba's pregnancy. But he also realized that if he confronted David, the clever king would not admit that he had sinned. Perhaps he anticipated that David would become extremely angry and even do violence against him.

When we are concerned with our sins, we very often respond by projecting our anger with ourselves to someone else.

SETTING UP THE KING

So, Nathan cleverly "setup" the

king by asking him to render judgement upon the acts of another man. Nathan knew that David, like all of us, loved to judge the deeds of others, particularly their bad deeds. David is certainly not alone in that, is he? Most of us enjoy, secretly or admittedly, executing judgements upon other people. Often, it makes us feel better about ourselves if we can condemn the actions of others.

The story he told David was obvious in its implications. The "rich man" had obviously sinned in taking from the "poor man" his one little ewe lamb. "Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man," we are told. "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; and he shall restore the lamb four-fold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity" (12:5,6). Who among us cannot join with David in righteous indignation over the "rich man's" evil deed?

YOU ARE THE MAN

What a dramatic moment when, with these words still vibrating on David's lips, Nathan replies: "You are the man!" (12:7). This rascal who "deserves to die," this "rich man" who must give restitution, is really the king himself. It is to David's credit that he no longer fights the verdict. Instead of protesting his innocence or "extenuating circumstances," David acknowledges that Nathan is correct when he charges: "You are the man!" Sometimes when we're caught in our own standards of judgement, we insist that "this is different." But David replied: "I have sinned against the Lord" (12:13).

What about you? Are you rather quick in your moral judgements upon other people? By what standards do you judge others? And when you are confronted with your sin, do you have the courage and integrity to acknowledge what you have done? Can you face the music.

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Farm Calendar



Saturday, September 15

- Fulton Co. Society of Farm Women annual convention, Needmore Fire Hall, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- 1990 Western Pork Field Day, New Stanton, Pa., 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- 1990 Southeast Regional Beef Field Day, Pheasant Hill Farm, Glenmoore.
- York Inter-State Fair, York.
- Green Township Fair, Commodore.
- Albian Area Fair.
- Denver Community Fair.
- Berlin Brothers Valley Community Fair, Berlin.
- Williamsburg Community Farm Show, thru Sept. 17.
- Pride of York Co. All-Breed Sale, York Fairgrounds, 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 16

- Buy 4-H Pork and Lamb Show,

- Weikert's Livestock Buying Station, 2:00 p.m.
- Beaver Community Fair, Beaver Springs, thru Sept. 22.
- Williamsburg Community Farm Show, thru Sept. 17.

Monday, September 17

- Buy 4-H Pork and Lamb Sale, Weikert's Livestock Buying Station, 6:30 p.m.
- Beaver Community Fair, Beaver Springs, thru Sept. 22.
- Gratz Fair, thru Sept. 22.
- Williamsburg Community Farm Show.

Tuesday, September 18

- Reading Fair, thru Sept. 23.
- Westover Harmony Fair, Westover, thru Sept. 22.
- Gratz Fair, thru Sept. 22.
- Beaver Community Fair, Beaver Springs, thru Sept. 22.

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HARVEST SEASON IS FAST APPROACHING, AND AS YOU KNOW, THE MAJORITY OF FARM ACCIDENTS OCCUR DURING THIS BUSY SEASON, SO PLEEEAAASE...



Be Careful Out There!

DAVE CARPENTER