



OPINION

What Do You Think?

If you think agriculture is not under the gun from environmental consumer groups, think again. When National Secretary of Agriculture Ed Madigan recently took office, he immediately became a defendant in 3,500 lawsuits filed by environmental groups.

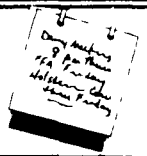
"I thought that was terrible," Madigan told the American Farm Bureau Federation's National Affairs Conference last week, "until I found out that was only the lawsuits filed against the Forest Service." In all, the new secretary of agriculture is named as a defendant in more than 30,000 such suits.

To fully explain the environmental movements's potential impact on agriculture, Madigan compared the fund-raising success of the nation's top environmental groups with the fund-raising success of the Republican and Democratic parties. While the two political parties raised \$90 million, the 26 top environmental groups raised \$800 million. This fund-raising ability often translates into the ability to promote environmental policies and regulations that do not consider agriculture.

We did notice that the strong anti-prayer movement in the nation was suddenly silenced when our loved ones were faced with combat in Desert Storm. It became quite acceptable to offer a prayer in White House ceremonies down to the smallest dairy meeting at the local farm and home center. Could it be that the anti-agriculture attitude in the nation would also see the same sudden change if for some reason the grocery store shelves became empty and all the credit in the world available to the average American taxpayer could not buy more than a small daily serving of milk and a handful of rice from some foreign relief agency?

What do you think?

Farm Calendar



Saturday, May 11

Western Pa. Sheep and Club Lamb Sale, Mercer Co. 4-H Park, Mercer, 6 p.m.

Bradford Co. Tractor Certification Program, extension office, 9 a.m.

Blair/Cambria/Clearfield Co. Beekeepers hive platform demo and picnic, Duman Park, 1 p.m. (rain date May 18).

Pa. Bison Association Seminar, Country Corner Hall, New Castle, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 12

Mother's Day!

Monday, May 13

Poultry Management and Health Seminar, Holiday Inn, Shamokin Dam, 6 p.m.

Lancaster Co. Beekeepers meeting, Rainbow Apiaries, East Earl, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 14

Wednesday, May 15

Dairy barn ventilation principles, Rutters Family Restaurant, York, 7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

Starpoint Jerseys barn meeting, Bill Ulrich Farm, Quarryville, 7:30 p.m.

Southeast Pa. 4-H Market Hog Derby weigh-in, contact your county extension office.

Thursday, May 16

Northumberland Co. Spring Awards banquet, Sunbury Social Club, Sunbury, 6:30 p.m.

Clinton Co. private pesticide applicator exam, extension office, 9 a.m.

Friday, May 17

Saturday, May 18

Armed Forces Day

Mid-Atlantic Herding Stock Dog Club herding clinic, McVeytown.

Bedford Co. Sheep and Wool Field Day, Bedford Fairgrounds, Bedford, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Pa. Hampshire Sheep Association annual Field Day, Tom Nickerson Farm, Wellsboro, 11 a.m.

Pa. Young Dairymen's Association



NOW IS THE TIME

By John Schwartz
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

Editor's Note:

Last week Jay Irwin, retiring Lancaster County agent, wrote his farewell column and this week John Schwartz picks up the column as the new Lancaster County agent. Thanks to Jay and welcome to John.

To Say Thank You

On behalf of the agricultural community, I say thank you Jay for the excellent columns you wrote every week for the Lancaster Farming. Your advice was sound and followed widely. We are going to miss your daily guidance and many years of wisdom. However, we will always remember your dedication to people and always placing their interests first in making decisions. Best wishes for many happy years of retirement. May your days be filled with joy from seeing friends, love from visiting family and peace

tion, central district, meeting, Morrow Farm.

Sunday, May 19

Monday, May 20

Clearfield Co. estate planning, Multiservice Center, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 21

Christmas Tree pest management workshop and tour, McCurdy Tree Farm, Dillsburg, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 22

Clinton Co. Expo '91, Lock Haven University, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Thursday, May 23

Lancaster Co. Home Horticulture Seminar, Simple Garden Chemistry, Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

Milk Producers Voluntary Ag Association annual meeting, (Turn to Page A22)

Farm Forum

EDITOR

Did you know the Ag Student Council (Penn State) sponsored the Lipizzian horse show recently and in their food booth they sold hot-dogs and diet and regular Pepsi? Not one ounce of any dairy product. I feel sure any dairy in State

College area would have even given half the product or maybe donated all if they would have wanted to promote our product. Eleanor Isenberg, Huntingdon County Dairy Princess Coordinator Alexandria

from knowing the fruits of your labor have been productive.

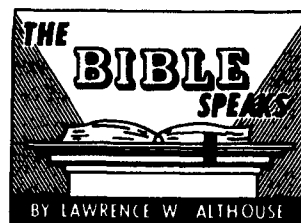
To Remember Safety

The spring planting season has arrived. With the uncertainty of weather, efforts are made to get as much done as possible on sunny days. This often tempts farmers to rush and forget some basic safety rules. First, if you have small children or grandchildren around be extra careful. Know where they are at all times. Before moving equipment, check to make sure they are not playing on or around the equipment. Establish strict rules about play areas. Roads are not good playgrounds. Second, stay alert. Get adequate sleep and take a rest break periodically. By resting 15 minutes every few hours will make you more productive. Lastly, keep operating speeds at safe levels. The few extra seconds you may gain by speeding will easily be erased by an accident. Make safety a top priority on your farm all the time.

To Remember Your Neighbors

With the rapid suburban growth

we are experiencing, it becomes more important for farmers to develop a good neighbor policy. Know who your neighbors are, their work hours, and when they are around. Explain to them what type of farming operations you are involved with. Let them know they may come to you with questions and concerns. Then listen to their concerns and take steps to show you want to help. Most of the problems I encounter with neighbor complaints with farmers involves lack of communication between farmers and neighbors. By opening up good communication lines before a problem arises will go a long way keeping small issues becoming a major problem. Most issues neighbors complain about will be taken care of in time by nature. However, peoples memories will last a lot longer depending on how the issue was dealt with. By listening, explaining the situation, showing concern, using nature properly and being a good neighbor yourself will go a long way in keeping you out of legal actions.



WHO'S PUSHING YOUR BUTTONS?

May 19, 1991

Background Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:6-20.

Devotional Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8-14.

That is the title to one of the chapters in our book, *What You Need Is What You've Got*. In it, my wife Valere and I say: "If you are married to an alcoholic, if you're the parent of a problem child or the child of domineering parents, if you are a hen-pecked husband or an abused wife, you are likely allowing someone else to press the buttons that control your life — both without and within."

It doesn't matter what we call it — "pulling your own strings," letting others manipulate you, surrendering to your fate — you are permitting someone or something else to run what God put into your hands alone — your life, your self. In counselling others I have often found that many people feel that they have little or no control over their lives. They are what they are because someone made them that way — God, parents, teachers, etc. Other people are powerful, while they feel weak and helpless. **LEARNED HELPLESSNESS**

But none of us are born helpless or hopeless; that is something we learn, according to Professor Martin E. P. Seligman of the University of Pennsylvania. And we tend to learn these better than almost anything. The good news is that if we have learned to be helpless, we can also learn to be the opposite.

The difference lies in what or who we let "push our buttons." For we were not created — not any of us! — to be manipulated or controlled by anything or anyone. Paul says to the Corinthians: "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (3:17). All of us need to make a declaration of independence from our manipulating habits, our imprisoning ideas and attitudes, and our enslaving emotions. There isn't anyone who cannot do that, if they really want to!

Sometimes, particularly if our bondage has been a long-term experience, it seems our bonds are too powerful for us to break. So, instead of gritting our teeth and struggling against these negative powers, we need to focus on a positive that is stronger than all the negatives. For example, if right now I command you not to think of strawberry shortcake, I suspect that, no matter how much you might want to comply, you have strawberry shortcake on your mind. You can't defeat a negative with a negative — "Don't!" But you can defeat it with a stronger positive — "Do!" So, if I ask you to please think of your favorite food, the strawberry shortcake will be gone.

IMMERSED IN LOVE

That's how we can free ourselves of being controlled — by concentrating on a positive that is stronger: the love of Christ. Paul says to the Corinthians, "For the love of Christ controls us..." (5:14). If we immerse ourselves in the love of Christ we will find the negatives will not be able to push our buttons. We will be motivated by it and that will overpower everything else. If we choose to let the love of Christ at the center of our lives, we cannot be victims — only victors.

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