



# OPINION

## Just As Important As Electing A President

Lots of discussion has gone into the proposed state nutrient management law — specifically House Bill 496, which passed the Democratic-majority House on June 10, 1991, and has since been under consideration by the Republican-ruled state Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee.

Since no action has been taken by the Senate ag committee on the proposal, some have accused the committee of stalling on the legislation for political posturing.

On first glance, it would seem that holding the bill in committee since June would be prima facie evidence of political posturing. But there is no real motive to do so. Gov. Casey has nothing to gain or lose with nutrient management. The House Democrats are not at odds with House Republicans (except one) over the issue.

All farm organizations and environmental groups have had their representatives testify before either the governor's select committee on nutrient management and/or the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee that they support the intent of the legislation.

The reason those on the Senate committee have not brought the House proposal forward for work is because they want to hear more about the issue before they sign off on it and make recommendations to other senators.

Those representatives can hardly be blamed for wanting to know more about what they sign their name to and eventually promote.

Also, thanks to the economy, the presidential election year, the political redistricting, Gov. Casey's give-then-take budgeting, and a slew of other considerations before the state's legislative bodies, as a whole, the Senate's priority for considering nutrient management legislation has slipped.

It's understandable. But not acceptable. Since almost everyone agrees this is something we need, let's get the work done to make it happen.

We also support the intent behind the proposal, but as it stands, wording of the bill needs some revision to fully support the intent of those who drafted it. The agricultural community must ensure that any proposal coming out committee is well crafted and intelligently considered.

But given the broad support of this legislation, we believe it is important to get to work on it now. Just as important as electing a president.



**NOW IS  
THE TIME**  
By John Schwartz  
Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent

### To Test

#### Home Water Supplies

If your home water supply is from a well or spring, you should test your water annually for coliform bacterial contamination.

Although most coliform bacteria do not cause illness, they are easy to test for and are used to indicate the possibility of disease causing microorganisms being present in the water supply, such as salmonella and hepatitis.

If your water test reveals contamination, there are three treatment methods available to you. These are chlorination, ultraviolet disinfection, and iodine disinfection.

Shock chlorination of the well may be sufficient to solve the problem. Also, continuous chlorination could be installed. Ultraviolet disinfection kills the organisms by exposing them to ultraviolet light. Iodine disinfection is an effective method of disinfecting water supplies but there is concern about the health effect of drinking iodized water for long periods of time. Therefore this method is not recommended for home use.

### To Practice Safe Sliding

When snow falls, both children and adults look forward to many hours of sledding and tobogganing. But winter fun may be dangerous.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than 50,000 people receive emergency room treatment annually for injuries related to sleds, snow discs, and toboggans.

There are a number of causes for these accidents. Old sleds with mechanical or structural problems may be at fault. These old sleds may splinter, break, or the steering mechanism may fail.

ABC District 16 meeting, Center-ville U.M. Church, 7:30 p.m.  
Master Food Handler Workshop, Penn State University, thru Feb. 21.

Bradford Co. DAiry Day, Troy Middle School, Troy, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Agricultural Business Management Series, Corry Higher Edu-

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Injuries often occur when sleds collide with other sleds, stationary objects or moving cars. Parents and children should keep safety in mind when heading to the snowy hillsides.

Children should learn how to roll off their sleds to avoid collisions. Also, children should stay out of streets and traffic intersections when playing in the snow.

When purchasing a sled look for sturdy construction, easy steering mechanism, secure handholds, and avoid sleds with sharp jagged edges or protruding rivets.

### To Rotate Alfalfa

Alfalfa growers have known that seeding alfalfa in old-alfalfa sod and grass sod is often very unsuccessful. A field experiment conducted in Illinois looked at the negative affects the previous crop

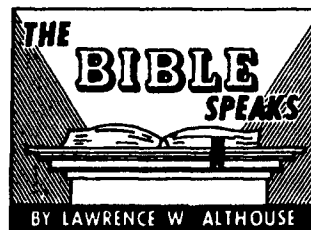
had on alfalfa seeding.

Autotoxicity (the effect alfalfa has on alfalfa) and allelopathy (the effect grasses or other plants have on alfalfa) effects on new seeding of alfalfa were evaluated.

Thirty days after planting, the alfalfa seeding populations in plots seeded back to alfalfa had only 1/3 the number of plants as the control area. Seedling height in those plots was 48 per cent of the control height.

The only grass sod that affected alfalfa seeding numbers was Kentucky Bluegrass. The only grass which affected seedling height was orchardgrass. Reed canarygrass, tall fescue, timothy and smooth bromegrass had no effect on alfalfa plant populations or height.

*Feather Prof's Footnote: "If you see people without a smile — give them one of yours."*



### ON HAVING IT ALL

February 16, 1992

Background Scripture: Philippians 2:1-11.

Devotional Reading: John 13:1-17.

There are certain passages in the Bible, any one of which if taken seriously, I believe, could save the world. One of these is the ancient Christian hymn contained in Philippians 2:1-11. The fractious state of affairs in our communities, institutions (including the church), nations and world could be healed if we could get people everywhere to heed and live by these words: "Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." In other words, my diagnosis of the world's ills is galloping self-interest. It is the key to public corruption, community decay, and international strife. Without it, there could be no drug problem, Aids epidemic, mushrooming crime, or ecological disasters. In short, there is nothing wrong in our world today that the universal adoption of the "mind of Christ" could not solve and heal.

### GIVING VS. GETTING

Great! So why don't we get cracking on this? The reason people are not lining up in droves to attain "the mind of Christ" is that, from the world's point of view at least, it is not very appealing to us. To be sure, we'd love and adore the results, but the way of getting them explicit in these words is a turn-off for great majorities both outside and inside the churches. This is the age of "Me First." The operative adverbs today are "my" and "mine." So the implications of self-sacrifice are something that most of us don't want to even con-

sider. We want to "have it all" today and self-denial is not the way to get it.

If you doubt that, just look at what Paul characterizes as "the mind of Christ": ... who... did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant... and humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross" (6-8). Don't let that out — it would play havoc with our church membership efforts. People join churches because of what they can get, not what they can give. Let's not scare them away with all this self-denial stuff!

Self-denial has a pretty bad image in our society. The mercantile message is just the opposite: Don't deny yourself something you really want! You owe it to yourself! Don't wait; get it today!

### WINNING VS. LOSING

When we look more closely at Paul's letter in the church at Philippi, however, we realize that society has this idea of self-denial all wrong. Nowhere is this more evident than in the example of Christ: "... he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross" — that's the part that seems so unattractive to us, but there's more: "Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow..." (2:9,10)!

So, by being obedient, by humbling himself, by taking the form of a servant, and submitting to the cross Jesus did not lose anything; he gained. The glory that God has bestowed upon him could never have been his had he not been willing to be "obedient unto death." And what was true for Jesus Christ is true for us as well; ultimately self-denial is not a way of losing, but of winning. Taking the form of a servant is not self-denial so much as it is self-affirmation — the self we save here being the true self — the mind of Christ — not the false self, the ego.

The only way we can really have it all is to be willing to give it all away. Try it!

## Farm Calendar



### Saturday, February 15

75th annual Pennsylvania Farm Show Potato Growers banquet, Sheraton Inn East, Harrisburg.  
Pennsylvania Holstein Association Wyoming/Lackawanna annual meeting, Methodist Church, Meshoppen, 7 p.m.  
Pennsylvania Shorthorn and Polled Shorthorn Association, Garden Gate Restaurant, near Butler Fairgrounds, 6:15 p.m.

### Sunday, February 16

### Monday, February 17 Presidents Day

New Holland Vegetable Day, Summit Valley Elementary School, 9 a.m.-3:15 p.m.  
Forage Crop Establishment Tele-

conference, Penn State Schuylkill Haven Conference Center, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Chester Co. Crops Day, Guthrie-ville Fire Hall, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

ABC District 3 meeting, Camp Hebron, 7 p.m.

ABC District 5 meeting, Hoffman Building, Solanco Fairgrounds, 7 p.m.

ABC District 10 meeting, Silver Leaf Restaurant, Connellsville, 10:30 a.m.

ABC District 12 meeting, Redwood Restaurant, Summerhill, 7:30 p.m.

ABC District 15 meeting, Cooperative Extension Office, Mercer, 11:45 a.m.

## Lancaster Farming

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