



OPINION

Farmer's Hands Tied Again

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently decided to prevent the use of ethanol blend fuels in major urban markets. The motivation for this decision must be called questionable at best.

If ethanol blends account for as little as twenty percent of this market, corn prices will average twenty-six cents per bushel higher than without the reformulated gasoline market. One researcher estimates that at least \$20 billion will be lost from rural America's economy over the next dozen years if the present ruling is allowed to stand.

We realize that the EPA is not responsible to assure profitability in agriculture. However, it does seem irresponsible to sacrifice a significant market for domestically-produced, renewable fuel especially when it could help to reduce our dependence on foreign imports of oil.

Our GATT negotiators have a real problem when they try to negotiate trade channels into foreign countries. Other countries want to export into the U.S. but they don't want U.S. products, especially agricultural products, to freely come into their countries.

This may ignore the complexity of the situation, by why not just tell foreign countries to keep their oil and we will keep our food? With the technology to turn corn into fuel, we can eat and run our machines too. In addition, fuel made from farm crops is more environmentally safe.

As usual, if allowed to do so, the American farmer can help bail out the economy and provide many benefits for urban neighbors. But once again unmerited regulations have tied the farmer's hands. Who's side is EPA on, anyway?

Farm Calendar

Saturday, June 20
Summer Begins

Sullivan County Dairy Princess Pageant and Parade, Dushore.
Perry County Dairy Princess Pageant and Ice Cream Social, Perry County Extension Office, New Bloomfield.
Clearfield Co. County Dairy Princess Pageant, Civic Center, Curwensville, 8 p.m.
Berks Wool Pool, Livestock Building, Reading Fairgrounds, 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 21
Happy Father's Day!

Monday, June 22

Ambassador Program, Penn State University, thru June 24.
Berks Co. 4-H Dairy Bowl, 4-H Center, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 23

American Jersey Cattle Club and National All-Jersey annual meetings, Shearton Hotel, Lansing, Michigan.
Canola production, Centre Co. extension, 7:30 p.m.
Berks Co. 4-H Sheep Clinic, 4-H Center, 9:30 p.m.
Schnecksville Community Fair, thru June 27.
Pequea-Mill Creek Water Project Field Day, Gideon Stoltzfus farm, White Horse, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
East Coast Trout Management, Penn State, University Park, thru June 25.
Maintaining Energy Balance of Cows On Pasture twilight meeting, Tom and Wendy Rasey's Farm, Allegany, N.Y., 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 24

South Jersey Flower Growers Association Trade Show, Salem County Fairgrounds, 9

a.m.-4 p.m.
Capitol Region Dairy Bowl Contest, Cumberland Co.
Corn and soybean herbicide trials, James Martin farm, Spring Grove, and John Shearer farm, Bair Station, 5 p.m.-7 p.m.
Shepherd's Night, Venango 4-H Fairgrounds, 5:30 p.m.
Weed Control In Soybeans, York 4-H Center, Bair Station, 5 p.m.

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Farm Forum

Dear Editor:

Farmers can not afford to fight nuisance suits brought on by chaotic regulations that change at the boundary of each municipality. Nor can they risk the future of agriculture on persons who do not understand the difference between good nutrient management and poor nutrient management.

That's why all farmers need to contact their legislators to seek passage of the Nutrient Management Act (H.B. 496). This would give farmers a first-line defense against nuisance suits, and one set of rules by which to operate.

Presently, local governments are passing regulations dealing with the number of animals allowed per acre, and the amount of manure that can be spread on an acre of land. Most are doing it without any knowledge, and certainly without any means to enforce the regulations in a rational fashion.

The lack of uniform regulations opens the door, not only to chaotic planning for farmers, but for total confusion because the rules could dramatically change if your farm should cross another municipality



NOW IS THE TIME
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Follow Water Legislation

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (DER) is seeking legislative authority (Senate Bill 1054) to require everyone using 100,000 gallons of water a day or more to be registered and have a permit for that use.

In critical watershed areas, water users of 10,000 gallons a day or more would be required to be registered and have a permit.

With Pennsylvania's outward migration of population, the dependence on groundwater increased and the recent dry years of the 1980s and 1990s has caused increased concern on management of the commonwealth's water resources.

DER believes that registration of heavy water users is essential to the development of a good water management plan.

It is important agriculture becomes familiar with water management issues and actively participates in the development of water policy.

Policy makers need to understand the unique characteristics of crop and animal agriculture and the importance of water to agriculture. Also, the favorable environmental conditions of soils, climate, and rainfall of the commonwealth which enhance our agriculture productivity compared to other parts of the country and world must be

boundary. You could be faced with tougher rules, or none at all.

What this situation really provides is an opportunity for uninformed "experts" invading our farms to enforce regulations that nobody understands. And worse yet, lawsuits against alleged violators (farmers) are flourishing because the general public is confused. If they smell manure, they think the farmer is guilty of high treason and should be put out of business.

Again we need to bring order to this confusion by urging the General Assembly to pass the Nutrient Management Act.

Farmer members of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association (PFA) have adopted a strong nutrient management policy calling for a statewide uniform program. They wanted to avoid 1,500 separate sets of regulations by every township in Pennsylvania. The PFA voting delegates representing more than 23,500 farm families adopted this policy three consecutive times.

Why would any farm organization call for more regulations?

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constantly stated.

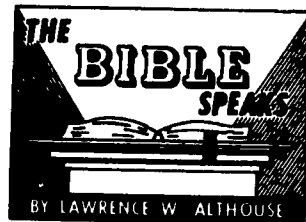
By becoming knowledgeable of water rights issues and water management systems, we will be able to develop the best water management plan for Pennsylvania.

To Understand Agriculture's Water Use

How much is 10,000 gallons per day water use? For irrigated crops, you could spray irrigate 2.4 acres of potatoes or 2.5 acres of sweet corn, or drip irrigate 9 acres of apples, 7.6 acres of peaches, or 13 acres of vegetables.

For animals, 200,000 layers, 2,500 hogs, 285 dairy cows, or 244,000 broilers drink 10,000 gallons of water per day. This does not include water used for misting systems and washing and cleaning operations.

When you start adding up all the different areas of the farm using water, many of Pennsylvania's farms are using more than 10,000 gallons per day, especially during the summer months.



DISTURBING GRACE
JUNE 21, 1992

Background Scripture: Jonah 3 through 4.

Devotional Reading: Psalms 146:1-7.

When we consider God's love for us, we think of it as "Amazing Grace." But when we find that God wants to save even those whom we do not like or approve of, his love may become for us a disturbing grace.

I have known many Christians who take too much satisfaction from the promise of God's separation of the sheep from the goats. In the Crime of Punishment, Dr. Karl Menninger warns us against what he calls "the love of vindictive justice." He quotes the philosopher Nietzsche, "Distrust all in whom the impulse to punish is strong" and Prof. Henry Weihofen, "It is never he who is without sin who casts the first stone." In other words, much as we want grace for ourselves, we may want punishment for others.

WINNERS & LOSERS

Why is that? Might it be that the promise of God's forgiveness is not enough for us, unless we know that there will be others who will not taste it? For many, embracing Christianity may be a matter of choosing to be on the "right" side, the winning side. And, for some people, in order to be "winners," there must also be some "losers." What that amounts to is a failure to value the grace of God. If being saved by God's grace is not enough—if you need for that grace to fail to save someone else—than you demean it. I'm sure that Jonah was happy to be an Israelite, one of God's redeemed. But it wasn't enough for him: he needed also for God to condemn the enemy. To him, the best part of the mission to Nineveh was when he got to a proclaim: "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" (3:4). How some people love to prophesy doom on others!

Credit Jonah with at least knowing that his heart was out of step with God's. The reason he ran away from God was because he knew God would respond to the repentance of Nineveh: "That is

To Look At Tunnel Ventilation

Tunnel ventilation is a concept that is becoming very popular in animal housing.

Tunnel ventilation makes the whole barn a wind chamber. Large fans are placed at one end of the barn and air inlets are opened at the opposite end. Air moves through the barn at about 5 to 7 miles per hour, creating a comfortable breeze from floor to ceiling and from wall to wall.

This concept is becoming very popular among dairymen with two-row tiestall barns. Also, many new broiler houses are being built with this concept.

The added cost is minimal while reducing the risk of losing birds during periods of hot weather. As with any ventilation system, it is very important the fans and inlets are properly sized.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "The impersonal hand of government can never replace the helping hand of a neighbor." — Hubert Humphrey

why I made haste to flee to Tashirish; for I knew that thou art a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love..." (4:2). He knew God's way and he knew his way: they were not the same.

LEAST LOVABLE

Jonah is the saddest and least lovable person in this whole story. The pagan sailors, reticent to throw Jonah overboard, look better to us than he does. Even the accursed people of Nineveh look better, for they repent of their evil while Jonah clings to his. They at least have the sense to save themselves. Instead, Jonah goes off and sulks: "Therefore now, O Lord, take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live" (4:3). I've never said anything quite that extreme, but perhaps I've come close to it. Not allowed to have my way, there have been times when I didn't want to play any longer. Maybe that's why I always chuckle when I read these words—there's nothing more foolish looking than he or she who sits and sulks.

But the story of Jonah is more sad than funny, for here is a man who, even when confronted by Almighty God, would rather cling to what he wants than what God wills. Note, although he has been most unlovable, God still loves him and sends him a plant to protect him from the hot sun. But, when God sends a worm to wither the plant, Jonah is back to his old plaint: "It is better for me to die than live!"

His problem is that his love and compassion are much, much too narrow. "You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow... and should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons...?" (4:11).

Jonah is not all that different from many of us who are more disturbed than amazed by the wideness of God's mercy.

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