



# OPINION

## A Little Common Sense

The Clinton Administration should seek more information about the true qualities of soybean oil before deciding on a controversial new regulation that would classify this biodegradable material as hazardous.

In a letter to Federico Pena, Clinton's transportation secretary, Richard Lugar, senior Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee from Indiana, says an economic analysis should be done before the administration makes its final decision on a regulation that would classify soybean oil in the same category as petroleum oil.

We understand Lugar's concern about the economics of the situation since 40,000 Hoosier farms produce soybeans, and 11,000 people in the state are employed in industries closely related to soybean oil and products in which it is used.

But economics is not the real issue here. There is no justification for the rule. Soybean oil and petroleum oil are not related. Certainly, the soybean industry has the responsibility to prevent and clean up spills that may occur in transportation. But soybean oil is edible. If you drink petroleum oil, it will kill you.

Is it too much to ask for a little more common sense from our government?

## Farm Forum

**Editor:**

On behalf of the 4-H Center Committee, Inc. of Chester County I would like to thank you for the excellent coverage your paper gives to 4-H. We are working toward the goal of developing a 4-H center for Chester County and are well on our way. We hope to make settlement soon on property we purchased next to property generously donated by the Romano estate. The site is in West Brandywine Township on Route 322, perhaps you have seen our sign. We are very excited about this project and are pleased with the support

we receive from Lancaster Farming and other publications. Thank you very much.

Recent reports at a fund raising progress dinner and weekly reports on the status of the drive have assured us that the community is behind us. We hope to invite you to our ground-breaking ceremonies soon.

Again, thank you for your coverage of 4-H and its programs; and thank you for helping to inform the public of our activities.

*Ruth Holmes*  
Secretary, 4-H Center Committee, Inc.



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

### To Plant Perimeter Trees

Our farms are facing increasing pressure from rapid urbanization. With residential development moving closer, it is more important than ever for farmers to maintain good relations with their neighbors.

An effective way to reduce a farm's impact on surrounding properties is to plant trees around the perimeter of the farm or certain buildings and manure storage areas.

The sight of confinement animal houses and farm activities may create a negative image in the minds of neighbors. As a stand of trees develops, the property takes on a landscaped appearance. Farm activities, dust, and feathers are virtually "out of sight, out of mind."

In addition to providing a visual barrier, a row of trees placed perpendicular to the prevailing winds may also act as a windbreak to reduce winter energy needs.

There are several species of trees to choose from. The deciduous trees that grow rapidly and provide a moderately dense barrier include Lombardy poplar, hybrid poplar, and Japanese larch. They should be spaced four feet apart in single rows or six feet apart in a double row, staggered arrangement.

Since these trees are not likely to last longer than 20 years, you may want to plant a slower growing, permanent stand of evergreens behind them. Suggested evergreens include Colorado Blue Spruce, Douglas Fir, Hemlock,

and White Pine. These should be planted six feet apart in single rows.

While planting trees is not an alternative to good management, it may leave a positive image of your farm in the minds of your neighbors.

### To Do The Important Jobs

During the rush of spring work, it may be easy to forget which jobs are most crucial.

Good cows are the heart of a profitable dairy business. Therefore, do not neglect them to get other work done. Keep a person in the barn to care for the herd and hire additional help if necessary.

Another thing that affects herd profits greatly is forage quality. Remember, the quality of forages you harvest is the quality you live with for a full year.

Once alfalfa has reached the bud stage of maturity, take full advantage of the first break in weather to harvest the first cutting, even if the alfalfa may be younger than you

desire. This will influence your future cutting times. So take the first cutting on time even if you have to stop in the middle of corn planting.

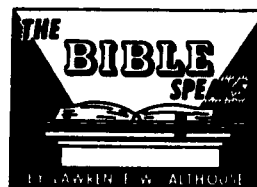
### To Use Sock In Horse First Aid

Use a tall, ribbed top athletic sock as a lower leg bandage for horses when a pressure wrap is not needed.

The sock will keep leg wounds clean, protect sunburned legs, and prevent contamination of any surface medication. This inexpensive sock provides an easy, foolproof way for you to change bandages daily.

The socks conform well to the limb and cannot be put on too tightly. They also work well as a first aid measure by keeping wounds clean and free of dirt and flies until the veterinarian can examine the horse.

*Feather Prof's Footnote: "Real leaders are ordinary people with extraordinary determination."*



"ALL I EVER DID!"  
May 16, 1993

### Background Scripture:

John 4:1-42.

### Devotional Reading:

John 4:43-54.

When the conversation gets too close to being personal, switch to doctrine! As long as we can keep religion from cutting too close to the bone, we are safe. It is one thing to talk about forgiveness, so long as we don't have to practice it in our own lives. We can wax eloquently about "saving the lost," so long as we are not the "lost" who need saving. And we can give Jesus the most eloquent of titles without becoming personally involved in them relevant in our own relationship with him.

A case in point: Jesus and the woman of Samaria at the well of Jacob. He shocks the woman by addressing her: "Give me a drink." Respectable men did not address unknown women at a public well. Furthermore, a Jewish man would be even less likely to address a Samaritan woman, "For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans." The ancient feud was bitter and overrode the simple, personal request for a drink of water.

### IF YOU KNEW...

But Jesus steers the conversation from the age-old bitterness to the present situation: "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and, he would have given you living water." She didn't know that the Son of God himself was the one who asked her for a drink of water. I wonder whether there are not times in our lives when we encounter Christ and yet fail to recognize him because our eyes are blinded by our unreceptivity. If, on a hot afternoon, the woman encountered Jesus Christ by a well, where have you encountered him unrecognized in your life?

The plot thickens when Jesus tells the woman, "Go, call your husband, and come here" and she replies, "I have no husband." Suddenly, it has become all too personal for her and Jesus says, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five hus-

bands and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly." Skillfully, she tries to get the spotlight off of her: "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet" and proceeds to raise with Jesus the age-old dispute about which is the "right" place to worship, on Mount Gerazim, the Samaritan holy place, or Mt. Zion, the site of the Jewish temple. You're getting too close for comfort, Jesus, let's go back to doctrine!

The day is coming, says Jesus, when people will no longer ask "where?" to worship, but "how?" And the answer is to "worship the Father in spirit and truth." Once more she makes a desperate attempt to theologize the conversation: "I know that Messiah is coming...when he comes, he will show us all things." In other words, let's push our attention to the future, the present is getting uncomfortable. But Jesus will not let her off the hook: "I who speak to you am he"—smack, dab back into the present!

### COME, SEE A MAN

At last, the woman's subtleties and pretenses crumble and she returns to her village and tells everyone, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" Jesus' feat of knowing about her five husbands and current lover persuaded her that he was the Christ. But Jesus knew more about her than just her marital and moral record. He began by saying, "If you knew...who it is that is saying to you..." but now he is demonstrating that, although she had not understood him, he understood her as no one ever had before: not only about her, he knew her.

And us, too. Jesus knows all that we have ever done, but his knowledge of us goes far beyond those facts. As he knew and understood that sinful Samaritan woman by the well of Sychar, so he understands us wherever we are and no matter how much we try to hide behind our intellectual reservations.

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## Farm Calendar

**Saturday, May 15**  
Mid-Atlantic Arabian Horse Show, Horse Park of N.J., thru May 16.

**Sunday, May 16**

**Monday, May 17**

**Tuesday, May 18**  
Managing Succession and Continuation in the Family Business, Alderfer Auction Center, Hatfield, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

National Dairy Promotion and Research Board annual meeting, Park Hyatt, Washington, D.C., thru May 20.

Lebanon County FFA Awards Banquet, ELCO High School, 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 19**  
Home Horticulture Seminar, Bonsai for Beginners, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Pasture Management Workshop, Penn State Capitol Campus, Harrisburg, 9:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
County FFA Leadership Conference, Lancaster Mennonite H.S., 3 p.m.-9 p.m.

**Thursday, May 20**  
Berks Co. 4-H Supper Series, 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Phila. Fair at Philadelphia Park,

Bensalem, thru May 31.  
**Friday, May 21**  
Cumberland Co. Benefit Auction of Livestock Youth Programs, Embers Restaurant, Carlisle.

**Saturday, May 22**  
Learning Lamb Carcass Evaluation, Godfrey Bros. Meats, Loganville, 7 p.m.

**Sunday, May 23**  
**Monday, May 24**  
Lycoming County barn meeting, Lester Proust Farm, Muncy.

**Tuesday, May 25**  
Ephrata Area Young Farmers meeting, landscape gardening, Arthur Graybill Farm, Stevens, 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 26**  
Symposium on Improving Reproductive Performance of Beef Cattle, National Association of Animal Breeders, Grove Park Inn, Asheville, N.C.

Healthy People 2000 Conference, Immaculata College, Immaculata, 8:15 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Thursday, May 27**  
**Friday, May 28**  
Devon Horse Show and County FAir, 8 a.m.-11 p.m. daily except Sunday, thru June 5.

**Saturday, May 29**  
Lebanon County Dairy Princess

Pageant, 7:30 p.m.  
**Sunday, May 30**

**Monday, May 31**  
Memorial Day

**Tuesday, June 1**  
**Wednesday, June 2**

**Thursday, June 3**  
Capitol Region Christmas Tree Workshop and Tour, Elizabeth Farms, Brickerville, 9:30 a.m.

**Friday, June 4**  
Philadelphia County Fair, Fairmount Park, thru June 13.

**Saturday, June 5**  
**Sunday, June 6**

**Monday, June 7**  
Lancaster County Beekeepers' meeting, Bob and Annette Hughes, 8 p.m.

**Tuesday, June 8**  
Perry County Dairy Princess Pageant, Penn Township Municipal Park, Duncannon, 7:30 p.m.

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