



## OPINION

### Hazardous Edible Oils?

You may have heard by now that the US Department of Transportation (DOT) has proposed to classify edible oils as hazardous materials. The ruling would put petroleum and soybean oil in the same class if either material is spilled in transportation. This ridiculous mistake by regulation writers is now under attack by Sen. Richard Lugar. Lugar is the Republican ranking minority member of the Senate Agriculture Committee from Indiana. Lugar says he will introduce legislation to overturn the proposal if DOT does not withdraw this proposal.

"If there were some rational basis for calling soybean oil a hazardous material, that would be one thing," Sen. Lugar is quoted in the Journal of Commerce. "But this appears to be a ridiculous mistake by regulation writers, a situation the administration so far has not corrected."

Pressure from farm groups and legislators from farm states has caused DOT to reopen the proposal for comment. The Department is reviewing the decision to require that vegetable oil be shipped using the same regulations as hazardous materials.

Officials of big oil interests would like to stave off the growing public knowledge that renewable resource oils are good for the quality of life in the world and these farm grown oils provide a positive alternative to the present dependence on foreign, often hostile countries for the life blood of our industrial enterprises. Big oil interests don't want the competition from farm products that can replace part of the fuel in the nation's gas pipeline. If these officials could get people to think soybean oil was an environmental hazard like their own product it would help their cause.

Fortunately, early this week, DOT announced that it will not subject soybean oil and other edible oils to the same regulations that cover fuel, withdrawing the proposal. "Common sense carried the day," Lugar said. "There was no rational basis for treating soybean oil and other edible products in the same manner as petroleum. It would have imposed a costly, unreasonable burden on farmers, processors and consumers."

## Farm Calendar



### Saturday, June 19

Rotational Grazing and Pasture Management Tour, Penn State Research Farm, sponsored by Northwest Pa. Cattlemen's Association, Mercer.

Lancaster Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Farm and Home Center, 7 p.m.

Clearfield Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Civic Center, Curwensville, 8 p.m.

Erie Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Erie Zoo, 1:30 p.m.

Franklin Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Lighthouse Restaurant, Chambersburg, 7 p.m.

Somerset Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Somerset Area H.S., 7:30 p.m.

Sullivan Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Main St., Dushore, 7 p.m.

### Sunday, June 20

Happy Father's Day!

### Monday, June 21

Summer Begins

Eastern Forage Improvement Conference at University Park, thru June 23.

Washington Co. Wool Pool, Washington County Fairgrounds, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., and June 22, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

PennAg Industries Association annual Grain Meeting, Eden Resort Inn, Lancaster, 6 p.m.

National Dairy Summit, York Fairgrounds.

Tioga Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, First U. Methodist Church, Mansfield, 7:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, June 22

Reassessment meeting, Lancaster Co. Farmer's Assoc., Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m. (Note change in date.)

Schnecksville Community Fair, thru June 26.

### Wednesday, June 23

Everyday Is Sundae, Judge Lewis Quadrangle, Philadelphia Independence Mall, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Berks Co. 4-H Dairy Judging School, Younker's Farm, Kirbyville, 7:30 p.m.

Shepherd's Night, Mercer Co. Extension, 6 p.m.

Bradford Co. 4-H Beef Fitting and Showmanship Demo, Traci Thomson's, 2 p.m.

### Thursday, June 24

Pa. Holstein Assoc. Centre Co. barbecue and twilight meeting, Stringer's Sand-Ridge Farm, Bellefonte, 6:30 p.m.

Southeast Pennsylvania Dairy Pasture Walk, Jessie Howe Farm, Bucks Co., 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Mercer Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Mercer 4-H Center, 7 p.m.

### Friday, June 25

Blair Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Wissinger's Restaurant, Altoona, 6:30 p.m.

Crawford Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Cochranon Grange Hall, Cochranon, 7:30 p.m.

Chesapeake Bay Field Day/Tour to Lebanon Co., van departs conservation district office, 10:30 a.m.

### Saturday, June 26

Kutztown Folk Festival, Festival

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## NOW IS THE TIME

By John Schwartz  
Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent

### To Recognize June As Turkey Lovers' Month

This is the fourth year the turkey industry has been celebrating "June is Turkey Lovers' Month."

The theme for this year is "Turkey makes meals fast and fit." Turkey has always been popular for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The recent developments in new turkey products have created new consumer demand for turkey all year round. Consumption during the spring months has increased the most during the past 10 years. Almost half of all households serve turkey every four days.

Sandwich use has become very popular with lunch and carried meals gaining share since 1981. Turkey use in hot pasta dishes has also grown in recent years.

Adults on a diet consume roughly 40 percent more turkey than people not dieting. Now is the time to salute the turkey industry and recognize the many successful innovations it has developed to change the demand for its product from two months to year round. The industry has done an excellent job of developing new products, addressing consumer wants, and promoting the nutritional value of turkey.

Enjoy these new turkey products, and remember, June recognizes people who love to eat turkey.

### To Prevent Accidents

I just received the 1992 farm fatal injury report for Pennsylvania and Lancaster County. Last year, 47 people were killed on Pennsylvania farms. Most of the accidents occurred in August and on Wednesdays.

Nine of the fatalities were children under the age of 15 and 14 were adults over 65. Tractors were involved in 45 percent of the fatal accidents. Other major causes of fatal accidents were falls from elevation and drowning in farm ponds.

These figures remind us of the importance of safety. Fortunately, every time a safety rule is broken, an accident does not occur. However, this often causes a believe accidents will not happen to me.

When we look at these and other accident figures, we must recognize an accident may occur at anytime. We owe it to ourselves and our families to follow all the safety rules all the time. These include no extra riders on tractors, hitch only to the draw bar on tractors, wear seat belts, watch for small children, do not allow small children to play on or around equipment, and respect animals.

Two of Lancaster County's fatalities involved being kicked by a horse or mule. Now is the time to make safety a habit and keep your farm accident free.

### To Fence Stream Banks

On warm summer days, cattle congregate in streams to escape heat and insects. This causes problems for the livestock as well as the streams.

According to Jeff Stoltzfus, extension nutrient management agent, dairy cattle face an increased risk of mastitis and other infections when standing in water. In addition, cattle overgraze streamside plants. This causes bare, muddy banks and erosion.

Livestock need drinking water, but they do not need to have unlimited access to the stream. Stoltzfus recommends selecting specific watering and crossing sites for livestock. If possible, offstream watering sites such as gravity fed troughs are recommended.

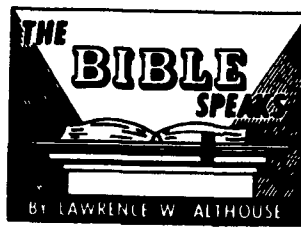
If stream watering sites are

necessary, select sites with a firm stream bottom and gentle, graded slopes. Gravel paths or entrance ramps constructed of waffle slats (seconds) or wood with dirt fill will help minimize stream bank damage.

Upstream and downstream movement by the cattle may be prevented by swinging floodgates hung from cables or by running a strand of electric wire across the stream. Make sure crossing sites are wide enough to accommodate 4-5 head of cattle at a time to prevent panic and injury to the animals.

Construct fences at least 5 feet from the stream bank, particularly at bends in the stream. High-tensile fencing with 3-4 strands of wire works well. If the area between the stream bank and the fence is left in grass, it should be cut at least twice a summer to prevent any weeds from developing seeds.

*Feather Prof's Footnote:* "Today's preparation determines tomorrow's achievement."



RIGHT ON!  
June 20, 1993

### Background Scripture: Philippians

### Devotional Reading: Romans 15:1-13.

It's a secret, although it isn't meant to be. What's the secret? It's what some people are looking for when they join a particular church. It's what others are seeking when they meditate, turn a prayer wheel, say a mass, or fill-in their pledge card. It's what motivates some people to make a pilgrimage to a shrine or make a sacrifice.

I have known a lot of seekers in my time. Many of these have spent a fair portion of their lives trying to discover the "secret." They have looked for it in creeds and doctrines, in rituals and mystic rites, in moral perfection and in immoral dissipation. Some have sought it in the nirvana of drugs.

Some of these people believe that they have found what they were seeking and settle down into enjoying whatever that is. But it is that "settling down" that keeps us from truly finding the secret. One doesn't look for whatever we think we've already found.

### WHAT'S THE SECRET

So, why is it a secret? Answer: not because it is hidden from us, but because we have failed to understand what we have seen. However we conceptualize what we seek — salvation, fulfillment, peace, happiness, union with God, sanctification, and so on — it is not to be found in attaining something, but in continuing to seek it. That "something" we attain is never it. Salvation is not the station where we arrive, but the journey that goes on and on. In fact, that which is at best a way-station is likely to become a substitute for God.

Paul knew all about substitutes. "If any other man thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more." He goes on to list the things he has: "circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel," and so on. Some people — the Pharisees, for example — are

very satisfied with these things. But Paul knows they don't add up to what he seeks: "But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ."

We have our own substitutes, too: achieving personal righteousness, embracing right doctrine, joining the right church, practicing the right rituals. The secret is not in finding the right anything, but in keeping "right on." Paul says, "Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own...but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (3:12-14).

### PRESSING ON

The "secret," then, is not in arriving but in "pressing on." That's why the early Christian faith was called "The Way." The whole process of following Jesus is to press on constantly, "straining forward to what lies ahead." So long as we think we already have "the Prize," we will not keep moving ahead toward it. That means that Christian discipleship is a journey rather than an attainment. For, when we attain something, the focus is on what we have accomplished, not on what God has done and is doing. Paul says, "...not having a righteousness of my own based on law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith" (3:9).

Does that mean we never reach the goal? The answer is: not on this side of life. Paul contrasts the Christian with those who think only of satisfaction in this life, those "whose god is the belly" and whose minds are "set on earthly things." The pressing on "toward the goal for the prize of the upward call" will finally end in what God has prepared for us. For, "our commonwealth is in heaven." Until we reach that point, the order for the day is "right on!"

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