



# OPINION

## Wool Act And The True Facts

If several U.S. senators and representatives have their way in the upcoming days, the National Wool Act of 1954 may be no more.

This could create dire consequences on the many nationwide sheep producers who depend on the incentives from the bill to allow them to continue their business.

According to Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers President Joe Vogel, a registered Columbia sheep producer in Kempton, people are not getting the true facts about the Act.

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) indicates that the Act came into being as a result of a move to help protect sheep producers from a flood of wool following the lowering of trade restrictions after World War II. At the time, the U.S. was trying to prevent damaging markets with the beleaguered economy of Australia, hit hard by the war. Wool flooded into the U.S., dropping domestic prices drastically. Sheep producers knew they were in trouble, so they petitioned Congress. Congress side-stepped efforts to set up restrictions, and instead passed the Act.

The National Wool Act allows up to 70 percent of the total tariffs on imported wool and wool products to go to the program to provide incentive payments to wool and mohair producers, according to ASI. Payment is based on the percentage needed to bring the national average market price received by producers up to the support price determined annually by the USDA.

Nearly 70,000 wool producers receive program payments, ranging from very small to very large operations. It includes payment caps. Wool Act incentive payments to growers in 1992 were some of the highest in history — allowing many sheep producers to continue in business and provide a reliable, quality product to U.S. consumers.

There is no net cost to taxpayers to continue the program, since the money is collected from tariffs, according to ASI. In 1991, according to ASI, tariffs collected more than \$401 million, bringing the lifetime earnings of this program to \$7.4 billion. Total payments in 1991 were just more than \$172 million.

The problem producers see is that instead of 70 percent of the total tariffs being funnelled to the incentive program, only about 30 percent are. The rest goes directly to the U.S. treasury, which many producers believe is unfair.

But if the Act is killed, and it could happen soon, the effects could be long-ranging and devastating. Local economies could suffer. Many producers would be forced to close up shop.

Vogel urges producers to get in touch with their U.S. senators, particularly Sen. Arlen Specter ((202) 224-4254) and Sen. Harris Wofford ((202) 224-6324), and let them know the National Wool Act must continue.

In a letter to *Lancaster Farming*, Vogel urges producers to tell representatives and legislators the "true story" about sheep and the U.S. sheep industry.

"Sheep and wool are the oldest industry known to man," he writes. "We therefore must do all we can to preserve it."

## Farm Forum

Editor,

Recently I had the opportunity to review prices paid to dairy farmers since 1980. The figures clearly show the average dairy farmer has lost nearly \$70,000 in gross income during the last twelve years by not keeping up with the milk price received in the early 80's. Can you imagine what this loss would be if you figured something for inflation? No wonder dairy farmers are having such a tough time.

On my farm we are logging and my wife has a part-time job; why should this be necessary?

Why is it that dairy farmers have had to pay all kinds of assessments for nearly ten years and yet we receive a lower price for milk today, than we did twelve years ago. It's time we as farmers wake up and do something.

Something else bothers me — who else receives a lower price today than they did in 1980?

Do our so-called farm leaders receive less wages than they did in

1981? It seems that some farm leaders always refer to school teachers, school administrators and about every other public official regarding how much their salary has increased since 1981. Instead of picking on the above mentioned people all the time, let's reveal how much of a salary is paid to the co-op leaders, both the managers and the board members.

Is it true that some of these people receive nearly \$200,000 per year, paid for by dairy farmers? **INCREDIBLE!**

Let's not stop with milk coops like Eastern, Dairylea, and Atlantic; what about other farm organizations such as Farm Bureau, Farmers Union and now Pro Ag. What kind of salaries are paid in these organizations?

Everyone knows what teachers receive, but what about these other guys. Don't tell me it's not my business, it is because some of you are the people that's promoting

(Turn to Page A42)

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

### To Check

#### Silage Corn Maturity

The quality of corn silage is determined largely by moisture and maturity at time of harvest.

How long it takes a crop to reach maturity is determined by heat units during the growing season and not by days since planting. The hotter the growing season, the faster the crop will mature.

Thus, hot weather shortens the amount of time we have to harvest corn and still capture its quality. This summer, we have had a lot of hot days and nights, and the corn is maturing very rapidly. The time required for it to move from a green succulent plant with soft milky kernels to a mature dried plant with fully dented hard kernels is considerably less than in cooler weather.

Check your fields now and be ready to chop. For optimum quality, kernels should be dented and the milk line should be about half way down the kernel.

To determine this, take an ear of corn and snap it in half. You will see the firm starch deposited in the outer part of the kernel while the milk will occupy the base of the kernel. This gives the appearance of a whitish line separating the two areas. As the kernels continue to mature, the milk line moves down the kernel.

By harvesting when the milk line is halfway down the kernel, the crop is near maturity and has

### Farm Calendar

#### Saturday, September 4

Mon Valley 4-H Dairy Show, Fayette County Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.  
Northwest 4-H Dairy Show, Crawford County Fairgrounds.  
Southwest 4-H Dairy Show, Somerset Fairgrounds.

Montour Antique Farm Machinery Show, Montour Delong Fairgrounds, Washingtonville, thru Sept. 5.

Juniata County Fair, Port Royal, thru Sept. 11.

#### Sunday, September 5

Cambria County Fair, Ebsenburg, thru Sept. 11.  
Spartansburg Community Fair, Spartansburg, thru Sept. 11.

#### Monday, September 6

#### Labor Day

Ox Hill Community Fair, Home, thru Sept. 11.  
West Alexander Fair, West Alexander, thru Sept. 11.  
Waterford Community Fair, Waterford, thru Sept. 12.

#### Tuesday, September 7

Claysburg Farm Show, Claysburg, thru Sept. 11.  
Jamestown Community Fair, Jamestown, thru Sept. 11.

#### Wednesday, September 8

Bellwood-Antis Farm Show, Bellwood, thru Sept. 11.

(Turn to Page A42)

accumulated about as much energy as it ever will. The kernels are not overly hard and the stalk still contains enough moisture to pack well and ferment properly.

For upright silos, aim for a moisture level of about 60 to 65 percent and 65 to 70 percent for bunker silos. Maintain a fairly coarse chop of about 3/8 inch blade setting so the effectiveness of the fiber is not destroyed.

### To Not Let Animals Suffocate

Tunnel ventilation systems have become a popular way to help improve cow and broiler comfort during hot summer days.

It involves placing a large number of fans in one end of the barn to create a three to five miles per hour breeze and to have a rapid air exchange in the barn. To accomplish this, it is necessary to close all the air inlets along the side walls so all the air is pulled through inlets in the end of the barn opposite the fans.

This works very well when the fans are running. When the power fails, the barn may become very hot and stuffy in only a few minutes.

Thus, it is very important to have a way to provide cows and poultry with fresh air when power failures occur. This may involve using a standby generator, opening curtains, windows and doors, or letting cows out of the barn.

Always have someone on 24-hour standby to regularly check the barns and respond quickly to a power failure. These procedures are necessary whether you are at home or away from the farm.

### To Reduce Egg Shell Breakage

Egg breakage reduces profits! Every broken egg is costing you at least four cents per egg.

William D. McKeen, University of California Poultry Farm adviser, has identified the following factors that may contribute to excessive egg breakage:

- Damaged cages or collection trays.

- Excessive bird density in cages.

- Operation of egg collection equipment at speeds which are too fast.

- Failure to separate oversized eggs in flats.

- Excessive disturbance of birds during peak laying hours. Jobs such as manure clean out, spraying for mites, flies, etc. should be limited to afternoon hours when few eggs are present.

- Failure to carefully maintain and clean egg handling equipment.

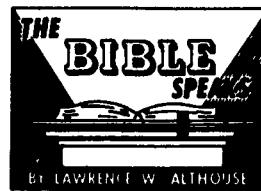
- Increased body checks because of crowding in cages or extended day length.

Most of these factors are related to preventative maintenance. It takes a strong commitment to quality and pride in work in order to reduce egg breakage.

By reducing cracks by one percent, you are increasing profits by at least 10 cents per bird. For a 50,000-hen flock, this is \$5,000 per year increased income.

Now is the time to manage for quality!

*Feather Prof's Footnote: "You are never a loser until you quit trying" — Mike Ditka*



### BEHIND THE 'BIG BANG'

September 5, 1993

#### Background Scripture

Genesis 1:1-25

#### Devotional Reading:

Isaiah 40:21, 25, 26, 28-31

"In the beginning..." begins the Book of Genesis and the Bible itself. In fact, the term 'Genesis' means 'beginning.' In Genesis, we reach back as far as we can to point-zero in time.

Contemporary science tells us that the beginning was ten to twenty billion years ago. And the beginning, according to many scientists, was an instantaneous "Big Bang," the reverberations of which are still echoing through the universe.

If you throw a stone into a pool, you can see the rings of force that ripple from the point of contact between the stone and the water. Those rings grow ever larger, keep expanding at a geometric rate. In nature, those rings are never reversed, never get smaller and retreat into the single point from which they began. But, if I capture that event on my video camera and then run it on "rewind," I can do just that: I can see the rings grow smaller and return to the original point of impact.

#### AN EXPANDING UNIVERSE

One year before I was born, a scientist by the name of Edwin Hubble realized that wherever you look, the distant galaxies are moving away from us like the rings that ripple on a pond disturbed by a stone. Using the telescopes and astronomical equipment of his day, he convinced most of the scientific community that ours is an expanding, not static, universe. Since Hubble's discovery, scien-

tists have used computations to theoretically reverse the outward flow of the galaxies back to a moment in time when those forces were all contained in one great moment of power, giving rise to the generally-accepted Big-Bang, but not the Big Bang itself, let alone the moment before it. As soon as they try to look back behind that first second, they run into a door that they cannot open. Some of them suspect that it is God who stands behind that door; others refuse to make that assumption but are troubled with the necessity for looking for something, if not Someone, behind it.

#### BEHIND EVERY DOOR

In 1951, Pope Pius XII embraced the Big Bang theory as supportive of Christian beliefs. In fact, he suggested that, in light of these discoveries of science, it might be anticipated that "God were waiting behind every door opened by Science."

It may seem strange that the Pope and other Christians should look upon the Big Bang theory as supportive to Christian belief. After all, there is no place in Genesis where there is even a faint suggestion of a Big Bang. Yet, when we understand what Genesis is saying to us, the relationship between the Biblical saga and the scientific theory becomes very clear. What the writer of Genesis 1:1-25 is giving us is not an eyewitness account of the day of creation, but an explanation of that day's meaning: "In the beginning God..."

The Big Bang theory takes us back to the very beginning-plus-one-moment and Christians press back beyond that one moment and fine "In the beginning God..." We can see the Big Bang as the outward description of God creating "the heavens and the earth," spinning the galactic masses of gas and dust out into the universe like the ripples on a gigantic pond.

"And God saw that it was good."