



OPINION

Lose Farming And Our Freedom

Almost everyone would agree that it is vital to protect our environment. But how to do this has been the subject of an increasing number of disputes. And the large number of these controversies that are being settled by government agencies, and the laws they create, enforce, and adjudicate in clear violation of the principle of separation of powers, has endangered another resource—our liberty.

Robert Ernst, an attorney from Salinas, California, recently spoke at Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Michigan, on the subject as reported in the May, 1994, *Imprimis*, published by the college.

Ernst said that all too often these days, the laws designed to protect our environment do more harm than good. The instances in which environmental laws have led to incredible waste of resources are legion. The laws favor false crises instead of real environmental problems and even create greater problems than they were made to eliminate. Scare campaigns against acid rain, asbestos, toxic waste, carcinogens, global warming and global cooling are just a few examples.

Even worse, such laws are instruments of tyranny. "According to the modern view of environmental protection, men count not more than the grass upon which they walk," Ernst said. "It is no wonder that this view attracts adherents who have little appreciation or patience for the nuances of ordered liberty or that the laws it produces are actually contrary to the rule of law."

The pantheism of radical environmentalists represents a near-complete rejection of the philosophy of America's founders and most of our farm community. It's politically correct to ignore the faulty theology, as well as faulty science behind the environmentalists' vision. The broadly-worded laws are left to executive agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for implementation. And our citizens, including farmers, are required to adhere to what is, in effect, a state-sponsored religion.

Let's hope we don't lose our farming and our freedom in the effort to save the environment.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, June 18

Sullivan County Dairy Pageant and Parade, Dushore, 7 p.m.

Sunday, June 19

Happy Father's Day!

Northeast Conference On Avian Diseases, UMCP, thru June 21.

Monday, June 20

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

Pa. Rivers Conference, Harrisburg Hilton, thru June 22.

4-H Ambassador Conference, University Park, thru June 22.

Five-County 4-H Camp, Camp Blue Diamond, Petersburg, thru June 23.

Lancaster County pesticide container recycling, G&G Feed and Supply, Manheim, also July 18, Aug. 17, and Nov. 4.

Tuesday, June 21

Summer Begins

Schnecksville Community Fair, Schnecksville, thru June 25.

Pesticide container recycling, Adams County Nursery, also July 19, Aug. 19, and Oct. 11.

Grain Crop Field Day, Landisville Research Center, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

Lancaster County Honey Producers meeting, Rainbow Apiaries, Hughes Farm, East Earl, 6:30 p.m.

Shepherd's Night, Vernago Co. Extension Office, 5:30 p.m.

Summer Dairy Twilight meeting, Phipp's Farm, Kent Co., Md., 7 p.m.

Wednesday, June 22

Crop Residue Management Program, Hoss' Steak and Seafood House, York, 5 p.m.

Thursday, June 23

Butler County Holstein twilight meeting, 7 p.m.

Crop Residue Management Program, York extension office, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Pesticide container recycling, Mountain View Reclamation, Greencastle, repeats July 28, Aug. 25, and Nov. 10.

SRBC Public Hearings on Water Use, Fred L. Waterman Conservation Education Center, Hilton Road, Apalachin, N.Y., 1:30 and 7 p.m.

Friday, June 24

117th AGA annual meeting, Burlington, Vt.

Draft Horse and Mule Days, Elmer Lapp Farm, Kinzers, thru June 25.

Pa. State Envirothon, PP&L Montour Preserve, Turbotville, thru June 25.

SRBC Public Hearings on Water Use, Days Inn, River Ave., Williamsport, 1 p.m.

Saturday, June 25

Pa. Junior Holstein Association Convention, Pittsburgh, thru June 28.

Beaver-Lawrence Dairy Princess Pageant and Ice Cream Social, Westfield Grange, 7:30 p.m.

14th annual Hickory Ridge Antique Farm Show, Horace Potter Residence, Milford, Del., thru June 26.

Benefit Auction, Solanco Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

'A Celebration of Quilts,' York College of Pa., 10 a.m.-5 p.m., thru June 26.

Historic Schaefferstown Cherry



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Apply For Liquid Fuels Tax

Notice and application for the Pennsylvania Liquid Fuels Tax Refunds are in the mail.

This application must be filled out and returned in order to receive your tax refund. The application covers the period from July 1, 1993 to June 30, 1994 that you paid taxes on liquid fuels used in agriculture.

Even though farmers pay 12 cents per gallon when purchasing the fuel (gasoline, diesel fuel, etc.), they are exempt from the tax and must apply and request the refund. Based on Pennsylvania Treasury Department's figures, only 20 percent of the state's farmers applied for the refund.

Last year the average refund was \$183. You need to have records on how much fuel was used in agricultural production. If you do not receive an application, contact the Board of Finance and Revenue, Room 500C, Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120 or call (717) 787-6534.

Take the time now to request the money due you. Remember, this is your money the state of Pennsylvania owes you.

To Check Trusses

It is hard to believe that only six months ago we were experiencing one of the worst winters on record.

During this period, we saw several roofs collapse because of snow loads and construction flaws. The most common problem was inadequate bracing of trusses. Improperly installed braces and not enough bracing were two main reasons roofs collapsed.

Also, deterioration of nail plates from rust will weaken the roof.

Now is a good time to evaluate your load bearing capacity of your roofs and make the necessary

Fair, Schaefferstown, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday, June 26

Monday, June 27

Pa. Junior Judging School, Butler and Franklin counties, thru June 30.

On-Farm Composting Field Day, Robert and Lois Keller Farm, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 28

Implementing On-Farm Composting Interagency Conference and Tour, Penn State Harrisburg, Middletown, thru June 29.

Pesticide recycling program, Oylor's Orchard, Gettysburg, also July 26, Aug. 23, Nov. 8.

SRBC Public Hearings on Water Use, Pa. Game Commission Headquarters, Harrisburg, 10 a.m. and at the SRBC Head-

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repairs. If you are adding more insulation to your building, you will want to check your trusses and braces.

The added insulation will increase the snow load for your roof since less snow will melt when it hits the roof. (Insulation keeps the heat of the building from reaching the roof.) By checking your roofs, you could prevent a major disaster this winter.

To Keep A Diary

Experience is the best teacher. For experience to be a teacher, we must first take notes.

As time passes, these notes become more valuable. They act as a refresher when we experience a similar experience 5, 10, or 15 years from now.

One way to keep notes is in a diary. By using a 5-year diary, you may quickly glance back to what happened in the past.

You may also want to keep a production log. In this log you would keep a record of new things

you tried and their results and observations.

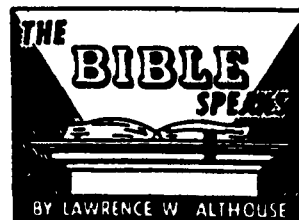
Now would be a good time to walk your fields and observe crop stand, effects of winter or hot weather, insect populations, equipment performance, etc. Other items to record would be date of last frost, first frost, tasselling date for corn, dates of hay cuttings, and other useful and interesting facts as they relate to your farm.

These records could be very valuable to future generations as they begin to farm.

I still remember several of the observations my grandfather had, that is, frost occurs around a full moon, temperatures average out — if a cold winter, expect a hot summer, etc.

Take time to study and learn from the many areas that influence farming. You, your children and grandchildren will profit from these observations.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "In the name of love, give a child a dream."



IS THIS FREEDOM?
June 19, 1994

IS THIS FREEDOM?

Background Scripture:

Exodus 6:2-9; 11:1-3; 12:21-36

Devotional Reading:

Exodus 5:1-9

Can you imagine any more exciting news than what Moses brought the people of Israel from the Lord? "I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold in bondage and I have remembered my covenant. Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage . . . And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham . . . I will give it to you for a possession'" (6:5-8).

This message of freedom came to a people who for several generations had been in grievous bondage to the Pharaoh, a people who could not personally remember the freedom of their forefathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Now, through Moses, God promised that their burdens would be lifted, they would escape from Egypt and have a land of milk and honey for their very own.

So how did they react to this good news? "But they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and their cruel bondage" (6:9). It was too good to be true. They had given up hope. They could not believe the good news. You and I may wonder at their lack of faith, but that's because we are not in their shoes. After all, they are only being realistic and logical, the two most idolized attributes of human personality.

BROKEN IN SPIRIT

Recently, in reading *Schindler's List*, I remembered that at the close of World War II, when some of the concentration/extermination camps were liberated by Allied Forces, the inmates stayed in the camps even when it was no longer necessary. They had been prisoners so long and so thorough-

ly that they did not know how to deal with freedom. Like the Israelites in Egypt, they were "broken in spirit."

I have also personally observed in Poland, Latvia, Russia and East Germany (DDR) that, after 40 years of political bondage, many of the people there do not know what to do with the freedom for which they had hungered. Throughout Eastern Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union people are having a terrible time handling their newly-gained freedom. Suddenly crime is rampant. Economic chaos is the common experience. Moral decay is everywhere. I pray that these people may not grow weary of their fearful freedom and once again embrace bondage. By itself, freedom can be every bit as frightening and dangerous as bondage — perhaps even more so — when we are broken in spirit.

MORE THAN FREEDOM

Something more than freedom is needed. Actually, the best news that Moses brought them was not that they would be free, but that God had promised "I will take you for my people, and I will take you for my people, and I will be your God" (6:7). Faith in God, devotion to a purpose higher even than personal freedom, is the only thing that can make freedom work. I am hopeful because, while these countries are faltering politically and economically, there are evidences of a spiritual rebirth here and there.

True freedom is in danger, not only among people recently freed of political tyranny, but also in countries like our own where political freedom has been a heritage, if not a complete reality, for centuries. While the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union are struggling to make freedom work, we ought to be no less concerned with the state of freedom in our own land.

It is possible to be politically free and spiritually or morally in bondage. With all the freedom we enjoy here, are we really free?

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