



OPINION

GATT Initiative Commended

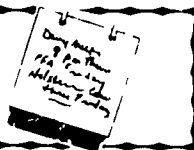
We applaud the momentum growing in the U.S. Senate for a bill to capture agricultural export subsidy reductions required by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and reinvest them in agricultural programs permitted under the GATT. The bill S. 2312 has gained 22 co-sponsors since being introduced on July 22 by Senator Tom Daschle (D-SD). Thirteen of the 18 Agricultural Committee members are included among the co-sponsors.

The growing support for this bill indicates that Congress is recognizing the need to provide assurances that the cost of the GATT will not fall unfairly on U.S. Agriculture. This bill allows agriculture to maximize the opportunities that the GATT was designed to provide and not put the United States at a competitive disadvantage with other countries. Our competitors intend to use GATT-legal programs, and the United States must be poised to do so as well. These GATT-legal programs include export credit guarantees and foreign market development and promotion. Also allowed are food assistance programs such as The Emergency Food Assistance Program.

Twenty-four food and agricultural groups have joined in a coalition to support this move. They are also pleased that a similar bill in the House of Representatives, H.R. 4675, is also gaining support. It has more than 50 sponsors.

U.S. agriculture is the most productive in the world, and should not be required to pay more of the cost of GATT than its fair share related to the benefits received. We commend Congress for the growing support of the position of most national agricultural organizations.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, August 20

Pa. Holstein Association Central Championship Show, Fairgrounds, Huntingdon, 6 p.m.
Northeast 4-H Dairy Show, Wyoming County.
Warren County Holstein Sale, Pittsfield Fairgrounds.
Central Championship Show, Huntingdon Fairgrounds, 6 p.m.
Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter of Fellowship of Christian Farmers picnic, Samuel Lewis State Park, Wrightsville, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sunday, August 21

Somerset County Fair, Meyersdale, thru Aug. 27.
Crawford County Fair, Meadville, thru Aug. 27.
Cameron County Fair, Emporium, thru Aug. 27.
Franklin County Fair, Chambersburg, thru Aug. 27.
Westmoreland County Fair, Greensburg, thru Aug. 28.

Monday, August 22

Harford Fair, Harford, thru Aug. 27.
Fulton County Fair, McConnellsburg, thru Aug. 27.
Mountain Area Fair, Farmington, thru Aug. 27.
Pa. Tobacco Growers meeting, Southeast Field Lab, Landisville, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, August 23

Blue Valley Farm Show, Bangor, thru Aug. 27.
Perry County Fair, Newport, thru Aug. 27.
Transfer Harvest Home Fair, Greenville, thru Aug. 27.
Elizabethtown Community Fair, Elizabethtown, thru Aug. 27.
Hookstown Fair, Hookstown, thru Aug. 27.
Pa. Holstein Association Northeast Championship Show, Fairgrounds, Troy, 10 a.m.
Beef Cattle Pasture Walk, Conrad

and Bonnie Fisher's Farm, Green Lane, 7 p.m.
Ephrata Area Young Farmers meeting, Harold Martin Farm, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 24

48th Annual Convention National Association of Animal Breeders, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, thru Aug. 26.
Marketing and Use of Compost, Montgomery County Community College, thru Aug. 25.
Perry County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Newport, 9 a.m.
Potato Growers field meeting, Ferd Irish Farm, 4 p.m.

Thursday, August 25

Central Maryland REC Field Day, Beltsville Facility, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
Southeastern Championship Show, Fairgrounds, Kutztown, 10 a.m.
Crawford County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Meadville, 9 a.m.
Franklin County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Chambersburg, 5:30 p.m.
10th Annual Olde Tyme Days Great Grangers Interstate Fair and State Plowing Contest, Blaine Rentzel Farm, Manchester, thru Aug. 28.

Friday, August 26

Centre County Fair, Centre Hall, thru Sept. 1.
South Central 4-H Dairy Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.
Southeast 4-H Dairy Show, Kutztown Fairgrounds.
PASA Field Day, Endlich Acres, Butler.
Pasture Walk, Wood Dairy, Osceola, 1 p.m.
Lebanon County Holstein Club Sale, Lebanon Fairgrounds, 7 p.m.
Northeast Lamb Pool, Troy Sales Barn, Troy, 3 p.m., also Sept.



**Now Is
The Time**
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Test Private Water Supplies

You should test your private water supply at least once a year for bacteria, nitrate, sulfates, total dissolved solids, and pH. This will help you to insure the water your family and animals drink is safe.

There are many laboratories capable of testing your water. Contact the laboratory and they will provide you with a test kit and instructions.

Be sure to follow the instructions carefully to ensure a representative sample and to avoid contamination.

In addition to testing your water yearly, a water test should be done when you drill a new well, changed the pump or plumbing, or notice a change in appearance, taste, or odor of the water.

To Disinfect Wells Properly

Every new well or existing water supply system that has been disrupted for service or repair should be disinfected before it is returned to use.

Water in the well and storage tank should be treated with a strong chlorine solution to destroy disease organisms.

All pipelines and fixtures in the distribution system should be rinsed and flushed with chlorinated water.

The source of chlorine may be ordinary household bleach (about 5.25 per cent available chlorine). You need at least 100 parts per million of chlorine to destroy essentially all waterborne disease organisms.

You may consult a dilution table or use a minimum of one half gallon household bleach in wells up to 8 inches in diameter and less than 80 feet of water or one gallon in similar size wells with more than

30, Nov. 4, and Dec. 2.

Saturday, August 27

Maryland State Fair, Timonium, thru Sept. 15.
West Virginia State Holstein Sale, Marshall County Fairgrounds, Moundsville, W.Va.
Susquehanna County 4-H Livestock Sale, Harford Fairgrounds, 1 p.m.
Multicounty Livestock Tour, Northumberland County, starts at Max Dehart Farm, 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, August 28
Rural Registration Conference, Nebraska City, Neb., through Aug. 30.
Indiana County Fair, Indiana, thru Sept. 3.

Monday, August 29

West End Fair, Gilbert, thru Sept. 4.
Dairy Day at the New York State

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80 feet of water in the well.

Mix the required amount of bleach in a plastic bucket with a few gallons of water and pour it in the well. For maximum effectiveness, the chlorine must be mixed with the water in the well. This may be accomplished by connecting a hose to a faucet beyond the pressure tank and circulating the water from the tank back into the casing for 15 minutes.

Open each faucet on the distribution line individually until you smell chlorine. Keep this water in the pipeline for at least six hours, then start the pump and flush the system.

For more information on water treatment, contact your local extension office.

To Tighten Fan Belts

This week I was measuring fan output at a poultry farm. It was the first time I had a chance to really evaluate the results of a loose fan belt on fans.

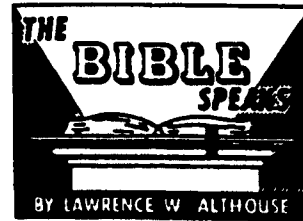
We had seven fans with loose belts. After measuring the cubic feet per minute (cfm) of each fan, the farmer took time to tighten the fan belt on each fan.

We then took a second reading. By tightening the belt, we increased the number of cfm per fan by 25 percent. That was the equivalent of adding two more fans to the house.

A quick look at the fans indicated there was no need to tighten the belts. The fans were running and air was leaving the house. However, by stopping the fans and tightening the belts, the farmer increased the amount of air leaving the house by 25 percent.

This could be a big advantage during hot weather. Take time now to check and service all fans including removing dust, making sure louvers open completely and tightening belts.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "Good education is the essential foundation of a strong democracy."



WHAT'S THE MEANING
OF THIS?
August 21, 1994

Background Scripture:
Deuteronomy 6
Devotional Reading:
Deuteronomy 7:6-9, 12

I don't recall that my children ever asked me why we went to church, had family devotions and celebrated various Christian holidays. But, even if they never ask us, I'm certain most, if not all, children wonder about their family religious life. Why do we do this? What's the meaning of it?

So the writer of Deuteronomy gives clear instructions so that parents will know what to answer, "When your son asks you in time to come, 'What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the ordinances which the Lord our God has commanded you?' then you shall say to your son, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt...'" (6:20,21). I've been a guest at several Jewish Seders—the home observance of Passover—and I remember children participating by asking this very question.

Is this just an ancient ritual? No, I think it is also an opportunity for teaching, for passing on the faith from one generation to another. Too often, I'm afraid, our parental religious instruction does not go much beyond telling children what to do and what not to do. We are often remiss in helping our children to understand why.

WHAT GOD HAS DONE

I once heard a little girl ask her father why she had to go to church and the father's reply was: "Because, if you're a member of this family, that's what we do on Sunday mornings." The answer is OK as far as it goes, but it didn't go far enough. What he needed to tell his daughter was why, beyond being a family habit or tradition, "this family" goes to church on a Sunday morning. We need also to tell our children why we pray, read the Bible, and try to live the Christian life. We need to tell and show them what it does for us.

The Hebrew father answered his son's question by telling him what God had done for his people:

"We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand; and the Lord showed signs and wonders...against Egypt and against Pharaoh...before our eyes..." (6:21,22).

Some of the best religious teaching we can do in our homes is to tell our children what the Lord has done for us, individually and as a people. We don't have to be eloquent or exceptionally wise to tell how God has acted in our own lives. So why is it we so seldom talk about these things?

WHAT GOD WANTS DONE

After telling his son what God has done and will do, he goes on to tell his son what God expects of us: "And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes..." (6:24). Note that the commandments and statutes come only after the remembrance of what God has done. Living his commandments is our response to what he has done. When our children ask us why must we do this or why can't we do that, "because I say so" isn't nearly as satisfactory as "because we are thankful to the Lord for His goodness to us."

There is another clue in this passage as to what lies behind the commandments and statutes: "And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes...for our good always." We frequently have the wrong idea about God's commandments—they are not for the purpose of restricting us per se or to make him feel better, but for our own good. He requires us to do this or not do that because it is for our own well being in the long run. When we break the commandments, ultimately it is ourselves who suffer the most—lying, stealing, adultery, killing, covetousness and so forth. Even dishonoring our parents hurts us even more than it does them—in the long run. Breaking the commandments breaks down our lives and society as well.

That's why we do these things.

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