



OPINION

Slow Down On Health Care Reform

The current national health care debate has become a mad rush to do something before the November elections. We all want reform. But we want to know if the enacted plan will lower costs and not raise taxes to make it work. In addition, we want to know if the plan will preserve the right to choose health care providers.

Farmers and small businesses do not want to be forced to become part of mandatory purchasing cooperatives as some proposals have required. In mandatory purchasing cooperatives, farmers worry about their costs. If voluntary cooperatives work to control costs, farmers will join them. But they don't want to be told they must join a plan that raises their costs.

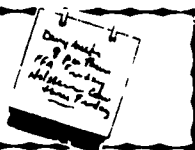
A plan to cover more people is needed, but not at the expense of the financial ruin with ill-considered mandates or hidden taxes.

Wayne Nelson, president of Communicating for Agriculture, Inc., headquartered in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, says we don't want to say "no" to health care reform. We just want to say "Whoa!"

It's time for responsible heads to prevail. Our message to Congress: There is no time limit. We have better opportunities to pass a reasoned plan after the election when facts and figures, especially a detailed analysis of how much health care reform may add to the trillion-dollar federal deficit, can be assembled.

If we can improve our health care, we're for this. But in the process, we don't want to ruin our present health care system that is already better than almost any other place in the world.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, September 10

Historic Schaefferstown Harvest Fair, Schaefferstown, thru Sept. 11.

Sunday, September 11

Monday, September 12

Green Township Community Fair, Commodore, thru Sept. 17.
Poultry Management and Health Seminar, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, noon.

Tuesday, September 13

Mid-Atlantic Layer Management Workshop, Iredell County Ag Center, Statesville, N.C., thru Sept. 14.

Albion Area Fair, Albion, thru Sept. 17.

Denver Community Fair, Denver, thru Sept. 17.

Sinking Valley Fair, Altoona, thru Sept. 17.

N.Y.-Pa. Pasture Tours, Steve and Susan Saxton Farm, Troy, Pa., 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and Dean and Joy Madigan Farm, Burlington, Pa., 1 p.m., and Leslie and Ruth Bresee, Ulster, Pa., 2:30 p.m.

Carroll County Md. "Save the Bay" Series, Extension Office, Westminster, Md., 7 p.m.-9 p.m., also Sept. 20, 27 and Oct. 4, 11, and 18.

Grain marketing meeting, Lebanon Ag Center, Lebanon, 3 p.m.-4 p.m.

Lancaster County Bee Association Nature Presentation, Muddy Run Information Center, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, September 14

York Fair Youth Dairy Show. Berlin Brothersvalley Fair, Berlin, thru Sept. 17.

Williamsburg Community Farm Show, Williamsburg, thru Sept. 19.

PASA Nutrient Management Field Day, Fulton County Grazing Field Day, Mosemann Dairy, Warfordsburg, and Malot Feed-

er Cattle, Harrisonville, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Solanco Fair, Quarryville, thru Sept. 16.

Nutrient Management Regulation/Legislation meeting, Lebanon Ag Center, 9 a.m.-12:10 p.m.

Thursday, September 15

Ag Technology Day, Foragement Management Field to Feed Bunk, Westmoreland Fairgrounds, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. and 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

York Fair Open Dairy Show. North East Community Fair, North East, thru Sept. 17.

Oley Valley Community Fair, Oley, thru Sept. 17.

"Red Power" Roundup, Hookstown Fairgrounds, Hookstown, thru Sept. 18.

Pasture Walk, Ardin Landis, Atglen, 10:30 a.m.-noon.

39th Anniversary Steam Show, Arcadia Exposition Grounds, Keisterstown, Md., thru Sept. 18.

Fall Field Day, Winsor Acres Farm, Harpursville, N.Y., 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Friday, September 16

The Big E, West Springfield, Mass., thru Oct. 2.

Upper Shore Small Grain breakfast, Howard Johnson Restaurant, Rt. 301, Kent County, Md., 8 a.m.

Farm Records Made Easy, Personal Computer Workshop Series, also Oct. 6 and 13, Mercer Extension Office.

Saturday, September 17

Organic Country Fair, Pennington, N.J., thru Sept. 18.

PASA Field Day, Organic Raspberry Culture, Jean Nick, Kintnersville.

Family Fun Festival, JoBo Holstein Farm, John and Bonnie Hess, Gettysburg, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Ninth Annual Dorset Field Day,



Now Is
The Time
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Observe Hessian Fly-Free Date

Robert Anderson, extension agronomy agent, reminds us it is very important to observe the Hessian fly-free date for wheat.

The fly-free date refers to the time after which the Hessian Fly, a serious pest of wheat, no longer poses a threat to the crop.

The fly has two generations each year. The second generation fly emerges in late summer and lays its eggs on small wheat plants. When the eggs hatch, the maggots feed on the plant and then pass the winter as a pupa or "flaxseed."

In the spring, an adult emerges and lays eggs on the leaves of the wheat. Upon hatching, the maggots feed near the nodes of the stalk. This weakens the plant and causes it to break over before harvest.

The fly-free date is simply a planting time after the fall egg laying period is over. For Lancaster County this date is between October 10 and 20.

To Consider Planting Cover Crops

Cover crops have many uses and advantages. Cover crops may help supplement the production of the farm by providing additional feed for livestock as fall, winter, or

The Perry Farm, Whitehouse Station, N.J., 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
17th Annual Days of the Past, Washington Crossing State Park, Titusville, N.J.

Sunday, September 18

Honey Harvest Festival, Hashawha Environmental Center, Westminster, noon-5 p.m.

Over-The-Hill Horse Show, English and Western (adults only), Hunter Hill Stables, Coventryville, 9 a.m.

Fertilizer Institute's 1994 World Fertilizer Conference, The Westin St. Francis, San Francisco, Calif., thru Sept. 20.
Gratz Fair, Gratz, thru Sept. 24.

Monday, September 19

Reading Fair, Reading, thru Sept. 24.

Beaver Community Fair, Beaver Springs, thru Sept. 24.

Milk Marketing Inc. Fall District Meeting, District 3, Local 2, Berlin Fire Hall, Berlin, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 20

Ephrata Fair, Ephrata, thru Sept. 24.

Harmony Grange Fair, Harmony, thru Sept. 24.

Beef Pasture Walk, William Pearsall and David Hendricks, Macungie, 6:30 p.m.

N.Y.-Pa. Pasture Tours, Painter

spring pasture or spring silage.

Other major advantages of cover crops include protecting soil from erosion, acting as a filter to improve water quality, capturing unused nitrogen in the soil profile which may be recovered the next growing season, and adding organic matter to the soil and improving soil tilth.

Many plants may be used as cover crops, with winter grains being the most popular.

Spring oats sowed in the fall is an excellent cover crop that does not have to be killed next spring with chemicals. If farmers will have land which will be bare during the winter, they should consider the many advantages cover crops offer.

To Help Children Develop Study Habits

With school now back in session, it is important we help our children do their best.

Some tips from Dr. Jim VanHorn, Penn State family sociologist:

- Provide a quiet study area with

plenty of light. Study time is just as important as the place.

- A child should be rested and relaxed. Allow some time for active play before concentrating on homework.

- If possible, plan study periods for the same time every evening.

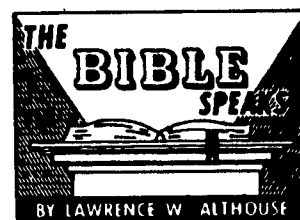
- If you have preschoolers in your home, arrange some quiet play for them during your older child's study period. Coloring, reading, or listening to a story are good quiet activities.

- Help the easy distracted. High distractibility is the one trait most responsible for poor school work. If that is a challenge for your child, work out some at home strategies with the student's teacher.

Studies show the more involved the parent is in their child's education, the more successful the child is in school. Take time to know your child's teacher, attend school functions, and read to your children.

Remember, education is the key to their future.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "A positive attitude creates positive results."



STANDING ON DRY
GROUND
September 11, 1994

Background Scripture:
Joshua 3 through 4
Devotional Reading:
Hebrews 11:23,24

Many scholars believe that the story of the crossing of the Jordan River by the Israelites under Joshua is actually a kind of editorial "past-job" of several accounts of the same event. That would explain why the story is rather confusing and chronologically disjointed. For example: did God command that the twelve stones be set up as a memorial in the river (4:9), or at both places?

Yet, despite this lack of clarity, it is obvious that this event is one of great importance in the life of Israel. As Joshua himself puts it, "For the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over, so that all people of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever" (4:23,24).

PRESCRIPTION: AWE

So, one purpose of this story — both for the people of Israel and also us — is to inspire a kind of holy fear of God. Whatever other attributes we find in our experience of God, we need to experience also a sense of awe and reverence when we are confronted by God's magnificent power. It is not because God needs us to "ooh!" and "aah!" over him, but because we need it. We are like the woman who went to her doctor with a shopping list of physical complaints. After listening to her for quite a while, the doctor prescribed a weekend excursion to Niagara Falls. "You need to take a long and lingering view of something much bigger than yourself," he explained. And that's why sometimes we need to be in awe of God, too. Awe and reverence are good for the human spirit.

Titus is also a story of pragmatic faith. Can you imagine how the people of Israel must have felt as they arrived at the Jordan? At last, after all their wanderings and tri-

bulations, they stood near their great goal, the promised land. Yet, blocking their way were the flooding torrents of the Jordan River. So close, yet so far from where they were going. Often it is like that for us, too. We are close to our goal but something stands in the way. So, like the people of Israel, we need to trust in God's promise to take us through the obstacle and to the other side.

PLAN AHEAD

But that doesn't mean that the Israelites were going to be handed the crossing on a silver platter. No, the whole event was going to require careful planning. God would do his part, but the people would have to do their part, too. You and I are often faced with the same pragmatic situation. There is a goal to be achieved and God has promised to help us achieve that goal — but it also requires something on our part. Just as the people of Israel had to plan and prepare to cross this last physical barrier to the promised land, so we need to trust in God and make our plans accordingly. Might it not be that one reason God seems unresponsive to our prayers for help is that we want him to do it without any obligation on our part?

This story and the story of Israel's crossing of the Red Sea in Exodus remind us that in ancient times the image of water was used to represent all that threatens human beings in life. In our lives there are countless Red Seas and River Jordans that threaten us. We find ourselves "in over our heads," "up the creek without a paddle," and at a point where we need to "sink or swim." But from the most ancient of times God is experienced as the one who parts and pushes back these threatening waters — if we respond in faith.

In the midst of the Jordan's tumultuous waters the priests and the people found themselves trusting God and standing on his providential dry ground. So can we.

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