



OPINION

Regulatory Common Sense

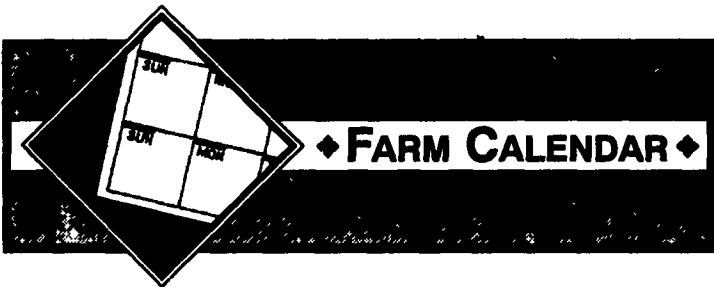
Now would be a good time to have regulatory reform that was based on "common sense." This should happen on both the state and national fronts. For example, the paperwork involved in many of the regulations put on farmers is burdensome, to say the least. Agencies should be required to conduct an extensive review of their regulations to reduce paperwork and reporting requirements. And they should have more flexibility in their requirements to allow farmers to adopt different or more cost-effective approaches to reach regulatory goals.

The most pressing area of needed reform comes in the form of overlapping, conflicting, and outdated regulations. Each agency should conduct an internal review to compile a list of regulations and recommendations that should and could be eliminated. Regulations should be based on science rather than emotion. Sometimes, if you dig deep enough, you find a hidden agenda that has little to do with the stated purpose of the regulation.

In Pennsylvania we have been given hope that our new governor, Tom Ridge, will fulfill a campaign promise to make the regulatory agencies in the state more "user friendly" to agriculture. We look forward to this change of attitude.

Phil French, vice president of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, says the annual impact of regulations on agriculture and related industries is estimated to be as much as \$80 billion or more. "This is not to say that all regulations are inherently bad," he said. "We recognize the need to provide a safe work environment, to protect employee health, to ensure consumers a dependable supply of safe and wholesome food and to protect the environment. However, there is a need to bring "common sense" into the process.

"Oftentimes there is a complete lack of justification in terms of the costs relative to any preconceived benefits. Instead of grading any agency by how many fines it imposes, more productive measures of success could include progress toward compliance and the agency's willingness to assist those who are trying to comply."



- Saturday, April 1**
Pa. Holstein Showcase Sale, Pa. Holstein Farm, Middletown, 10:30 a.m.
Beginning Shep Shearing Clinic, T&R Center Sheep Unit.
Bucks County annual NFO dinner, Milford Township Fire House, Milford Square, 7 p.m.
Pa. Cattlemen's Association Breakfast, Toftrees Resort, 7:15 a.m.
Alfred State College's Flower and Garden Show, thru April 2.
Pond Management Workshop, Western Md. Research and Education Center, Keedysville, Md., 9 a.m.-noon.
- Sunday, April 2**
National 4-H Conference, Chevy Chase, Md., thru April 8.
Delaware Valley Milk Goat Association meeting, Little Rockspring Farm, Telford, 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, April 3**
Keystone Farm Credit annual meeting, The Holiday Inn in Lehigh Valley, Allentown, 7 p.m.
Pa. Farm Bureau legislative tour and banquet, Banquet Harrisburg Hotel, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 4**
Poultry Sales and Service Conference, Nittany Lion Inn, University Park, thru April 5.
Keystone Farm Credit annual

- meeting, Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland, 7 p.m.
Cedar Crest Young Farmers banquet, Schaefferstown Fire Hall, 7 p.m.
Clearfield County Ag Forum, Vot-Tech School, Clearfield, 7:30 p.m.
Adams County Dairy Tour, departs Gettysburg 8 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 5**
Southeast Regional Christmas Tree Growers meeting, Berks County Ag Center, 7 p.m.
Dairy barn meeting, D.H. Lonehill Farm, Dave Horning, Honey Brook, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
Dairy barn meeting, Pinta Lane Farm, Tim Barlow, Cochranville, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 6**
Chester-Delaware Farmers Bureau spring banquet, West Fallowfield Christian School, 6:45 p.m.
Tractor Safety Training, Lehigh Ag Equipment, Chapmans, 5:30 p.m.
Mid East UDIA annual meeting at Ohio Spring Dairy Spectacular, Ohio Fairgrounds, 11 a.m.
- Friday, April 7**
Sheep Shearing School, Rod Nissley Flock, Campbelltown, thru April 8.
Maryland-Delaware Sheep Shearing School, Steve Shortall Farm, Queen Anne, Md., thru

Now Is The Time
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Turn Clocks Ahead
Saturday night is when we turn our clocks ahead one hour to take advantage of longer hours of sunlight. This was one of Ben Franklin's ideas to save money and increase productivity.

Also, daylight-saving time reduces car accidents, injuries, and deaths. When advancing your clocks, it is a good idea to replace the batteries in your smoke detectors.

However, you will not want to change your clocks in poultry houses. By changing lighting and feeding schedules could cause egg production problems. Poultry pro-

April 8.
Sheep Shearing School, Whiting Farm, Pulaski, 9 a.m.

Saturday, April 8
77th Little International Livestock Expo, Penn State Ag Arena.
Maryland Holstein 25th annual State Spring Show, Timonium.
Southwest Pa. Equine Symposium, David Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh.
Income Opportunities For Rural Areas Workshop, Garrett Community College, McHenry, Md.
6th Annual Forest Stewardship Landowners' Workshop, Mansfield U., 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, April 9
Palm Sunday

Monday, April 10

Tuesday, April 11

Wednesday, April 12
Pasture Management Program, Frederick County CES, Frederick, Md., also April 19 and 26.

Thursday, April 13
Dairy Council annual meeting, The Buck Hotel, Feasterville, 9 a.m.
Ohio Veal Convention, Akron Hilton Inn, Akron, Ohio, thru April 14.

Friday, April 14
Good Friday

Saturday, April 15
Annual Consignment Auction, Dauphin County Conservation District, Gratz Fairgrounds.

Sunday, April 16
Easter
Easter Ham and Chicken Dinner, Berks 4-H Center, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.



ducers usually keep the clocks in poultry houses on standard time and make all adjustments based on standard time.

Do not forget to turn your clocks up one hour Saturday night so you will not be late for church on Sunday.

To Beware Of Spontaneous Combustion
Could you have had a fire in your stored poultry litter or manure? Charred sections within the manure pile are signs of incomplete ignition and combustion. They are warning that you may need to take steps to control spontaneous combustion-self ignition of a material.

In most of the reported fires, multiple aged litter was involved. The boundary between dry and wet litter from different flocks appears to where the fire starts. Dry and wet layers of organic materials can produce the conditions which support spontaneous combustion.

According to the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension, if there is a problem, it takes two to six weeks for the spontaneous combustion to occur. Then it occurs two to three feet deep inside the pile. It appears that moisture levels from 30 to 50 percent are critical.

HAVE YOU GIVEN YOUR GIFT YET?
April 2, 1995

Have You Given Your Gift Yet?
April 2, 1995

Background Scripture:
I Corinthians 12
Devotional Reading:
Ephesians 4:4-16

Christians have always had a problem with religious ecstasy. Those few who experience it seem to let it get out of control—at least in the eyes of those of us who have never experienced it. The rest of us are so frightened by the prospect of it that we do all we can to "make sure it doesn't happen here!"

The problem is not with the ecstatic religious experience per se, but with the abuse of it. If it becomes a substitute for all other religious expressions, gives rise to religious snobbery or pride, is pursued for itself alone or used as an escape, then it is a clear danger to true Christian spirituality.

That's what concerns Paul in I Corinthians 12. He has observed two kinds of religious ecstasy that are harmful. The first of these are the orgiastic practices of some of the contemporary pagan religions of his day. "You know that when you were heathen, you were led astray to dumb idols, however, you may have been moved" (12:2). These dumb idols stimulated worshippers to religious frenzy, but they could not answer prayer.

Ecstasy's Source
Secondly, Paul was referring also to Christians who demonstrated religious ecstasy, primarily those who spoke in tongues. Obviously this phenomenon was causing divisions in the churches—just as it does today—because some were claiming that it should be the mark of all true Christians, while others condemned it as sheer emotionalism. The problem is that ecstatic experiences seems to denote spiritual authority. But

To Prevent Spontaneous Combustion

Fires started by spontaneous combustion in poultry litter can result in entire sheds and stored equipment being lost. Some suggestions to prevent spontaneous combustion in poultry litter or manure are:

- Do not stack dry and wet layers.
- Do not let dry and wet boundaries meet.
- Check stored poultry manure daily for temperature elevations greater than 160 degrees Fahrenheit, with a 4-foot-long stem dial thermometer.
- Remove litter from storage and spread it if temperatures reach 190 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Keep fire control equipment with you when removing heated material.
- Minimize external packing of the litter; it will settle on its own weight.
- In case of fire, remove the material. Adding water will not necessarily extinguish it, but may actually make it worse.
- Make sure you have fire insurance.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote:
"Make yours an idea whose time has come."

Paul is saying that ecstasy alone—no matter how dramatic—is not enough unless it is by the spirit of God that we are moved. Is the ecstasy from God or from some other source?

In Paul's day there were apparently some who asserted that Christian discipleship cannot be authentic unless it is stamped with the approval of the experience of speaking in tongues, an assertion still made or suggested by some today. But Paul says no, there are "varieties of gifts," not just one: the utterance of wisdom, knowledge, faith itself, healing, working of miracles, prophecy, ability to distinguish between spirits, to speak in and interpret tongues. (Is it by chance that Paul lists tongues and interpretation last?)

For The Common Good
The acid test, says Paul: "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good" (2:7). If the gift doesn't build up the church,—as opposed to tearing it down—it is not of God. God gives us his gifts, not to divide us, but to bring us together.

Note that Paul says, "To each is given..." All of us are given gifts by God to share with the church. There isn't one of us who is not gifted. There isn't one of us who doesn't have some contribution to make to the life of God's people. It is true that with our human limitations we may assume we have no gift or that, in the light of someone else's more dramatic gift, it is not worth much. But Paul wants us to know that God sees us differently. If our gift seems poor to us we must not make the mistake of thinking it is of little or no consequence.

So, the question is not whether we have a gift to give, but whether we have yet begun to give the gift that we have. Have you given your gift yet?

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