



# OPINION

## Immediate Call For Reform

In the aftermath of last week's Supreme Court ruling upholding federal rules requiring habitat protection on private land under the Endangered Species Act, the American Farm Bureau Federation pledged to secure stronger safeguards for private property rights when Congress revises the 1973 law.

In a 6-3 ruling, the court said the ESA provides "comprehensive protection for endangered and threatened species" and regulations protecting habitat are reasonable. The Interior secretary has "reasonably construed the intent of Congress when he defined 'harm' to include 'significant habitat modification or degradation that actually kills or injures wildlife,'" the justices said.

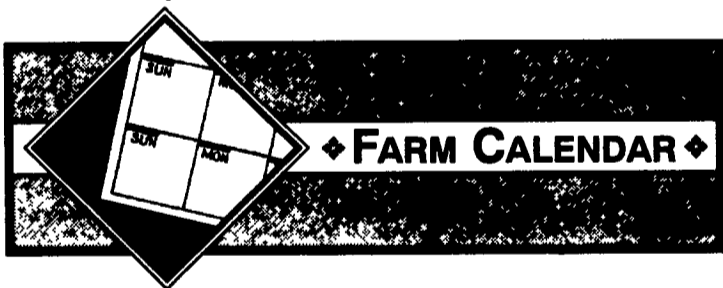
The decision in the *Sweet Home* endangered species case prompted an immediate call for ESA reform.

"Since the court ruled the law will dictate whether habitat modification is allowed on private land, the law must be changed," said Dean Kleckner, American Farm Bureau Federation president. "As the law stands, you can face prosecution for the lawful use of your property if that use unintentionally modifies the habitat of an endangered species that may not actually occupy that land. That clearly is not acceptable.

"The Supreme Court decision is a devastating setback for landowners and their constitutional property rights," Kleckner said. "The 6-3 ruling will likely galvanize the call for common-sense reform of the Endangered Species Act. As the justices indicated, the ruling was based on the belief that habitat protection on private land should be addressed in the usual course of the law. The problem is the current law extracts far too heavy a toll on those people unlucky enough to own endangered species habitat.

"This ruling gives us added impetus to change the Endangered Species Act itself and the flawed regulations that are based on the law," he added. "The act's days of ineffective species protection through negative regulations are numbered. We will work with members of Congress to reform the law into one that allows landowners a positive role in species recovery efforts.

"Through voluntary incentives, proper recognition of constitutionally guaranteed property rights and a good measure of common-sense reform, the management of endangered species habitat on private land will be transformed into a source of pride, rather than a source of fear and concern."



### Saturday, July 15

Lancaster County Conservation District Conservation Expo, demonstration farm, Lancaster County Central Park.

Bradford County 4-H picnic, Mt. Pisgah State Park, 11:30 a.m. Schaefferstown Annual Folk Festival, Schaefferstown, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., thru July 16.

Cattlemen's Field Day and Junior Show, Haven Woods Farm, Grove City.

Gratz Area Antique Machinery Association Third Annual Show, Gratz, thru July 16.

Pa. Simmental Association Field Day, Haven Woods Farms, Stoneboro, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

### Sunday, July 16

Jefferson County Fair, Brookville, thru July 22.

Mason Dixon Red and White Dairy Cattle Association annual picnic, Medovue Farm, Jack and Vicki King, Warfordsburg, 1 p.m.

Bradford County Holstein Club picnic, Hornbrook Park, 1 p.m. 1995 International Flying Farmers Convention, Sheraton Berkshire, Reading, thru July 23.

### Monday, July 17

Annual Fore FFA Golf Tournament, Fox Chase Golf Club, Stevens.

Warren County Ag and Learning Center Open House, Youngsville, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Conference On Mile-A-Minute Weed, Olde York Valley Inn, York, thru July 18.

### Tuesday, July 18

Pa. Vegetable Growers Association Summer Field Tour, Blair and Bedford counties, leaves Howard Johnson's Motel, Altoona.

EAYFA summer meeting and pig roast, John Zimmerman Farm, Ephrata, 7:30 p.m.

Southeast FFA Dairy Show, Lebanon County Fairgrounds.

Pa. Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program, Jarzinko's Ringtown Mill and Hardware, 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Pa. Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program, Helena Chemical Company, Mifflinville, 12:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

Milkhouse Waste Water Field Day, Rodrick and Trudy Hinich



## Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

### To Keep Swine Cool

Hot weather reduces swine performance more than cold weather, resulting in significant economic loss to the pork producer.

While producers have little control over current depressed hog prices or certain disease outbreaks, steps may be taken to keep hogs cool and comfortable.

Larger pigs and hogs begin to feel the effects of heat stress at about 70 degrees F. If temperatures remain above 85 degrees F for more than a short time, substantial losses in performance and in reproductive efficiency may result unless some type of cooling relief is provided.

Evaporative cooling from the body surface is very effective if some type of artificial wetting of the pigs is provided along with adequate air movement over the animals.

### To Deworm Pastured Heifers

Heifers that are plagued with parasites are unthrifty and less profitable. When young heifers are pastured, the risk of them acquiring internal parasites is great, especially if the pastures were grazed by heifers the previous year.

To protect these heifers from internal parasites, deworm them about three weeks after initial grazing. Equally important is deworming them a second time, about three to five weeks after the first deworming, depending on label instructions.

Dairy Farm, Williamsburg, 10 a.m.

### Wednesday, July 19

Jefferson County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Brookville, 9 a.m. Northampton County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Plainfield, 10 a.m.

York County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, York, 10 a.m.

Somerset County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Meyersdale, 6:30 p.m.

Westmoreland County Grazing Clinic, Long Farm, Crabtree, Plainfield Farmers Fair, Nazareth, thru July 22.

Capitol Area Perennial Plant meeting, Quality Greenhouse, Mechanicsburg, 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Pa. Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program, Ag Resources, Turbotville, 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Pa. Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program, Belleville Agway, Belleville, 9 a.m.-noon.

Master Gardener summertime tour, Thomas Frair, Lewis Run,

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Select a product that is effective against adult worms. If you have any questions on deworming and effective products, consult your veterinarian.

### To Be A Business Person

The times are changing in American agriculture. Federal programs are being eliminated, reduced, or changed.

Allied businesses are reducing staff and expanding territories of remaining people. Free services are now requiring fees. This means farmers must mature as business people.

In a recent article by Penn State agricultural economist Gregory Hansen on improving communications with farmers and lenders, he details areas farmers must improve their business skills.

These are:

1. Good farm records are needed to provide accurate and reliable information about the status of farm production and costs. In the future, farmers will be increasingly required by lenders to have up to

date records that can flag developing problems early on.

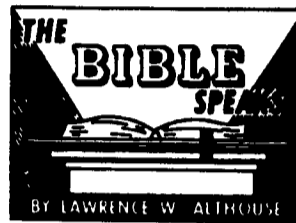
2. Farmer-prepared financial statements that are comprehensive will become a standard feature. Bankers can no longer afford to take time to develop farm financial statements when they must service 50 to 100 or more accounts. The farmer is the expert on the farm's position and can best prepare a projected cash flow or balance sheet.

3. A quarterly visit or call to your lender instills confidence with both parties.

Farming is becoming a bigger business every year. As your business grows, so must your business skills.

Now is the time to start improving your financial, legal, and other business skills along with your production skills. Remember, it is your business you are trying to keep profitable!

*Feather Prof.'s Footnote:* "Excellence can be yours if you strive to exceed your expectations."



HOSEA: PATSY OR HERO?  
July 16, 1995

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Background Scripture:  
Hosea 1:1 through 3:5  
Devotional Reading:  
Romans 5:1-11

I've heard it said that Hosea was a weak man, because he took back his wife Gomer after she had so shamelessly betrayed him. In the eyes of his compatriots and no less the eyes of our own society today, he sacrificed his honor for the sake of love. He went beyond love's reasonable limits. But I believe Hosea must have been one of the strongest men who ever lived. He had the courage to demonstrate in his own life that love has the power to redeem even the worst of us. Hosea proved that love has no "reasonable limits." And what others may have preached, Hosea demonstrated with his own life, the most powerful of all preaching.

Notice, nowhere in this passage do we learn of Hosea's feelings for Gomer. We don't know what he felt for her — before he married her, nor afterward. Apart from her harlotry, we don't know anything about her. Was she an accomplished homemaker? A good mother? An attractive wife? All the book does suggest is that, despite what she had been, there was something worth saving in her. God told Hosea to take her back, not because she deserved it — she didn't — but despite the fact that she didn't.

### LOVE UNDESERVED

This concept of love which Hosea demonstrated, not argued, shows that true love is not given on the basis of demonstrated worth. As a child of God, Gomer was worth something, even though her life so far had obscured that worth. Hosea drew this analogy from God's love of the people of Israel. God loved Israel, not because they had demonstrated their worth, but despite the fact that their lives kept hidden the image of

God within them. On the basis of what they had done, they were not lovable. On the basis of what God knew they could be, he loved them.

Something else Hosea demonstrates about love: it persists, even when there seems to be no reason to do so. In I Cor. 13 Paul said, "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (13:7). Hosea's life is proof of that. It appears that even after Hosea redeemed Gomer from a life of prostitution, even after she had borne him three children, she left him to resume her degrading life. Shouldn't that have been the final blow to Hosea's love? No, no more than it was the final blow for God's love of his people.

### ENDLESS LOVE

Gomer somehow had become a slave and Hosea buys her back. That's how persistent love is! That's why Paul says, "Love never ends" (13:8). Everything else ends, but not love. Like God, it never gives up. It continues to woo and pursue us, no matter what we have done and been.

That doesn't mean that Hosea felt loving toward Gomer. The book with his name on it tells us nothing of his feelings. It tells us rather of his actions. Gomer may not appear very lovable, but Hosea rises above his feelings and does the right and redeeming thing.

I wish we knew what happened to Gomer after Hosea's heroic act of love, I wish we could say that she changed and became a perfect spouse. But Hosea doesn't tell us. He did not love Gomer because he was assured that she would respond accordingly and become worthy of his love. Nor do our efforts to do the loving thing carry with them the promise that, if we do, everything will work out all right. Love's only promise is that, if we love, we will be doing precisely what God does with and for us. Loving is its only reward, for it above all else links us to God and his love.

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