



OPINION

The Real Need Of the National Farm Bill

The development of the farm bill in Washington, DC, has taken on a new face this year. Driven by economic factors rather than regional crop interests, cuts in spending on farm programs are likely.

But national farm policy should go beyond the farm bill to bring about reforms that are needed to make farming profitable. Dennis Avery and Dave Juday, writing in the October issue of the Hudson Briefing Paper, say that farmers and others in agriculture are more concerned about the \$65 billion in costs that are part of the regulatory and taxing process than they are about the \$12 billion in annual crop subsidy payments.

If our Congress really wants to help farmers, they should correct some of the problems.

- A one-time tax exemption from capital gains on the sale of a farm by a farmer over age fifty-five.

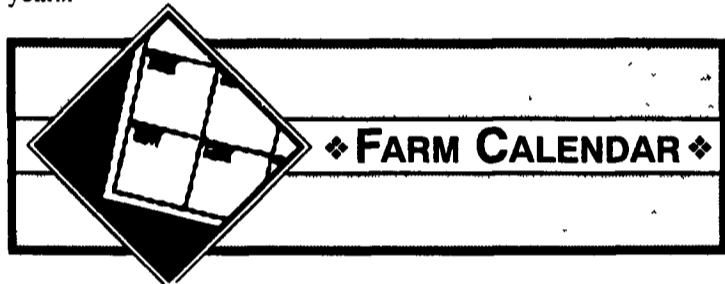
- Provide 100 percent income-tax deduction for health-care costs.

- Provide regulatory relief for farmers affected by wetlands policies.

- Modernize pesticide regulation.

- Renew America's traditional commitment to ag research.

If Congress removes unfair taxation, eases regulatory burdens and helps fund ag research, they will do more to encourage American agriculture than any other farm bill has done in recent years.



Saturday, September 30
Pa. State Maple Meeting and Tour, Monroeton Fire Hall, 9 a.m.
Northeast Lamb Pools, Troy Sales Barn, grading 9 a.m., sale 3 p.m.

Sunday, October 1
Solanco Young Farmer family picnic, Ed and Debbie Zug Farm, 1 p.m.

Monday, October 2
Hollidaysburg Community Fair, Hollidaysburg, thru Oct. 5.

Tuesday, October 3
New Holland Farmers Fair, New Holland, thru Oct. 7.

Where Is Money In Farming? Workshop 3, DuBois, 7 p.m.-9 p.m., also Oct. 10 and 17.

Farm Records Made Easy Workshop Series, Washington County Extension, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., continues Oct. 10.

Handle With Care Roundtable, University of Md. Cooperative Extension sites in College Park, Easton, Salisbury, and Westminster, 7:15 p.m.-9:15 p.m.

Pasture/grazing meeting, Sherman Haas Farm, Rebersburg, 10 a.m.-noon and 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

Twilight Balage Meeting (wrapped-bale haylage), Heidel Hollow Farm, Slatington, 6 p.m.

Maintaining Economic Viability In Ag Workshop, Lighthouse Restaurant, Chambersburg, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Lancaster County Farm Bureau meeting, Hershey Farm Restaurant, 6:45 p.m.

Wednesday, October 4
Keystone International Livestock Exposition, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Oct. 9.
World Dairy Expo, Dane County Expo Center, Madison, Wis., thru Oct. 8.

Where Is Money In Farming?

Workshop 4, Coudersport, 7 p.m.-9 p.m., also Oct. 11 and 18.

Berks County 4-H Market Swine Show and Sale, Leesport Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Dairy Farm Open House, Para Dice Farm, Larry and Roger Dice families, Chambersburg, 9:30 a.m.-noon.

Thursday, October 5
Where Is Money In Farming? Workshop 5, Clearfield, 7 p.m.-9 p.m., also Oct. 12 and 19.

ADADC Dist. 2 meeting, Sahari Restaurant, Carthage, N.Y., 8 p.m.

ADADC Dist. 15 meeting, Randolph Fire Hall, Randolph, N.Y., 8 p.m.

Friday, October 6

Saturday, October 7

Sunday, October 8
Luzerne County Annual Meeting and 4-H Achievement Awards Presentation, Luzerne County Courthouse, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Monday, October 9
Manheim Community Farm Show, Manheim, thru Oct. 13.

Local Solutions To Pa.'s Pollution, Nittany Lion Inn, State College, thru Oct. 11.

Poultry Management and Health Seminar, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, noon.

Tuesday, October 10
Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. annual meeting, Delmarva Convention Center, Delmar, Md.

Dairylea Cooperative Inc. annual meeting, Sheraton Inn, Liverpool, N.Y., thru Oct. 11.

ADADC Dist. 6 meeting, Club 211, Middletown, N.Y., 7:30 p.m.

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

**To Feed
Soybeans Correctly**
Soybeans may be good feed for cows, especially high-producing cows.

Soybeans are high in protein. It is a good quality protein containing a good mixture of the amino acids that cows need.

If the beans are roasted, they are a good source of bypass protein and energy because of their high fat content.

They have the potential to increase milk production, especially in high-producing cows, but they must be fed properly, according to Glenn Shirck, extension dairy agent.

The fat in the bean may interfere with fiber digestion in the rumen. Therefore, total fat intake from the ration must be monitored closely.

Because of their fat content, beans may become rancid if they are ground too far in advance of usage. Raw soybeans contain a trypsin inhibiting enzyme, which interferes with the digestion of protein. Another enzyme, urease, causes the release of urea when raw beans are mixed with urea containing feeds.

When beans are roasted, these two enzymes are destroyed and these problems avoided. Because of these problems, it is suggested that raw beans be limited to no more than 10 percent of the ration dry matter.

If roasted, beans may make up 10 to 15 percent of the total ration dry matter. At higher levels, there is a risk of causing off-flavored milk and throwing cows off feed.

EAYFA monthly meeting, Ephrata High School, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, October 11

**Thursday, October 12
Columbus Day**

Unionville Community Fair, Unionville, thru Oct. 14.

4th Annual Pa. Community Forestry Conference, Days Inn, Penn State, thru Oct. 13.

ADADC Dist. 10 meeting, Brisben Baptist Church, Brisben NY 8 p.m.

ADADC Dist. 17 meeting, Gibson Grange, Gelatt, 8 p.m.

Pa./Va. Turkey Day, Embers Inn and Convention Center, Carlisle, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Friday, October 13
Takings Debate Seminar, Berks County Ag Center, Leesport, 7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

Saturday, October 14
Penn-Ohio Sale, Fairgrounds, Stoneboro, 11 a.m.

N.W. Cattleman's Association 21st Annual Choice Plus Club Calf Sale and Educational Seminar, Mercer County 4-H Park, Mercer.

**To Watch
Soluble Protein**
When cows are fed appreciable amounts of good quality alfalfa haylage and other ensiled feeds, they could be consuming too much soluble protein. In these cases, it would be desirable to replace soybean oil meal, which is high in soluble protein, with a bypass protein feed such as roasted soybeans.

The need for bypass protein increases as milk production increases. But it should be remembered that even high-producing cows need some soluble protein for good rumen function.

A properly functioning rumen is a valuable source of microbial protein, one of the best and cheapest source of bypass protein that ever existed. The amount of proteins that bypass digestion in the rumen increases when beans are roasted, but decreases with grinding and excessive heating.

So, if you need bypass protein, do not overheat or over-process beans.

— Glenn Shirck, extension dairy agent

**To Deal With
High Nitrate Feeds**
If forages are found to contain higher levels of nitrates because of the dry weather, the impact they will have on livestock may be minimized by following a few simple rules.

First, know exactly what the nitrate content of the forage is by testing. Second, feed limited amounts of feeds containing elevated levels of nitrate nitrogen. Third, mix feeds high in nitrate with feeds which are lower in nitrates. Fourth, feed high energy feeds, those with high carbohydrate levels, with vitamin A supplement.

The carbohydrates provide the rumen microflora with energy to convert the nitrates into protein. Fifth, ensiling high nitrate forages for 3 to 4 weeks will reduce nitrates levels by 30 percent.

— Robert Anderson, extension agronomy agent

Feather Prof.'s Footnote:
"Excellence can be yours if you make change a positive word in your life."

**THE BIBLE
SPEAKS**
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE
**THE RIGHT
CREDENTIALS**
October 1, 1995

Background Scripture:
Acts 6:1 through 8:3
Devotional Reading:
Acts 7:54 through 8:3

This may not be the first fuss in a Christian church, but it is the first recorded one: "now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution" (6:1).

We've probably all belonged to a church where somebody murmured against someone else for neglect real or imagined. "The young couples of this church are not very well represented on the church administrative board, Pastor!" "Reverend, you must be aware that those of us who have been here for a long time are getting put out to pasture!" Et cetera, et cetera.

The first church in Jerusalem was essentially composed of two groups: Greek-speaking Jews (Hellenists) and Aramaic-speaking (Hebrews) followers of Jesus. As the congregation pooled their economic goods and resources and then redistributed them among all the people of the congregation, the intention was to distribute these goods equally. But the Aramaic speaking Jews protested that their widows were not getting their fair share.

SERVE TABLES?
The response of the twelve apostles is a little pompous in my estimation: "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables" (6:2). Obviously they didn't inherit that attitude from their master, who on one occasion washed the feet of his disciples (John 13:1-12) and on another said: "For which is the greater, one who sits at table, or one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at table? But I am among you as one who serves" (Luke 22:27).

(That reminds me of the Texan who was surprised when his new preacher fell off his horse. He said he figured all preachers were good on horseback, "spending as much

time on their high horse as they do!")

The solution to the dilemma was a reasonable one. So that the apostles would not have to supervise the waiting on tables, they appointed seven Hellenists to do just that, commissioning the first deacons in the church. Their job was to look after the needs, not only of the Hellenistic widows, but all the needy of the congregation. (Actually the term "deacon" was not used in Acts, but this passage is often regarded as the beginning of the concept of deaconate. Literally, the Greek word may be translated as "servant," "attendant," or "minister" — one who serves.)

JUST A DEACON
There was nothing wrong with this plan, except that, like most of us, the apostles were a bit arrogant in thinking that by commissioning the seven deacons they had neatly divided the responsibilities into two well-defined divisions: (1) those who preach the gospel, and (2) those who minister to the needy. They had attempted to pour the Spirit of God into a bottle.

It is ironic to me then that, immediately following the account of the special commissioning of the seven Hellenists to take care of the mundane tasks of the congregation and free the apostles for the task of preaching the gospel, the writer of Acts follows with several long passages relating the story of Stephen, the man appointed to serve tables who preaches one of the most important — and dangerous! — sermons recorded in the New Testament! He was only authorized by the apostles to do the work of a deacon — certainly not that of an apostle! — but Stephen was "full of grace and power" and he did "great wonders and signs among the people" (6:8).

Later, the writer of Acts says of his opponents, "But they could not withstand the wisdom and the spirit with which he spoke" (6:9).

Like his master, Stephen did not have the right credentials, but he had the power.

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