



**Congratulations!**  
 You survived another round of hectic winter holidays. Now, consider this: there are only 363 days left until the TURN OF THE CENTURY. Pretty sobering thought, huh? Only 363 days left until the world comes to an end. According to the "sky is falling" folks. Only 363 days left until the computers of the world shut down, wreaking havoc with everything from our electrical service to bills for our credit card accounts. According to the Y2K crisis folks. Only 363 days to change our personalities, get our financial houses in order, right any wrongs we've done, apologize to any enemies we've made (intentionally or otherwise), call those folks we've been meaning to call,

write those notes we've been meaning to write, step back, make new people of ourselves, take time to smell the roses and beginning teaching ourselves to write "00" at the end of our dates. Phew! Or in other words, correct in a year all those things in our lives we've been unable to correct for the last whatever decades we've been living and keep promising to do so. Only 363 days to make the world the better place it should be before turning another big page on the calendar of world history. How about some laws (might be more productive than we've been enduring from Washington, D.C. lately) before the TURN OF THE CENTURY to address just a few random things that pop into my mind. Let's fix

- hog getting paid 12-cents a pound for pigs at market when pork cuts are still \$1.79 on sale at retail meat counters;
- the new paper money which looks like Monopoly pieces;
- the smell of manure by altering it to a peppermint scent (Some researchers have reportedly tried feeding garlic to animals and got something reminiscent of a pizza place odor which may or may not be an improvement, depending on your personal opinion).
- ugly, bi-partisan political bashing. (We're sick of it, folks!)
- milking equipment breakdown on Christmas Eve. (Actually The Farmer fixed it in an hour).
- parents who neglect the responsibility to raise their kids properly.
- cows needing milked twice every day. Cut us a break on major holidays and Sunday evenings, girls.
- drivers who cut you off on the highway. The Supreme Court could rule they must spend every other weekend changing tires along the roadside for other motorists.
- calves, lambs and baby pigs picking the most bitter nights of the winter to be born.

- eliminate droughts. Also, floods, famine, pestilence, plagues of grasshoppers. Oh, what the heck, let's do away with war, while we're at it, too.
- telemarketing.
- tearing up one or more acre of productive farmground to build a shopping mall.

- flies.
- cancer.

Sure, there are lots and lots of other things that need fixed before 2000 A.D. But what a different world it would be by the TURN OF THE CENTURY—just 363 days—if we could change even those few.

## Herbs: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly

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- Does echinacea fight off the common cold?
- Can ginkgo biloba enhance memory?
- Will kava-kava provide you with an emotional lift?
- What herbs are good for the immune, digestive, and respiratory systems?

To learn more about the medicinal use of herbs as well as gardening and preserving herbs, two classes — co-sponsored by Penn State Cooperative Extension and the Everlasting Gardener — will be conducted. The morning series will be conducted on Jan. 13, 20, and 27, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. The evening series will be conducted from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., February 18, 25, and March 11. All classes will be at Penn State Cooperative Extension, 1000 Third Street, Beaver. For more information, call the Penn State Cooperative Extension Office at (724) 774-3003.

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