



OPINION

Candidates Should Ignore Rural And Farm Issues At Their Own Peril

Whichever way the extremely close presidential race goes, it is clear that farm and rural votes proved critical in this razor-thin election, said Truth About Trade and Technology, a nonpartisan, pro-trade and technology farm group.

"We were saying all along that farmers and rural voters in America's heartland would prove crucial in this election and this election proved that every vote was critical," said Dean Kleckner, chairman of Truth About Trade and Technology and former head of the American Farm Bureau. "If we need any evidence to prove the importance of these voters, we can just look at the fact that states like Iowa and Wisconsin, heavily populated with farmers and rural voters, were still up for grabs very early into the morning hours.

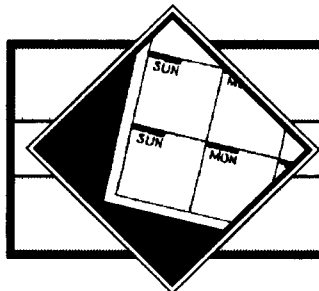
"As we traveled to many heartland states during these past few weeks, we told farmers that this was the most important election in a generation," Kleckner said. "We told them it was critical that they get out and vote and that they pay careful attention to where the candidates stand on the critical issues to America's rural and farm communities.

"On a whole slate of issues, the choices were clear to our communities," Kleckner said. "Will the farm economy be revitalized by expanded trade or stifled by fear and protectionism? Will sound science or scare tactics prevail in the debate to protect the environment? The answers to these questions will determine the fate of the farmer and the families of rural America. The razor-thin margins in many of America's heartland states must send a message that candidates will ignore these issues and voters at their own peril."

Farmers are often told they have no political clout. But this election proves every vote counts.

To comprehend reality, just consider this: With millions of votes cast, the next president of the United States will likely get into office on the strength of several hundred votes.

Who says the farm vote doesn't count?



❖ FARM CALENDAR ❖

Saturday, November 18
Lancaster Holstein Club breakfast, Shady Maple Buffet, 9 a.m.

Susquehanna County Farm-City Feast, Mountain View High School, 7:15 p.m.

Sunday, November 19
Monday, November 20
Passing On The Farm Workshop, Heritage House, Brookville, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 21
Lancaster Chamber of Commerce 24th Annual Ag-Industry Banquet, Lancaster Host Resort, 6:30 p.m.
Solanco Young Farmer meeting, Farm Safety, Solanco High School, 7 p.m.

Passing On The Farm Workshop, Gospel Tabernacle Church, Coudersport, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Ag Service School, Days Inn, Meadville.

Wednesday, November 22
Thursday, November 23
Happy Thanksgiving! Lancaster Farming office closed.

Friday, November 24
National 4-H Congress, Atlanta, Ga., thru Nov. 28.

Saturday, November 25
Sunday, November 26

Monday, November 27
Introduction to Windows and Computers Workshop, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., and Nov. 28, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tuesday, November 28
Wednesday, November 29
NYFEA Institute, Wyoming, thru Dec. 2.
Introduction to Computers

Using Windows, Adams County Extension, thru Nov. 30.

Southeast Grape Industry Association of Pa. Annual Meeting, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Thursday, November 30
Maryland Dairy Industry Association Annual Meeting, Westminster.

Greenhouse Food Production Workshop, Terra Community College, Fremont, thru Dec. 1.
Pre-Conference Dairy Workshop On National Dairy Info Base, Carroll Community College Annex, Westminster, Md., 8 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

Friday, December 1
Lebanon County Dairy Day, Lebanon Valley Expo Center, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Mennonite Farming History In Europe, Christian Aid Ministries Warehouse, Ephrata, 7 p.m.

Saturday, December 2
Future of Our Food and Farms, Radisson, Philadelphia, thru Dec. 3.

4-H Dairy Judging, John George Farm, New York, 8:45 a.m.

Sunday, December 3
Pork 509: Meeting the Need For High Quality, Consistent Pork Products in Ohio, Animal Sciences Building, Ohio State University College Campus, thru Dec. 5.

Tuesday, December 5
Ephrata Area Young Farmers Christmas Event, Ephrata Middle School, 7:30 p.m.

First National Conference On Grazing Lands, Bally's Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nev., thru Dec. 8.



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Use Caution When Cleaning Cabins

As people head out to deer camps or cabins this fall, they will want to take some precautions to safeguard themselves against hantavirus, according to Dr. Gary San Julian, Penn State professor of wildlife resources.

Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome is a rare but potentially fatal lung disease. There have been three cases, of which two were fatal, in Pennsylvania since 1997. Thirty eight percent of the individuals reported to have contracted the virus nationwide have died.

There is cause to be careful, but do not panic.

Public education has reduced the number of reported cases. Several species of wild rodents, such as the deer mouse and the white-footed mouse, have been linked to the virus. You could be at risk when doing anything that puts you in contact with rodent droppings, urine, or nesting materials. Because the virus enters the lungs through contaminated dust, you should avoid touching rodent droppings and raising dust. The symptoms of the disease are nonspecific and include fever, fatigue, and muscle aches.

Patients also may experience headaches, dizziness, chills, and abdominal problems. Symptoms may begin one to five weeks after exposure.

If symptoms occur, check with your physician and mention you may have been exposed to rodent contamination. In later stages, four to 10 days later, patients experience coughing and shortness of breath.

To Clean Hunting Cabins Properly

The following recommendations for prevention and control of hantavirus are offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) when cleaning cabins and deer camps.

- Keep rodents out of cabins and camps by blocking holes and filling cracks.
- Wash all dishes and utensils with hot, soapy water.
- Store food in rodent-proof containers.
- Air out buildings for at least 30 minutes before you start cleaning.
- Wear rubber gloves.
- Spray all materials and surfaces

(wet thoroughly) with a general-purpose disinfectant or detergent where droppings and urine are suspected. Most general-purpose cleaners will do the job. For large areas, use a 10 percent household laundry bleach solution (1.5 cups of bleach per gallon of water). Pick up the wet material with a damp towel, then mop or wipe the area with disinfectant.

• When finished cleaning, bury or burn materials if feasible. Disinfectant your gloves before removing them. Then wash your hands with soap and warm water.

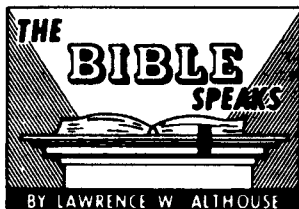
To Segregate Grains

With the introduction of GMO (genetically modified organism) crops and the position some parts of the world have taken on their use, grain producers need to keep asking themselves, "do I have grain that I need to keep segregated?"

According to Shawn Shouse, Iowa State University, a combine even after a thorough cleaning can contain 50 or more pounds of corn. In order to segregate grain adequately for world sales, producers need to flush their combine with a minimum of 60 to 70 bushels of grain in order to reduce contamination levels to less than one percent.

Contamination may come from several sources, including cross-pollination, seed impurities, planting and harvesting equipment, and transportation and storage equipment. Farmers expecting to sell in the international market should check for the latest requirements from the dealers they are selling to.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "If you are not selective, you are not effective."



A BOX TO PUT GOD IN

Background Scripture:
1 Kings 5:1-8; 6:1-22, 37-38; 8:4 through 9:5.

Devotional Reading:
Psalms 84:1-4.

If Solomon was known far and wide, then and now, for his wisdom, the second thing for which he is best remembered was the temple he built in Jerusalem. When it was completed, it would be known for all time as Solomon's Temple.

We have previously seen that God did not want David to build him a temple. Now, however, Solomon was not only permitted to do so, he was encouraged to begin this great project.

Why was David forbidden and Solomon commanded to do so? We do not know, but perhaps it was because the people of Israel erroneously thought of the temple as the place where God dwelled. So maybe the people were ready to think of it not as a place God lived, but where they could come to worship the Lord.

We are told that the building of the temple lasted seven years. The number seven was sacred among many of the Semitic peoples, as well as others. Although originally four had been the favorite holy number of Egypt, seven gradually replaced it. In Mesopotamia, seven was holy from the earliest times.

Seven was even more important for the people of the Old Testament: seven days was the length of many of the festivals, such as the Passover and Feast of the Tabernacles; the Day of Atonement, New Year, and Tabernacles all occur in the seventh month; the Feast of Weeks was based upon the square of seven and seven days was the period of ordination for priests and conse-

creation of altars. In the Temple there were seven altars and the blood of sacrifice was sprinkled seven times.

The seventh day was the completion of creation and basis of the Sabbath observance. Seven-branched candlesticks are mentioned in Revelations and also seven stars and seven churches.

So the completion of the Temple in seven years signifies the tremendous importance it would have in the life of the people.

Where Will God Dwell?

When the Temple was consecrated, in his prayer, Solomon asks: "But will God indeed dwell on the earth?" (8:27). Considering that the Temple is now completed, you may think that Solomon waited pretty late to raise this question.

I believe he raises it again for the sake of the people, so that they understand that no building made by human hands can be the dwelling place for the Lord of the universe.

"Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built."

The Temple was a meeting place with God, but not the dwelling place of the Lord. God cannot be contained within four walls. The Lord is not restricted by anything that human beings can devise or build — buildings, churches, denominations, creeds, rituals, and so on. We cannot put God in a box of our making. We may find him there, but we cannot restrict him to it.

I cannot help but think of the little boy who charged admission to the children of his neighborhood to come into his backyard to see the eclipse. Isn't that our mindset sometimes: come into my denominational, confessional or ritual backyard so that you can find God?

We can find God — or be found by him — in a holy place, but he is not limited to it. The holy place is designated, not for God who doesn't need it, but for us. It is a place where God seems more real, more present to us. That may be your church or it may be the Grand Canyon —

wherever God can break through to us, that is a holy place.

Holy Places

In taking people to the Holy Land, I have frequently been asked, did Jesus actually pray there or is this really the place where he experienced the Last Supper?

Some of those holy places are more likely than others, but I believe others have been made holy, not by what did or did not happen there, but the devotion with which Christians have responded there.

I like to think that the Church of the Nations in Gethsemane is really the place Jesus prayed on the night he was betrayed. But, if it is not the exact place, it doesn't matter, for it is been made a holy place for millions of Christians who have felt his presence there. The prayers of sincere Christians help to sanctify many 'holy places.'

Another indication of Solomon's superior wisdom was his understanding of human nature. At one point (8:46) he prays: "If they sin against thee — for there is no man who does not sin . . ." asking the Lord for forgiveness for the people if they truly seek it. This verse surprised me, because I did not realize that someone so early in the religion of Israel realized that "there is no man who does not sin."

In Jesus' time there were those who acted as if they were without sin. Since Jesus' times Christians have sometimes thought in terms of those who sin and those who do not. But Solomon knew that neither God nor his children can be put into little boxes.

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