

# Lancaster Farming

## OPINION

### Large-Scale Victories

In the past two weeks, in which all of us have had to deal with the gloomiest news since the outbreak of World War II, in which victories have been few and far between, large-scale agriculture advocates may have something to cheer about.

PennAg Industries Association, in their release about a recent "Ag Days" program that focused on agriculture and municipalities, provided a feature topic presentation on "Agricultural Law — Zoning, Farmland Preservation, Nutrient Management, and Local Ordinances" (see story last week on page A28). Christine Kellett, professor of law at the Penn State Dickinson Agricultural Law, Research, and Education Center, spoke.

PennAg outlined that Kellett advised township officials to consult the ag community, conservation district, and township solicitors when formulating ag ordinances to stay "within the realm of the law and avoid conflict."

Kellett informed township officials about a recent decision by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in June 2001, *Naylor v. Township of Hellam*, "determining that a township had no actual or incidental power to impose a moratorium on building approvals."

In other words, townships can't simply decide they don't want large-scale agriculture from appearing on the landscape and start to reformulate existing laws, or even go against established, overriding state or federal laws.

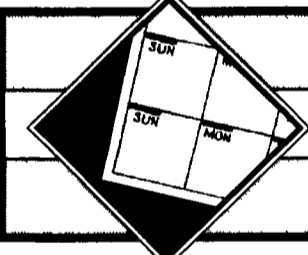
In the case opinion, on page four, it's noted that "Municipal corporations have no inherent powers and may do only those things that the Legislature has expressly or by necessary implication placed within their power to do."

Municipalities "are creatures of the state" and the "authority of the Legislature over their powers is supreme," according to the opinion, posted by Mr. Justice Zappala on June 20, 2001.

The ruling could "affect townships considering moratoriums on large-scale agriculture," according to the PennAg release.

Many agricultural advocate organizations have been drawn into this war between small-minded opponents of family-based or small company-based large-scale, environmentally responsible operations. And it looks like large-scale agriculture is coming out on top, smiling.

The ag economy is the heart and soul of business in many small communities. It's a small world already, and we have to work together.



❖ FARM CALENDAR ❖

- Saturday, September 22**  
 2nd Annual Fawn Grove Olde Tyme Days Fall Gas Engine and Garden Tractor Show and Swap Meeting, southern York County, thru Sept. 23.  
 Penn State Poultry Science Alumni and Friends Reunion, noon-3 p.m.  
 Northeast Small Farm and Rural Living Expo and Trade Show, West End Fairgrounds, Gilbert, thru Sept. 23, (908) 475-6581.  
 Washington County Cattleman's Association Feeder Calf Show and Sale, Washington County Fairgrounds, Meadowlands, (724) 239-3556.  
 Bloomsburg Fair, thru Sept. 29.  
 First State Antique Tractor Club Show, Yoder Farms, Greenwood, Del.  
**Ephrata Fair, Ephrata, thru Sept. 29, (717) 733-4451.**  
 Deer In Your Woods, Bradford County Extension Allen Hall, Mansfield University, 9 a.m.  
 All American Dairy Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Sept. 27.  
 Pa. Dairy Princess Pageant, 4 Points Sheraton, 6:30 p.m.  
 Farm Safety Day Camp, 4-H Center, Bedford County Fairgrounds, Bedford, 9:45 a.m.-2 p.m.  
 Southwest Pa. Watershed Conference, University of Pitts-

- burgh Greensburg Campus Penn's Corner Conservancy. (724) 834-9063.  
 Farm Days, Ohio State University Unger Farm, Bucyrus, Ohio, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
 Lancaster Farmland Trust Annual Picnic, Bob and Debbie Wenger, Quarryville, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.  
**Sunday, September 23**  
 Dairy Antiques and Collectibles Show, Farm Show Complex, thru Sept. 27.  
**Monday, September 24**  
 Pa. All-American Dairy Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Sept. 27.  
 Food and Crafts For Profit Seminar, Keystone College, 9 a.m.-2:45 p.m.  
 ADA District Meeting, Elks Lodge, Nalliston, N.Y., 7:30 p.m.  
**Tuesday, September 25**  
 Pa. Holstein Fall Championship Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 9 a.m.  
 Fall Family Living Day, Trinity Lutheran Church, Williamsport.  
 Morrison Cove Community Fair, thru Sept. 28.  
 Ephrata Fair, thru Sept. 29.  
 Dairy Feeder's Training Workshop, Lebanon County extension office, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.  
 ADA District Meeting, Delaware and Greene Counties,

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**Now Is  
The Time  
By Leon Ressler**  
*Lancaster County  
Extension Director*

#### To Stretch Feed Supplies With Cottonseed Hulls

This year's dry weather has limited forage supplies with hay-crop and corn silage yields both being less than normal. Many dairy producers are going to need to purchase forages to have sufficient feed for this year.

Virginia Ishler, program assistant in the Penn State Dairy and Animal Science Department, reports that hay supplies are tight in the western states as well, so hay prices are expected to be very high this year. However, cottonseed production is expected to be up 16 percent from 2000, which would be the largest production on record.

Many dairy producers are accustomed to feeding whole cottonseed. However, the fat content in cottonseed limits the amount that can be used in a dairy ration. According to Ishler, cottonseed hulls can make a very satisfactory forage substitute

that provides effective fiber. Additionally there is a product on the market that combines cottonseed meal with the hulls and this makes a good substitute for average quality alfalfa hay. With a current price of about \$155-160/ton, this could help stretch limited forage supplies.

In several research projects conducted at Penn State, straight cottonseed hulls have been successfully used both in early lactation diets and dry cow rations. The early lactation study compared cows fed four pounds of cottonseed hulls with 23 pounds of corn silage to a diet containing 29 pounds corn silage. The ration with the hulls contained 47 percent concentrate and the no hulls ration contained 43 percent (percent of the total ration dry matter). Milk production was very similar with both diets. For both of the diets, milk production averaged 105 pounds with 3.5 percent butterfat. Dry matter intake averaged 60 pounds on the hulls ration compared to 56 pounds without hulls.

If you are in a situation where you find your forage supplies are limited, consider cottonseed hulls as an option in your program. As always, when evaluating a new feed ingredient, have your nutritionist evaluate its availability and its fit for your situation.

#### To Plant Cover Crops

Many farmers need to empty their manure storage units during the fall season. This means these crop nutrients are applied to cropland at a time of year when they are not needed by a growing crop. Therefore these nutrients are vulnerable to being lost to the environment because of soil erosion and leaching.

Winter cover crops are a valuable tool farmers can use to prevent this economic loss of valuable nutrients and prevent the environmental damage also caused. If you are applying manure to cropland

this fall, plan on planting a small grain cover crop such as rye.

The rye will take up the available nitrogen and hold it in the plant, preventing its loss to the water supply. If the rye is harvested, the nutrients will be utilized as high-quality feed. If the rye is killed or plowed in the spring, the nutrients will become available to the following crop. The rye will also prevent nutrient loss by slowing soil erosion. Rye can be planted as late as November but the earlier it is planted the more nutrients it will take up and the more yield it will produce in the spring.

#### To Protect Yourself From Frauds, Scams And Rip-Offs

Cathy Bowen from the Penn State Department of Ag and Extension Education reports there are a number of frauds, scams, and rip-offs designed to separate you from your money. Some of the more common ones are work-at-home schemes, sweepstakes offers, investment scams, and advance-fee loans. And free gift offers are rarely free.

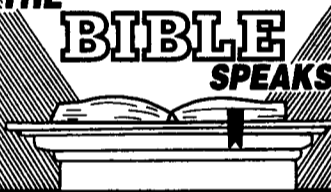
If someone asking for money contacts you, the chances are good that you may be getting scammed. Bowen suggests some signs to watch for are pressure to make a quick decision, demand for immediate payment, too-good-to-be-true offers, or charging a fee to recover lost money. Never give out your credit card, checking account, or social security number to someone who contacts you.

If you suspect fraud, contact the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Consumer Protection Hotline at (800) 441-2555.

Quote of The Week: In light of the ongoing recovery efforts after last week's tragic events, I offer the following words of Dr. Albert Schweitzer:

*"Whosoever is spared personal pain must feel himself called to help in diminishing the pain of others."*

**THE BIBLE SPEAKS**



BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

#### WITH NOTHING BUT FAITH

**Background Scripture:**  
 Matthew 15:21-31.  
**Devotional Reading:**  
 Luke 4:16-21.

Going from Israel to the district of Tyre and Sidon was not like going from Texas to Oklahoma or from Pennsylvania to New Jersey. Israel was the home of monotheistic Judaism, and Tyre and Sidon were cities of a polyglot pagan population, including some Canaanites. Jesus was journeying from one world to another. Appalled as the disciples were when they found him conversing with a Samaritan woman (John 4), they were even more shocked when Jesus was approached by a Canaanite woman.

This nameless woman had no background in Judaism — she knew nothing about the preaching and teaching of Jesus. All she knew was that this man was purported to be the Jewish Messiah and a gifted healer. So she came to Jesus, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon" (15:21). She had nothing to offer

but her love for her daughter and a dogged persistence.

The first few times I read the following dialogue with Jesus, I was puzzled.

The replies that Jesus made to her seemed totally out of keeping with the compassionate Jesus of Nazareth I had encountered up to this point. Then it occurred to me that what Jesus was voicing were not his own thoughts, but those of his disciples and others. In a sense, Jesus was putting on the Canaanite woman, fencing verbally with her so as to prod the prejudices of his disciples.

#### The Silent Response

To her initial plea, Jesus "did not answer her a word." From time to time, Jesus responded with silence as he was silent when he bent to write with his finger in the earth before the woman taken in adultery, as he stood silent before both Herod and Pilate and on other occasions. His silence triggered an urgent request from his disciples and perhaps that was his intention: "Send her away, for she is crying after us." They were embarrassed lest anyone should think she was one of their band. As if to support this request, Jesus finally answers the woman: "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

That probably would have chased away most others, but not this persistent woman. Instead of being repulsed by his words, she came even closer to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." Notice that she does not reply to his argument about being sent only to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel." Her focus is much more simple than that: "Lord, help me." This is not theological but personal.

Jesus responds with a bit of rea-

soning that may have reflected the thinking of his disciples: "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." That's what Jews called the Canaanites, "dogs." That must have been what his disciples were thinking, so Jesus brought it out into the open. As the disciples probably saw it, this woman did not deserve to make any requests of their Master. But they had forgotten that no one is deserving of God's grace.

#### Crumbs Under The Table

The Canaanite woman was undeterred by Jesus' terrible announcement and she replies, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table."

Persistent, she was nevertheless humble. She did not demand to be treated as an equal, but rather pleaded for the grace of God. Then Jesus rewarded her faith and persistence: "'O woman, great is your faith. Be it done for you as you desire.' And her daughter was healed instantly."

What did Jesus mean when he said, "... great is your faith"? How could this Canaanite woman have any kind of faith? Here again the word "faith" means "trust." She had no theology, no belief system, but she trusted this man Jesus and that trust was the opening through which healing was brought to her daughter.

She was only a Canaanite woman. She had only love, faith, and persistence.

And it was enough.

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