

# Lancaster Farming

## OPINION

### For Real Reform, Set A Deadline

We've spoken many times about how property tax should be reformed, and though the issue is big for the state gubernatorial candidates, that's all it's been — talk.

However, speaking at the recent Cornucopia in Harrisburg, one legislator has a more practical solution.

State Sen. Michael A. O'Pake (D-11th), said Pennsylvania should act like Michigan and set a deadline. That deadline would put a real reform into place.

O'Pake spoke about Senate Bill 1239, which he introduced in January this year, that would mandate the end of the power to tax at the local level after June 30, 2004. That would give state government two years to come up with a solution.

You can view the complete bill on the Internet at <http://www2.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/BI/BT/2001/0/SB1239P1644.pdf>. The bill is in the Pennsylvania Senate Committee on Finances.

In Michigan, this type of legislative solution helped remove the "oppressive burden" of property tax for homeowners and farmers, according to the state senator.

"It's the first step," said O'Pake. "We have to do that. It's a better and fairer solution."

We agree with O'Pake. The current system is antiquated and oppressive. It hurts people of middle income and the farm community in general.

We support bills that take these kind of oppressive and unfair taxes off the backs of farmers.



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

#### To Scout For Cereal Rust Mites In Timothy

Mark Goodson, agronomy agent in York County, suggests timothy growers be prepared to scout for cereal rust mites and to treat with insecticide if necessary. Adult rust mites are very small (less than 1 millimeter in size). They are spindle-shaped, with four legs and may be white, yellow, or orange.

You will need a 10 to 20X hand lens to see them. Evidence of their presence on the plant is off-colored foliage and leaf or bud abnormalities, similar to drought stress. The mites overwinter in the adult and egg stages. Eggs from overwintering adults are deposited in the leaf vein grooves. The eggs appear as very small spherical yellow balls.

The immature stages are similar to the adult, but smaller. Immatures begin hatching in March, with the peak adult populations being reached in April. Damage is most evident in April and May.

Severe mite infestations have two negative impacts on Pennsylvania

growers. Feeding injury causes substantial yield losses and reduces hay quality because of a brown discoloration. Horse producers are reluctant to buy hay that is not the normal color of quality timothy.

Growers should check fields now for the presence of small round eggs in the leaf veins. Although scouting procedures have not been fully developed, it is always a good idea to take a representation sample across the field. Populations can begin in isolated pockets. A few mites can rapidly develop into an economic problem.

There are no established economic thresholds for the pest. Treatment is recommended, however, in fields with a previous history of cereal rust mites and/or when 25 percent of the plant tillers exhibit curled tips on the new leaf blades within several weeks following green-up. Research is under way to develop better monitoring plans and an economic threshold.

Data provided by Dr. Marvin Hall of the Department of Crops and Soil Sciences at Penn State compares Pennsylvania economic loss with and without the use of a trademarked carbaryl product during the 2000 season. Net revenue per acre (average) with and without miticide treatment is estimated to be \$303 and \$181, respectively, a net increase of \$122 per acre. For more information, refer to <http://www.ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/cerealarust.htm> on the Internet.

The only known and registered method of managing the pest is a properly timed application of the carbaryl product. Research trials at the University of Maryland in 1999 and 2000 indicated that the carbaryl product applied at 3 pints per acre provides effective control of cereal rust mites in timothy. Because mite stages are concealed in the leaf blade grooves, a spray volume of 20 or more gallons with a ground applicator is required to achieve adequate coverage and penetration to the mites.

Higher water volumes should be used for improved mite control. If scouting indicates you have a prob-

lem, spray approximately four weeks after green-up in the spring. This usually occurs around early to mid-April in the eastern and central counties of Pennsylvania where most timothy is grown. Only one application per cutting at 3 pints per acre of formulated material is allowed per season, and it must be applied more than 30 days before harvest or grazing.

#### To Develop Your Food Processing Idea Into A Business

Got a great new snack food idea? Ready to market Grandma's chicken salad recipe? People looking to turn family recipes into money-making businesses now have access to valuable information on the food processing business, thanks to a special Web-based service developed by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

"Resources for Small Food Processors and Potential Entrepreneurs" is a Website created by Luke LaBorde, assistant professor of food science, to introduce budding business owners to the fundamentals of food processing technology and regulations.

The site (<http://foodsafety.cas.psu.edu/processor/ent-res-text2.htm>) is designed to answer the most frequently asked questions surrounding commercial food processing.

"Many people have an old family recipe for a barbecue sauce, salad dressing, or salsa that they think tastes better than what's on the market," LaBorde said. "Our site offers a variety of resources available in Pennsylvania and other states to answer key questions."

More than 90 online resources have been collected and categorized into various sections. The site also has links to food testing laboratories, equipment and packaging resources, and direct marketing opportunities and farm alternatives.

#### Quote Of The Week:

"Many people mistake our work for our vocation. Our vocation is the love of Jesus."

— Mother Teresa

### FARM CALENDAR

Saturday, March 30

Pond Management for Irrigation, Livestock, Recreation, Biglerville Fruit Lab, (717) 240-6500. Maryland Goat Conference, Carroll County Ag Center, Westminster, Md., 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., (410) 386-2760.

Sunday, March 31

Happy Easter!

Monday, April 1

Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit annual stockholders meeting, Modern Maturity Center, Dover, Del., 6 p.m.

"Ten Ways to Improve Profit without Expanding" for dairy producers, Country Cupboard

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### FARM FORUM

#### Editor:

The state says to preserve farmland, yet they seize and destroy farmland for whatever reason they want.

We are owners of farmland enrolled in Clean and Green, which is third highest priority under the Agricultural Land Preservation Policy.

Our farm has been in the family for three quarters of a century. Ten acres were seized without any just compensation or payment for the land in September of 2001 by an elementary school for athletic field, parking, and future purposes.

The elementary school already has 12 acres, which is more than sufficient. The school has not complied with procedure of law to condemn, thereby destroying our constitutional rights.

We are fighting this action ourselves without a lawyer.

This abuse of power is happening all over the state all the time, but is not being publicized, and more people need to get involved. Anyone interested in how to fight government misuse of eminent domain and its two-faced stance

on preservation should attend our court case on April 3, court room number 2, at 3 p.m. at the Lycoming County Courthouse in Williamsport. Any favorable comments or questions should be directed to the Horner Family at (856) 327-3877.

The Horner Family

#### Editor:

Shiny new pickup trucks are a common sight today in suburban shopping malls.

I'm told that sporty little pickups even have a certain cachet with Yuppie couples.

If you happen to be one of those people who drive a pickup for fun or for style, I wish you well, but what I have to say doesn't really concern you.

On the other hand, if you are one of the millions of Americans who drive a pickup for work, especially agricultural work, pay close attention. Because our own federal government is considering legislation that would mean the end of pickups as you know and use them.

The U.S. Senate is considering legislation that would raise the

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### THE BIBLE SPEAKS

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

### THE EASTER LIFE

Background Scripture: John 20:1-18; Romans 6.  
Devotional Reading: Romans 6:9-13.

It is always interesting to me to find Mary Magdalene figuring so prominently in the gospel accounts of the resurrection.

In Matthew 28, there are only two disciples, Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary," who go to the garden tomb and find it empty. On their way to tell the disciples, they encounter the risen Lord.

In Mark 16 there are three women — Salome is added to the two Marys — who find the empty tomb. Luke also lists three women but, instead of Salome, he names Joanna. In John 21, Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb alone, finds the stone rolled away, and goes to summon Simon Peter "and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved." When they find the tomb empty, they return to their homes. But Mary stays at the tomb and encounters first two angels and then the risen Christ.

I would have expected that certain other disciples would have played the

prominent role in these accounts: Simon Peter, because of his leadership role among the disciples; James, the brother of Jesus, as future head of the Jerusalem church; John, because he was almost certainly "the other disciple . . . whom Jesus loved"; and Mary, the mother of Jesus, in light of her role in Roman Catholicism. Altogether, Mary Magdalene is mentioned only a dozen times in the four gospels.

#### Mary Magdalene

To me, this is a revolutionary note, indicating that the experience of the risen Christ is not governed by human priorities. Magdalene was not one of the Twelve, but even more shocking is the fact that she was a woman!

Jewish men and women were not permitted to worship together in the main portion of the synagogue, but the gospel records make it clear that the first Easter greetings from human lips came from her.

There is another sense in which Easter is for everyone. To be sure, the Easter story is focused on Christ's victory over sin, death, and the grave. But we must understand that Easter is not only about Christ's victory, but also ours.

Easter is not only about the resurrection of Christ. Easter is also about us, our death and resurrection.

Paul uses the analogy of Christian baptism: "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death . . ." (6:4). Paul also says: "We know that our old self was crucified with him . . ." (6:6). He goes on to say that we have "died with Christ" (6:8). In other words, when we become disciples of Christ, it means the death of our former way of living. You cannot follow him without something chang-

ing significantly in your life. If, after you have committed yourself to Christian discipleship, your life is not somewhat different, then you probably are not his disciple.

#### The New Life

Easter is about both the death of the old life and the birth of a new life: ". . . so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (6:4). Life without Christ is life under the "dominion" of death.

Our mortality colors and structures everything. Humanly speaking, death is the one experience to which all creatures are subject. Money, position, and power do not shield us from the grave. What we think of death has a controlling effect upon the way we live.

"But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:" (6:8). This is not a matter of being lucky enough to be resurrected as Christ was, nor of being good enough so that we may make the same claim on God. If we "live with him," we will share the Easter victory. Getting "resurrection" or "life eternal" is not the goal: living with him is and then life eternal is one, but only one, of the results.

Just as Jesus promised, ". . . seek his kingdom, and these things shall be yours as well," so Paul is saying "live with him" and you will experience the resurrected life both before and after death.

The Easter faith is for both conquering death and living life.

### Lancaster Farming

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