

Growing Hay Is Now Against The Law?

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and internal adversaries.

Last week an appeals court of the United States of America has found that our pledge of allegiance is offensive and unconstitutional. Fortunately and reassuringly, there is a groundswell of incredulous disbelief that this occurred and a national sense that the ruling will not be allowed to stand.

Environmental law is being used as a vehicle to commandeer private property without just compensation. The examples are numerous, the farmer who lost his farm because of some endangered field rat, or the farming community that lost their crops for a number of seasons because they could not irrigate due to the potential damage to a fish habitat. Soon even your pickup truck may be a thing of the past, thanks to environmental concerns. The list could continue for pages.

Here in Pennsylvania we often see these infringements as a faraway problem. Most times it is some one else's headache. Not any more.

On July 1, Lynn Township, Lehigh County, informed me and my family, by letter, that a 12-acre field of timothy that has not yet been mowed for hay violates township ordinances. The body of the letter follows:

Dear Ms. Pergosky,

It has been brought to our attention that you are in violation of Township Ordinance # 86-2, Otherwise known as the "weed control ordinance of the Township of Lynn". This ordinance requires that the property owners do not allow vegetation to exceed a height of 12" and must mow by June 1st and August 15th annually.

Failure to mow this vegetation, weeds and grass, could result in fines and

penalties being levied by Lynn Township.

Please attend to this matter and have your property mowed within 15 days of receipt of this notice to avoid prosecution.

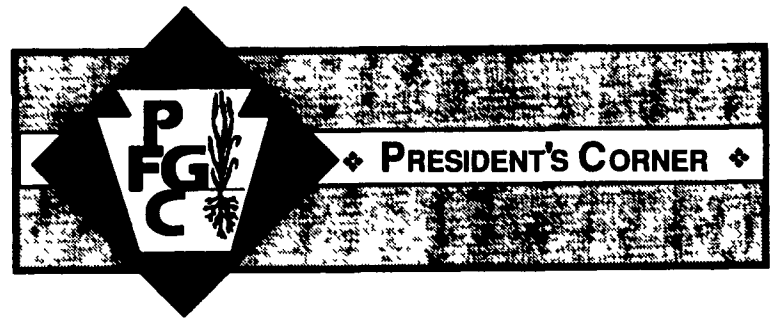
Sincerely, (signed by administrator.)

This letter sent a cold chill through my body on one of the hottest days of the year.

If this field of timothy hay violates the ordinance, so does each and every other field that I harvest for hay. So does the growing of corn, wheat, oats, soybeans, and virtually all other crops.

Does this ordinance put me out of business?

What about my neighbors — are they too in violation of this ordinance? Locally we are a large agricultural community. Our nonfarm neighbors have joined up in a loud and self righteous cry for farmland preservation. However, absent from their refrain are con-



cerns about farmer preservation.

I have written the township asking them to clarify their position, hoping that I have misread their notice of violation. To be fair, they haven't had time yet to respond, but I think the notice is clear.

Our various bodies of government have grown into a position which allows them to tell us when to mow our grass, take our property rights for the benefit of other agendas, and inhibit our display of a belief in God on whose principles this nation was founded. All this is disguised as protection of a vaguely defined, or unidentified, potentially injured, third party, in need of protection from good, hard-

working, and honest individuals.

I grew up believing that the United States of America was the best place in the world in which to live. I still believe that. With freedom comes a responsibility to protect the rights and freedoms guaranteed to us by our venerable constitution. Many have given the ultimate sacrifice of their lives, protecting freedoms we as a nation have been enjoying for the past 226 years. We need not rise up in arms but in voice to decry the injustices to ourselves and our neighbors. This is what I believe is meant when we used to be able to say: ONE NATION UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.



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