

# Lancaster Farming

## OPINION

### Law And Relationships

What was it that Poor Richard (Ben Franklin) noted: the only things certain in life are death and taxes? Could he have meant death and "legislation"?

Farmers are forever caught up in the complexity of farming in an urbanized world. But how many of you understand the laws and the relationships built before those state and township regulations were enacted?

More than ever before, township officials are attempting to dictate exactly where to farm, how to farm, and why. So it's time for *Lancaster Farming* to introduce a new column by John Bell, counsel, governmental affairs with the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, called "Law of the Land." The column appears for the first time on page 1 this issue.

Bell's column will provide an update into the potential legal problems and benefits that may arise in the course of everyday agriculture.

The June 2003 issue of *Agri Marketing Magazine* includes a story about "CRMs." CRM stands for customer relationship management.

What is farming and industry more about, anymore, than relationships? In this world where anybody's past can come up as a result of an Internet search, there is little to hide.

In the case of business and CRM, the buzzword simply denotes keeping data on exactly what customers by and why. That "relationship" the CRM owners have on the data is similar to the local farm store when they know what kind of feed and supplies customers are looking for, and what they're willing to pay. It should be the same kind of relationship farmers have about what kind of decisions are going to be made by the different personalities down at the township office and throughout the corridors at the capitol.

Bell is scheduled, on a quarterly basis, to provide some updates and insight into developing legislative issues. But remember, the column in no way is a substitute for professional legal advice.

These, as the Chinese saying goes, could be considered "interesting times" indeed.



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

#### To Apply For The Century Farm Designation

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for the Century Farm Program. To qualify the farm must be owned by the same family for 100 consecutive years to the date of the application. A family member must live on the farm on a permanent basis. Additionally, the farm must consist of at least 10 acres of the original holdings or gross more than \$1,000 annually from the sale of farm products. This program honors the family farm and the rural traditions of Pennsylvania that are important for the continued growth of the commonwealth.

For applicants in Lancaster County, information about the program, applications, and assistance in filling out the application may be obtained from the Lancaster County Cooperative Extension Office at (717) 394-6851. Century Farm nominees from Lancaster County whose applications are processed by Oct. 1 will be honored at the Lancaster County Farm-City Ag-Chamber Banquet on Nov. 24.

For Century Farm applicants in other counties, applications and assistance can be obtained directly from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture at (717) 787-5085. The application is also available on the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Website ([www.agriculture.state.pa.us](http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us)).

#### To Prevent Fly Problems In Livestock Production Using IPM

Much of the livestock industry in Pennsylvania is located near urban residents who do not appreciate having flies in their backyard and homes. During the summer months, homeowners spend a lot of their time outdoors and the reproduction rate of flies is the highest. This makes management efforts to control flies very crucial to good neighbor relations.

Regional poultry agent Gregory Martin points out that integrated pest management or IPM is not really a new concept. Farmers who have adopted IPM controls in their crops have been successful at controlling insect pests while reducing the overall cost of pest control. Livestock producers too can use this program as well to help both in reducing the amounts of chemicals used to control insects while timing the use of spraying and other control methods to optimize their effects in reducing fly populations. The cornerstone of this approach is to use best management practices (BMPs) on the farm that actually helps keep populations from growing out of hand.

A key feature of fly IPM on the farm is the use of scouting to determine the types of flies and number of flies present. "Spec" cards are 3 x 5 inch white cards that can be hung throughout the livestock building to help determine fly outbreaks. Fly spec counts that reach more than 50 on one half of the card are considered high counts. These cards should be changed weekly and tallied so that fly numbers can be monitored on the farm on a constant basis.

The use of sticky tape exposed for short durations also can be used to

determine fly counts as well as the type of flies that are in the area.

Controlling the environment is crucial to the success of a Livestock IPM program. Flies that do not have food or water resources will quickly die out or move on. Since most feedstocks contain some form of protein, there are many potential feeding sites on a farm. By controlling water and feed spillage along with drying the manure or litter, managers can go a long way toward fly control. Other areas to watch are the compost areas and feed bins near livestock housing.

Manure and bedding should be handled in a way which helps reduce fly numbers prior to spreading. Tarping manure piles for 14 days prior to spreading and the use of stacking sheds to lower moisture content have been successful in poultry operations. Spread materials according to your nutrient management plans and try to get the manure into the growing zone. Spot check the fields to determine if successful incorporation of the materials has been achieved.

When it is time for fly population control, try to match the severity of the cure to the level of the population encountered. At times a "knock-down" spray may be called for, while with lower populations, natural insect predators could be used.

With flies in the household/backyard, it is important to read and use controls appropriate to the location. Fly traps are very effective in catching insects but are best used 30-50 feet away from the house to help draw them away. Fly electrocution devices are best used in closed housing ("zappers"). With any controls, please read, understand and follow all instructions that come with your fly control sprays and devices.

Good IPM doesn't require extraordinary efforts, but you will get out of it what you put into it. As with all other management programs on the farm, the better you are at it the more it pays in the long run.

#### Quote Of The Week:

*"Leadership: the art of getting someone else to do what you want done because he wants to do it."*

— Dwight D. Eisenhower

### FARM CALENDAR

#### Saturday, August 9

- South Central Pa. Holstein Championship Show, Fairgrounds, Shippenburg, 9:30 a.m.
- Washington County Ag Fair, thru Aug. 16, (724) 225-7718.
- Composting Seminar, Romano, 4-H Center, Honey Brook, 10 a.m., (610) 696-3500.
- Tioga County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Whitneyville, 9 a.m.
- Gardeners Selects Open House and Tour, Rudy Park, York, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., (717) 840-7408.
- Chester County 4-H Dairy Show, Romano Center, near Honey Brook, 9:30 a.m.
- Blueberry Festival, Bradford County Jr. Holstein Club, Crawford Farm, Windham, 8 p.m., (570) 265-2896.

#### Sunday, August 10

- Potato Association of America Annual Meeting, Spokane, Wash., thru Aug. 14, (800) 325-4000.
- Garrett County, Maryland Fair, McHenry, Md., thru Aug. 16, (301) 387-5408.
- Bullskin Twp. Community Fair, Fayette County, (724) 887-3986.
- Erie County Fair, Wattsburg, (814) 739-2232.
- Huntingdon County Fair, Huntingdon, (814) 643-4452.
- McKean County Fair, Smethport, (814) 887-5361.
- Chester County 4-H Horse Show, Romano Center, near Honey Brook, 8 a.m.

#### Monday, August 11

- Dayton Fair, thru Aug. 16, (814) 257-8332.
- Kutztown Fair, thru Aug. 16, (610) 683-7696.
- Lawrence County Fair, (724) 654-7745.
- Montour-Delong Community Fair, thru Aug. 16, (570) 437-2176.
- Queen Anne County Maryland

County Fair, Fairgrounds, (410) 758-0267.

Ohio Pumpkin Field Day, Western Branch of Ohio R & D Center, 4-6 p.m., (937) 454-5002.

#### Tuesday, August 12

- Pike County Fair, thru Aug. 17.
- New York Organic Crops and Soils Field Day, Jordan Hall, New York State Ag Experiment Station, Geneva, (607) 255-5439.
- Bradford County Junior Holstein Club annual Blueberry Festival, Crawford Dairy Farm, Windham, 7:30 p.m., (570) 265-2896.
- Grazing Walk in Berks County, Greener Pastures Farm, Shartlesville, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., (610) 378-1327.
- Huntingdon County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, 9:30 a.m.
- Chester County Holstein Field Day, Samuel Matthews Farm, Chester Springs, 10 a.m.

#### Wednesday, August 13

- Pasture Walk, Sherman Haas, Rebersburg.
- Middletown Grange Fair, thru Aug. 17.
- Thresherman's Reunion (Rough & Tumble Engines), Route 30, thru Aug. 16.
- Ohio Turfgrass Research Field Day, Columbus, Ohio, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., (800) 510-5296.
- PAW Summer Walk Around, Stewart Vineyard, Stewartstown, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Ohio Soil and Water Field Night, Vanmeter Farm, Piqueton, Ohio, 6 p.m.-9 p.m., (614) 294-4900.
- Kutztown Fair Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Kutztown.
- Maryland Small Fruit Twilight Meeting, Catoctin Mountain Orchard, 6 p.m., (301) 432-2767, ext. 315.
- Land Use and Property Values meeting, Berks County Ag Center,

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### THE BIBLE SPEAKS

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

### BAD NEWS AND GOOD NEWS

#### Background Scripture:

Joel 1 through 2.

#### Devotional Reading:

Acts 2:14-23.

I have never witnessed a truly serious natural disaster. We read about them and see images of them on TV, but unless we have personally experienced one of them, it is difficult to really identify with them.

The prophetic occasion for Joel is an unprecedented plague of locusts that engulfed the land of Israel, devouring its plant life and plunging the nation into a dangerous famine. We can hardly appreciate just how devastating they can be. Joel paints a picture of the tragic extent: "What the cutting locust left, the swarming locust left, the hopping locust left, the hopping locust has eaten, and what the hopping locust has left, the destroying locust has eaten" (1:4).

Our society has become so technological society that we forget about our dependence upon the living earth. We need to be reminded from time to time that milk actually origi-

nates in cows, not pasteboard cartons, and green beans did not germinate and grow in our freezers. Dwight E. Stevenson says that "If a plague like that pictured in Joel should assail America, the people of our cities would be starving in a few weeks."

#### Dependent Upon God

Joel used this devastating plague to get their attention with the bad and good news of God. Disaster impresses upon us the fact of our dependence. This is particularly sobering to us because we think we are quite independent of God. Disasters help us to realize that we are not as self-sufficient as we assume. Our arrogant pride is humbled by this realization. Joel shocks them into acknowledging their dependence upon God.

Joel is also uses this occasion to remind people that God is their judge. This should not be so startling for any of us — but it often is. When things are going well for us either as individuals or nations — we forget about God's judgment because we think it is intended for others, not us. We assume that God is as satisfied with us as we are! When we are most self-satisfied, our arrogant pride is almost unimaginable.

In Joel 3:2, Joel speaks of the "valley of Jehoshaphat." This is not a real place but an allegory of God's judgment for the name means "Yahweh has judged." All of us will have to journey through a valley of Jehoshaphat, because we ignore sin's long-term consequences, especially when it seems that we have quietly gotten away with them.

#### Read Your Hearts

So Joel makes an impassioned plea for repentance: "Yet even now,"

says the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments" (2:12-13).

What God demands is sincere repentance, not just rituals and empty words. It is easy to say "I'm sorry," (well, not for everyone), but it is a lot harder to repent because repentance may involve words, but it goes a long way beyond. "Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love..." (v.13b).

Joel's good news is that the Day of the Lord will mean three important changes in the world. First, there will be a renewal of nature: "The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will restore to you the years which the swarming locusts has eaten..." (2:24,25). Secondly, the human spirit will also be renewed. This will be a spiritual renewal: "And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and daughter shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions..." (2:28).

Finally, there will be the advent of international justice. Human beings always forget or overlook the fact that God is passionately concerned with justice. "Let the nations bestir themselves. And come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the nations round about" (3:12) If we will respond to it, God's good news is always infinitely better than his bad news is bad.

### Lancaster Farming

Established 1955  
Published Every Saturday  
Ephrata Review Building  
1 E. Main St.  
Ephrata, PA 17522  
—by—  
**Lancaster Farming, Inc.**  
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William J. Burgess General Manager  
Andy Andrews, Editor  
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### Lancaster Farming

An Award-Winning Farm Newspaper

- PDA Friend of Agriculture Award, 2003
- Keystone Awards 1993, 1995
- PennAg Industries 1992
- PACD Media Award 1996
- Berks Ag-Business Council 2000
- Recognized for photo excellence throughout the years by the Northeast Farm Communicators