

## Law of the Land

(Continued from Page A1)

lems and benefits that may arise in the course of everyday agriculture, according to Bell.

Remember, this column is not a substitute for legal advice. It is merely a "primer" into how future legislation could impact you as a farmer, and insights into the legislative issues farmers have to face.

### THE LEGAL SIDE OF AGRICULTURE

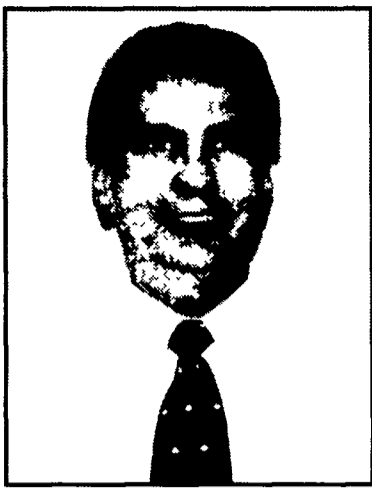
Editor Andy Andrews has given me a great opportunity to write a quarterly news column on legal matters related to agriculture.

I have had the honor for the past 20 years to work as legal counsel for Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. During this time, many farmers have contacted me to ask questions about laws pertaining to agriculture and solutions to particular legal problems they faced.

Some answers were easy. Many were not. Numerous problems farmers told me were so complex that I could not predict what the outcome would finally be or whether the outcome would be costly to the farmer.

Unfortunately, many farmers facing serious legal problems do not begin to ask questions or get help until it is too late to resolve their problems easily. Many of these problems could have been avoided or significantly taken care of if the farmer asked questions or sought help sooner.

My hope in writing this column is to raise your awareness of how laws can and do impact your farming operations and what rights and obligations you may have in operating your farm business. Through my attempt to raise your awareness, I hope to make you think and ask questions about how laws may apply in your everyday operations and your normal business dealings and encourage you seek answers to your questions sooner, rather than later.



John Bell

When a parent sees that his or her child is not feeling quite right, the parent often thinks of taking the child to the doctor to better ensure the child will not develop a more serious problem. I hope my column will help you develop a better sense about the legal well-being of your particular farm activities and business dealings and to better sense when you need to seek professional legal to avoid serious problems. Believe me, the money you spend now to prevent these problems now will be far less than the money you will spend to deal with them later.

Many people may try to read this column as providing "legal

advice." They may believe this column will provide all the information they need to know about the area of the law being written about, and they will decide not to seek legal counsel.

Please do not make that mistake. This column will never replace the advice and counsel you need to get from an attorney who is reviewing your particular situation.

My column will be more general in focus. It may not cover every legal feature that may apply to you. You and your farm operation may suffer serious consequences if these features are not considered and accounted for. You can only account for all these features if you get the proper assistance and guidance from an attorney who is familiar with your situation.

In future issues, I plan to write about Pennsylvania's Clean and Green Act and Ag Area Security Law, the legal protections that state laws provide to farms, features of Pennsylvania's Nutrient Management Act, and other laws of interest to agriculture. I would welcome other suggestions you may have of topics that I should discuss.

I am looking forward to writing this column, and hope it will help you to get the law to work better for you.

## Corn Silage Programs On Franklin County Farm

DAUPHIN (Dauphin Co.) — On Thursday, Aug. 14 from 9:30 a.m. until noon in Franklin County an on farm program will be conducted to discuss the latest issues of corn silage production, harvest, and utilization. In addition to production management discussion will include recommendations and diagnostic procedures to evaluate bunker silo management practices.

Dr. Robert Van Saun, PSU Veterinary Sciences Department will lead the group in an exercise in a bunker silo to evaluate bunker silage for optimum feed utilization. Discussion will include: silage density determination, particle size, moisture, and pH. In addition Dr. Van Saun will highlight herd health issues related to bunker silo feeds, including haylage and corn silage.

Dr. Greg Roth, PSU Department of Crop and Soil Sciences will present updated information related to the selection of corn hybrids for silage use. Dr. Roth has been working with the Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania and the seed industry to conduct on-farm silage trials. Trials have been estab-

lished in Franklin, Lancaster, Centre, and Perry County.

Additional discussion will be conducted on correct moisture determination and recommendations for silage production, proper packing techniques, processing silage, the role of inoculants, environmental impacts of bunker silos, and bunker silo management.

This program will take place at Burk-Lea Farm, Grand Point Road, Chambersburg. Burk-Lea Farm is accessible from the Scotland Exit, number 20, off I 81. Travel north on Rt. 997 toward Scotland. Turn left at the M & T Bank, onto Main St. After several blocks, turn left onto Scotland Rd. Travel approximately 0.8 miles and you will come to a stop sign. Go straight across onto Grand Point Rd. Burk-Lea Farm is 0.4 miles ahead on the right.

There is no cost to attend but pre-registration is requested to assist in coordinating this event. Call the Franklin County Extension office, (717) 263-9226 or the Dauphin County Extension office at (717) 921-8803.

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**PROFESSIONAL**

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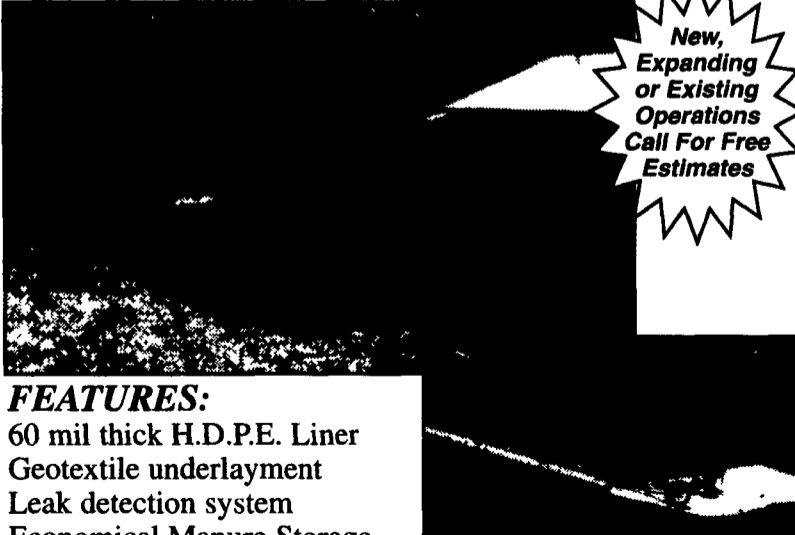
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