



OPINION

Trial Lawyer Industry Bigger Than Revenues Of Microsoft, Intel, Or Coca-Cola

Editor's note: We are a litigation-happy society, and this report proves it. This editorial is reprinted permission of the PMA Bulletin, published by the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association, Sept. 29 issue. Website is www.pamanufacturers.org.

A new study of the U.S. lawsuit industry reveals that total tort costs now exceed \$200 billion per year, or more than 2 percent of America's gross domestic product. The report, which was released last week by the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, extrapolates that — assuming an average take of 19 percent in fees — the nation's trial lawyers rake in roughly \$40 billion per year. For perspective, \$40 billion is double the annual revenue of the Coca-Cola company and 150 percent of the annual revenues of Microsoft or Intel.

James R. Copeland, director of the institute's Center for Legal Policy, says in the study's introduction "while our figures on the size of the lawsuit industry are estimates — due to the industry's lack of transparency — those estimates are sparingly conservative."

Among the study's other findings:

- Even as the U.S. economy has stagnated and the stock market has plunged, the lawsuit industry's revenues have continued to skyrocket: in 2001, the last year for which data is available, U.S. tort costs grew by 14.3 percent.

- Over the last 30 years, tort costs grew at a compound annual rate of 9.1 percent; by comparison, the U.S. population grew by 1.1 percent annually, the consumer price index grew 5 percent annually, and the gross domestic product grew 7.6 percent annually during the same period.

The entire report is available online at www.TrialLawyersInc.com.



Now Is The Time
By Leon Ressler
Lancaster County Extension Director

To Carefully Feed This Year's Corn Silage

Each harvest season it is important to evaluate the quality of your corn silage and adapt your total nutrition program to balance what is coming out of your silo. This is especially important this year, when many farmers who normally use corn binders harvested their corn with choppers. Many of these machines were equipped with kernel processors and it is important to understand that this will make very different silage than what you may have been feeding in the past.

Lancaster County dairy agent Beth Grove reports that silage that has been chopped with a processor on the harvester has up to 7 percent more energy than what is found in unprocessed silage. Studies have shown that cows fed processed silage may increase milk yield by as much as 1-3 pounds per day. With processed silage you are

likely to see far fewer cobs left in the bunk and less grain in the manure of the herd. Hopefully, your processed silage was not cut too finely. Effective fiber is very important in a ration with processed silage.

Grove cautions that, depending on your herd's ration, you may need to cut back on energy from grain to prevent health problems. It may be necessary to adjust the amount of grain in the herd's diet when feeding processed silage; too much energy/grain in the diet can cause acidosis, cows going off-feed, and laminitis.

Grove reports one dairy farmer in Virginia who started feeding processed corn silage several years ago was able to cut 3-5 pounds of grain out of his 23,000 pound herd's ration. The total program included feeding more silage and roughage. Consult with your nutritionist or dairy extension agent for suggestions on feeding this new crop.

To Plant Cover Crops

Most 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 crop land 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 Be Thankful For A Safe Harvest

The volunteers who manned the Corn Harvest Aid hot line and the Lancaster County farmers who were assisted by custom harvesters to bring in their storm-damaged crop would like to pass along their thanks to all who provided help.

As of this writing there have been no machinery-related injuries, which is something to be thankful for considering the stressful conditions during the harvest. The challenges included 24-hour operation, volunteers who do not regularly work together, sometimes muddy conditions, some operators with limited experience with large equipment, and a tangled crop.

One man was injured critically in a fall and he and his family will appreciate your thoughts and prayers.

Since the silage harvest is nearly finished, the Corn Harvest Aid hot line is no longer manned, but a voice mail is available if you have a request. The number for the voice mail is the same as the hot line, (717) 768-4670.

Quote Of The Week:

"The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery every day. Never lose a holy curiosity."

— Albert Einstein

❖ FARM CALENDAR ❖

- Saturday, October 11
- New York State Boer Goat Show, Cornell University Livestock Pavilion, Ithaca, N.Y., (315) 363-7545.
 - Pruning of Woody Ornamentals, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 9 a.m.-noon, (717) 394-6851.
 - S.E. Ohio Beef and Forage Field Day, Ohio Ag R&D Center, Caldwell Branch, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., (740) 432-9300.
 - Autumn Discovery Day at Ohio Ag R&D Center, Wooster Campus, 9

- a.m.-4 p.m., (330) 263-3761. ADADC New Jersey State Meeting, 4-H Center, Bridgewater, N.J., 6 p.m., (973) 875-7445.
- York County 4-H Horse Club Benefit Horse Show, York County 4-H Center.
- Maryland Chapter of Walnut Council Workshop, Tree Farm, Queenstown, (301) 972-0848.
- Anselma Preservation and Educational Trust Annual Membership Meeting, Mill at Anselma Visitor Center, 10 a.m., (610) 917-0447.

(Turn to Page A32)

❖ FARM FORUM ❖

Editor:
The Water Resources Planning Act requires the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to update Pennsylvania's State Water Plan to determine how much water we have, how much we use, and how much will be available in the future.

There is no cost to you to register or report your water usage.

Pennsylvania's water management plan had not been updated in more than 25 years, and did not address which areas had critical water needs. Since 1900, residential water use has increased from 5 gallons to 62 gallons per person per day. Total water use in Pennsylvania has experienced drought conditions during 8 of the past 10 years.

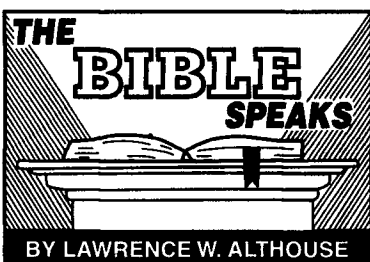
Act 220 requires all who withdraw or use 10,000 or more gal-

lons of water per day to register and then periodically report their water withdrawal and usage to DEP. Users of fewer than 10,000 gallons per day are asked to register voluntarily, to help DEP get as complete of a water plan as possible.

Reporting your water usage does not establish water allocation or withdrawal requirements. It is merely for planning purposes, and does not give DEP authority to regulate, control or require permits for the withdrawal of water. Furthermore, the Act expressly prohibits any requirements for metering homeowner wells.

Public water suppliers, hydro-power facilities and individuals who use or withdraw more than 50,000 gallons of water per day

(Turn to Page A32)



THE RIGHT WAY TO GLORIFY GOD

Background Scripture:
1 Peter 2:11 through 5:14:10.
Devotional Reading:
Galatians 5:16-25.

It is difficult in our country for us to understand that historically the normal status of a Christian in society is that of an alien. That is how 1 Peter addresses his readers: "Beloved, I beseech you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh that wage war against the soul" (2:11). Although they may not use the term "alien," other New Testament writers indicate that the Christian is most likely not to "fit in" comfortably in any society.

The reason is not that Christians enjoy being outsiders and take a perverted pleasure in being regarded as aliens and exiles, but that invariably the gospel proves offensive to the ways of the world. Normally, the only way for Christians to get around this barrier is to talk about the gospel, but not do it. I think that all too often our society molds Christians in their values and actions and not the other way around. In as much as we do not stick out like "sore thumbs" in our daily world, it is pretty accepting of us.

'Saving' God!

Christians in Africa and Asia, however, are much more aware that being a disciple of Jesus Christ means alienation. In both these continents, Christian values and behavior are much more likely to elicit condemnation, ostracism, and even violence. In Africa and Asia — the only places in the world today where Christianity is truly growing — being a Christian means sticking out, not blending in.

Some Christians believe that we are called to be in continual battle with our society. It is assumed that they must "save" God from heathens, agnostics, and atheists. Imagine worshipping and serving a god that has to be saved by his human followers! Is it arrogant to assume that human beings have the power to eject God from our schools, cities, and nations? And is it not equally arrogant to think that we have the power to put God back in those places? God does not need for us to go to court or take up arms to keep him in our society. Nor does God need for the government to let him into schools.

That is not to say, then, that the Christian is called to blend into our societies, but that the way of affecting the milieu in which we live is by making the gospel work for all to see. Too often we fail in making our mark in the communities, not because the dice are loaded against us, but because we don't live the gospel, either as individuals or as churches. We wouldn't have to worry and argue about the constitutional barrier between church and state if we really made our churches lighthouses instead of fortresses.

Glorifying God

How should we get the gospel across to the world around us? The writer of 1 Peter says, "Maintain good conduct among the Gentiles, so that in case they speak against you as wrongdoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation."

I'm not suggesting that Christians are not involved in doing "good deeds," but that usually these are eclipsed by other images of the church that are hardly complimentary to God. For Roman Catholics, the continuing headlines about abusive priests are what the "Gentile" public sees regarding Christianity. For Protestants, our squabbles over blessing homosexual unions probably outshines the good works our churches are performing. (Does the world conclude that Christianity is chiefly about sexuality?)

Yes, we are called by God to resist the values and behavior of our societies, but we need to resist in the right way: "Maintain good conduct among the Gentiles, so that in case they speak against you as wrongdoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God..." (2:12) and "Above all hold unflinching your love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sins. Practice hospitality ungrudgingly to one another... in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ" (4:8,9,11).

Is that really the image that the world sees in us? Do we really glorify God?

Lancaster Farming
An Award-Winning Farm Newspaper

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

Lancaster Farming
Established 1955
Published Every Saturday
Ephrata Review Building
1 E. Main St.
Ephrata, PA 17522
—by—
Lancaster Farming, Inc.
A Steinman Enterprise
William J. Burgess General Manager
Andy Andrews, Editor
Copyright 2003 by Lancaster Farming