



It really is time to fix broken immigration law

A bipartisan group in Congress – that’s hard enough to believe – is making another push to “reform” the long-broken federal immigration system.

“About time,” you might say, and you’d be right.

We will, too, when we see a bill that looks like it might actually work.

Our immigration laws have been somewhere between ineffectual and totally worthless for the last 30 years or so, ever since Congress decided to make it next to impossible for many people to come here to work.

Unfortunately for all concerned, the lure of jobs and a better life proved much stronger than the law. It always does. Any attempt to keep something out of a country that people want and need – whether it’s beer, cigarettes or workers – is doomed to failure.

In the case of our immigration policy, the longer Congress refused to do something, the worse the situation got. That’s how we got to have an estimated 11 million illegal aliens on this side of the border, many of them Latinos, but including people from all over the world who entered the U.S. illegally or simply overstayed their visas.

It’s been five years since the last attempt to change things failed, but maybe it’ll be different this time. We hope so.

One thing that is different is that business and labor have been meeting, trying to come to an agreement on the bill. They’re represented by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which knows that businesses depend on foreign workers, and the AFL-CIO, which knows that also, and which smells the sweet smell of growth if newly legal workers can join unions.

One thing the bill must address: What to do with those 11 million illegals in the country

today, most of them gainfully employed. It’s not a huge group, only a little more than 3 percent of our population, but it’s still a lot of illegal aliens. And the chances we can just send them all home are nil.

Any “amnesty” proposal will be unpopular with some, but if you don’t like it, just try to figure out what else will work. Meantime, the administration has stepped up programs to deport illegals who commit crimes or cause other problems. And yes, the administration is working with Congress, the unions and management to put this bill together.

And the bill will need to provide a simple and easy way for guest workers to come fill jobs that go begging, either in the fields or in high-tech offices. Today, doctors and engineers can come to work, though there are many roadblocks. For farm hands and road workers, however, it’s next to impossible to come here legally.

Our current policy has brought us nothing but grief.

More border guards, a higher fence and tough enforcement have not worked. Our policy has failed, and it’s time to try something else. If we make it easy for guest workers to come for a set time, people won’t have to risk their lives in the desert.

And as a nation of immigrants, we should welcome newcomers who come legally and have work to do here.

We should not pay welfare or provide a good life for anyone who comes and does not have work. There’s no point in that, but then, it’s hard to say how much of a problem there has been, either.

Let’s hope this effort succeeds. It might be the beginning of bipartisan solutions to a lot of our country’s problems.

— Steve Haynes



The Gardener

By Kay Melia



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Last week, I enjoyed the opportunity to discuss this year’s All America winning vegetables and flowers, never available to American gardeners until now. I urge you to seek out All America seeds, including those from past years. They are the varieties that assure you of a productive crop, no matter where you live in America.

But you know, there are hundreds of new varieties developed each year that don’t quite make the elite All America designation. And only a few of them are listed in the new seed catalogs. Those that are, are tagged as “new” this year, and certainly deserve your consideration. Watch for them in the catalogues and on the seed racks at the garden center.

There are a few new vegetable and flower cultivars that have caught my eye this winter, and I want to name them.

First, the huge new aroma-type tomato called SuperSauce, offered

by the Burpee Company just begs for a place in my garden, and I will give ‘em a try. A packet of 25 seeds has cost me \$6.50, and I’ll try to grow them myself. I’ll only set out a couple of them, so if they all grow, I should have a few plants for someone else to try. I’ll try to give you a report on them at harvest time.

The Vermont Bean Seed Company, the nation’s premier purveyor of all kinds of beans, has again named one of their own as the “bean of the year,” and this year they are offering a new green bean called Accelerate. This is a great looking bean, and I may give it a try.

The Jung Company also has an extremely interesting new bean named Nikki. This one is a French filet type, and the beans should be harvested when they are no larger than a pencil. Filet beans are always extremely flavorful, and I’m very tempted. The Accelerate

ate from Vermont is only \$2.95 a packet, and the Nikki is just \$3.25 from Jung.

As I mentioned last week, the Jung Seeds and Plants catalog is my favorite place to shop for seeds because it is so well organized, plus it carries most of the varieties I prefer. It also lists many new ones. I’ve never been picky about the zucchini seed I plant since, to me, one zucchini tastes like all the others. But I always plant a couple of hills of both the yellow and the green zucchinis just to surprise and infuriate my friends and neighbors who forget to lock their cars at harvest time.

Jung has a new zucchini this year in both green and yellow, whereby you can buy a packet of each for just \$4.50. It’s called “Easy Pick Gold and Green” and the vines are said to be less prickly than most squash vines, and I appreciate that, because I detest prickly vines more than the zucchini itself. Lock your cars.

I am also impressed by Jung’s new Fragrant Angel coneflower. It’s a beautiful white one that often produces blooms up to seven inches across. Jung’s new Waooh mid-size sunflower may be the most prolific sunflower offered this year. The guy who hybridized the plant shouted WAOOH when he saw the blooms.

And finally, Pinetree Garden Seeds is offering a new leaf lettuce that is going to be difficult to ignore. It’s called Red Fire, and is extremely slow to bolt when the hot weather sets in. It is also said to be one of the most attractive lettuces with a deep red color and frilly leaves.

Hey, that’s just a few of the new ones. Plant something new in your garden this year, and be surprised when it’s time to harvest! Waooh!!

Casey’s Comments

By Casey McCormick



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Awhile back I thought the zenith of living in the sunflower state had been reached. For a transplant like myself having a car/deer incident seemed to get me to the official plain of belonging.

But I was mistaken for it took a day of visiting our state capitol building in Topeka for me to be able to proudly exclaim, “Yes, I am a Kansan!”

As a guest of Kansas Farm Bureau I joined a small group

who had access to committee meetings and hearings as well as watching proceedings from the visitor galleries. In addition we met with legislatures and lobbyists. It helped me to understand how this state’s government operates.

The capitol is an impressive symbol of this great land. The architecture, by Edward Townsend Mix, is French Renaissance with Corinthian composite detail. That means it has a very classical style.

The project emerged in 1862 on land donated by one of the founders of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway; Cyrus K. Holliday. Building on the East wing began in 1866 while the West wing started in 1879. The central building that would support the enormous dome had its beginning in 1886.

It took 37 years for the capitol to be declared officially complete on March 24, 1903.

Atop the dome stands the arrow shooting figure of a Kaw warrior called Ad Astra. Fittingly Ad’s name came from the state motto, “Ad astra per aspera.” Which is, “to the stars through difficulties.”

Kansas has had difficult periods, but the majesty of the capitol building speaks for the strength that has come from those times.

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GOD SAYS The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich hath many friends. He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he. Proverbs 14:20, 21

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