



Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly Newspaper  
 Established November 4, 1955  
 Published every Friday by  
 OCTORARO NEWSPAPERS  
 Quarryville, Pa. — Phone 378  
 Lancaster Phone 4-3047)

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Subscription Rates: \$2.00 Per Year  
 Three Years \$5.00; 5c Per Copy  
 Application for Second Class Mailing Privileges Pending

**PONDERING THE PLIGHT OF PORK**

One of the most productive selling jobs in the meat industry has been done by the pork producer, processor and service agencies of the industry.

From the National Live Stock and Meat Board comes word that pork was eaten at the rate of 66 lbs per person in 1955, an 11 per cent increase over 1954. This is still two per cent under the 1947-1949 average; but 18 per cent more than the 1935-1939 average. Beef remained tops in preference, with 81 lbs per capita consumed last year, but beef's gain was but two per cent for the year, compared to 11 per cent for pork. Consumption of all meats reached 161 lbs per capita in 1955.

Here is the per capita consumption of pork in recent years 1955 — 66 lbs, 1954 — 60 lbs, 1953 — 63 lbs, 1952 — 71 1-2 lbs, the 1947-1949 average 71 1-2 lbs, the 1935-1939 average 55 1-2 lbs.

Pork production decreased for two years starting from postwar high in 1952. The 60 lbs per person in 1954 was the least per capita consumption in 16 years. As production increased sharply in 1955, per capita consumption rose to 66 lbs.

There has been a selling job in pork. A greater selling job is needed. Retail prices are at the lowest level since 1950, with the composite average retail price running some 13 cents a pound less than at the same time in 1954.

To what may this be attributed? The livestock and meat industry is concentrating on giving consumers the kind of pork products they desire through greater production of meat-type hogs by growers, by the practice of processors and retailers of trimming more fat from pork cuts.

There's a new look in pork, a new "lean trim look" that may help lift the live market out of the doldrums that have made it a most discouraging venture.

**FOOD EXPENDITURES — 1956**

What's the food outlook for 1956? According to the USDA, the nation's food supply will be about as large as last year's and prices at retail will be about the same. Expenditures for food per person likely will be somewhat higher than in 1955, resulting from a small increase in overall food consumption per person and continued shifts to more processed foods and more marketing services with food.

An increase is forecast in consumption of beef, pork, fluid milk and chicken meat, with small declines likely for veal, lamb and mutton.

There's no guarantee contained herein, but might help serve you as a pattern for 1956 operations.

**BIGGEST LANDLORD**

Uncle Sam has just taken stock of his holdings. And he comes up with the title of the country's biggest landlord. Here are some of his holdings:

384,916 buildings, value \$14.5 billion, covering 2.2 billion square feet of floor space;  
 \$15.6 billion "structures and facilities," like dams and reactors

408 million acres of land, value \$2.4 billion

The Pentagon, covering 34 acres

This inventory covers 11,777 domestic "installations" costing \$32.5 billion. In 18-months total holdings jumped \$2.2 billion.

Figures may be incomplete, the General Services Administration admits, but better inventory methods are helping pin down figures.

Just an idea of where your tax dollar goes.

**INHERITANCE**

For years medical science was concerned with hereditary factors in humans, until it became a science of its own. Today the livestock industry has taken a similar look, although the recognition has not been as deep. Selection and development of proper breeding stock holds the key to meat-type hogs. Selection and development of proper breeding stock produces the best milkers, the best beef producers, the best broilers.

It's a science that is coming down to the farm level fast — and applies equally well to the kingdom of plants.

**50 Years Ago**

**This Week on Lancaster Farms**

(This Week In 1905)  
 By JACK REICHARD

**San Jose Scale Controversy Ended**

J. D. Herr, of the State Department of Agriculture, announced 50 years ago this week that the proper treatment for destroying the San Jose scale had been established. The scale, which had plagued orchard owners throughout eastern Pennsylvania for many years, was a subject of heated controversy between the experts, causing much confusion in the minds of farmers in this section. Mr. Herr's announcement was made after inspecting a grove of fruit trees sprayed at the Home of Friendless Children, Lancaster, in the fall of 1905. He reported finding every one of the 26 trees sprayed a complete success, stating that 95 to 98 per cent of the scale had been destroyed by a single application, proving the treatment was the proper one for destroying the scale, thus bringing the controversy to an end.

**Roundup Stolen Cattle in York County**

Fifty years ago this week, a tenant farmer on the farm owned by Mrs. Wise, Springfield Twp., was arrested on a charge of

**Voice Of Lancaster Farms AND FARM FRIENDS**

(Readers are invited to write comments on Lancaster Farming, about current events, or other topics. Letters should be brief, and must be signed. Names will be withheld if requested. — Editor).

**From the Mid-West**

Adams County, Iowa—Weather is cold and dry. It was such a dry snow we didn't get enough moisture on our ponds to help. Supposed to rain—we are praying. We hauled our first load of water yesterday. Do hope we get rain, at least we'll have a crop if we can't get a good price for our stuff. We're going to need all the help we can. You don't know how things have tightened up in this county.

I feel sorry for Secretary Benson. Everytime he speaks he gets himself in deeper. If he would just come out and see for himself firsthand what conditions are like. He turned more than several good Republicans to Democrats.

If we don't have a crop this year and still no prices—brother! My son raised 100 head of hogs, didn't make enough to break even. We also gave our hogs away, likewise our calves. Don't think for one minute that the small farmer isn't dying out. Doubt if the son will stay with farming long. There are so many others like him. You should ride along the road and see the empty houses or the houses that are just rented to people who work in town, five within a radius of two miles from us.

Iowa's Senator Martin said we should have a factory in the County so the farmer could augment his income with factory work. I wish he could spend a little time on the farm. All the farmers who had that little work to do have been gone a long time. Enough said, excepting that Secretary Benson does not know what is happening to the farmers here and in other counties. Why won't he try to find out?—A Reader.

(Editor's Note: The writer of the letter above resides in the County recently the scene of Edward R. Murrow's "See It Now—The Farm Problem, a Crisis of Abundance" television program. This area has been dry several years. One inch of rain would do more good there than one million dollars in government aid, the resident believe. EJN).

stealing six cows and a calf from the Wise farm. Moving to a farm in Lancaster County that week, he had included Mrs. Wise's herd along with his own belongings. After being driven more than 25 miles over mud roads, the cattle were recovered at Wrightsville.

**New Salem Farmer Critically Injured**

A. M. Gladfelter, New Salem, Pa., prominent farmer and Democratic leader, was critically injured while adjusting a belt on a threshing machine at his farm. A farmhand said Gladfelter had slipped and was drawn into the machine, suffering a fractured skull and severely lacerated legs. One of his legs was immediately amputated by surgeons, and the man not expected to live.

**25 Years Ago**

**\$5 Million Farm Aid Appropriated by Congress**

The 71st Congress, adjourning March 4, 1931, set a peace-time record in appropriations, passing the \$10 billion mark. The new appropriation allotments were chiefly earmarked for relieving distress resulting from the nation's general business decline, the unprecedented drought and the long depression in agriculture. Many GOP leaders felt

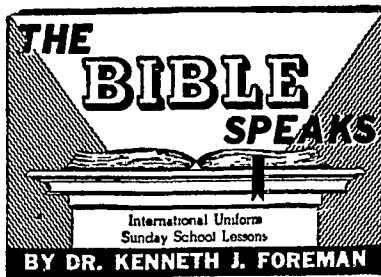
farmers in general were bearing more than the full burnt of the 1931 price decline, and supported backers of the Federal Farm Board and its recommendation of \$500 million in new funds to aid farmers through cooperative effort, for stability and prosperity in the agriculture industry. A revision of the tariff, with large increases in the protection of agriculture products, also was backed by the powerful GOP House in the 71st Congressional session.

**Lancaster Farmers Hear Poultry Expert**

C. O. Dossin, State College poultry extension specialist, presented an illustrated talk at a meeting of poultry raisers, at the Little Britain High School, in southern Lancaster County. Dossin spoke on the subject "Starting and Rearing Chicks." His talk also covered disease control. He said "Your profit or loss in poultry depends largely on starting good chicks right and growing strong, healthy pullets."

**Leghorn Pullet Laid 327 Eggs**

Ben W. Jacobs, Green county, won top place in the 1930-record of performance work conducted by the bureau of markets, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, with his white Leghorn pullet, laying 327 eggs. The bureau reported 890 birds out of 4,600 entered in the work, laid more than 200 eggs as pullets or 180 eggs as hens during the year. The work included seven flocks in nine counties.



Background Scripture: Luke 19:28—30:47.  
 Devotional Reading: Revelation 21:22—22:5.

**Christ and the City**  
 Lesson for March 4, 1956

CENSUS takers have long been dividing us Americans into "Rural" and "Urban." The fact is, wherever we may live, if we are not in a city we are in many ways affected by cities. The magazines and papers we read are often published in cities. Most of the things a farmer uses—tractors, combines, fertilizer, tools, came from cities.

Our clothes were made in cities, our shoes were made there. Your casket may have already been made in some city. There is a state in America which has just one large city. A former resident of that state told the writer that very few small towns there amounted to anything, because all the young people in the state who had any ambition struck out for that big city as soon as they could. One way or another, we are all becoming "urban" pretty fast.



Dr. Foreman

**Enthusiasm Is Fragile**

The largest city Jesus ever saw brought tears to his eyes, and no wonder. Some of the things he saw are true of cities and of urban civilization today. They are true of our American way of life, 20th-century style. One was the swiftly rising, and as swiftly falling, enthusiasm of the crowds. There they came with joyful shouts of welcome on Palm Sunday morning; and by Friday morning some of the same mob would be screaming, "Crucify him!" City people take quickly to new ideas and new heroes — and quickly drop them. They will strew tons of ticker-tape and torn-up telephone books (for lack of palm branches) on some returning hero, but in six months' time won't be able to remember his name. Explain it as you like, the fact is that urban enthusiasms are fragile. That goes for most of us. What we live for in our urban America is mostly excitement. We live from headline to headline, from thrill to

thrill. Advertisers their best to stir us up. They of "exciting" new colors, exciting new fashions, even (believe it or not) exciting new toothpaste. The advertisers know that if we can really be persuaded that a thing is exciting, we'll buy it! We would rather listen to a new idea than a true one. That's city fever.

**Mass Man**

In the days of Davy Crockett, whose ghost, we trust, will have been laid to rest before these lines meet the public eye—in the days of Davy C. and of Dan'l Boone, nearly all Americans were living in the country, as we would call it today. Even the cities were small. Those were the days of rugged individualism. When a neighbor came within 50 miles of Daniel Boone, he thought the woods were getting too crowded, so the legend has it—and moved on. Nowadays in our more urban era, we have come to the time of "Mass Man" as philosophers call him. The city is the Land of Follow-my-Leader. It is the dwelling-place of the Joiners. Mr. Boone did not belong to many societies; but where is the man today who is happy without belonging to enough clubs and societies to keep him busy every night? Mass Man is a rather sad spectacle. Jesus wept over him there in Jerusalem. The people of that city were like sheep, doing, saying, even thinking what their Scribes and Pharisees told them to. The men of Jerusalem would not look for themselves, they "knew not the time of their visitation." They did not know when God was knocking at their door. If Christ came to America today, would Mass Man recognize him? Or would he be under suspicion because he would not fit the universal pattern?

**Oen of Robbers**

The city over which Jesus wept was the site of a magnificent Temple, built as a place of worship. But when Jesus visited it, he found a cattle-market going on in the very middle of it. What should have been worship had turned to money-making. So it is too often with an urban civilization. Built on business, on the market-place, it tends to turn everything into a market-place. Art is commercialized; so is education, so are athletics, politics, sometimes religion. If the reader thinks this is exaggerated, let him look around during this month and see some everyday examples of how religion is commercialized in America. We are approaching the joyful Christian festival of Easter. How many thousands of people in our land are planning to make money out of it?

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