

4—Lancaster Farming, Friday, Aug. 24, 1956

# Lancaster Farming

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### Conditions

Farmers like to talk best about conditions. Conditions come in two varieties, good and bad, and farmwise they usually fall into two major headings, weather and prices.

Talking to several from all parts of Pennsylvania this week, several conclusions are to be drawn. First, weather-wise: conditions are ideal in many sections of the Southeastern portion of the Commonwealth — in the Garden Spot especially. Out west, it's a case of pulling crops out of the mud. Some Commonwealth farmers near the Ohio line, around the Butler vicinity, have been forced to use two tractors to pull combines through water-logged fields to harvest a crop damaged by continued rain.

There's encouragement in the cattle picture, now that prices have gone up again, and reached improved levels. The poultry man is a bit discouraged by present conditions, present price levels. However, they feel it is somewhat normal, and improvement can be expected this fall.

Broiler prices on the Lancaster Poultry Exchange, for example, last week averaged 19.29 on Thursday, a slight improvement, though fractional, over the preceding sale. Yet a year earlier, in 1955, prices were nearer the 30-cent mark, averaging 29.05 cents Aug. 18, 1955.

Politics? There's some talk, but the prime concern now is crops and conditions. Perhaps there's a distinct tightening in luxury expenditures in the farm budget. That seems evident from talking to a good many.

Too wet, too dry, just right; prices too high, too low, just right. Maybe it all boils down to the Goldilocks' theme, too hot, too cold, just right, or the only certain thing is uncertainty.

### Production vs. Demand

One of the big reasons farm prices have declined greatly since 1950 is that domestic production has gone up 12 per cent, while demand has gone up only ten per cent since that time, an Iowa State College economist reports.

There's been a sharp cutback in export demand; farm population has decreased, farm size has increased, the farm labor force has declined and the number of farms has declined.

Can there ever be a balance between production and consumption? At one time there was, but more is being produced today on fewer acres than ever before; people are eating better than they ever have.

Nevertheless, there's a broad discrepancy between prices at the farm level and the retail level — one of the problems farmers may face for some time to come, a problem that even the Soil Bank can't solve.

### MORE STORMS TODAY?

Some have commented there seems to be more violent weather afoot today than at any time in world history. A few blame the atomic and hydrogen bomb tests. One man thinks these tests may have thrown the world's revolving path into an erratic course. Science disclaims such.

Perhaps the best explanation might be in news coverage the country now receives. A few years back a storm in remote corners of the nation might be overlooked, or news of the storm might reach the outside world too late to retain value as news.

The Californians, the Floridians, the Corn Belters and the Pennsylvanians all can rightfully claim together that this is unusual weather.

### Queens by the Score

Just as the year may have 104 weeks or more—if you count all the various and sundry designations—another crop of Queens is coming up. Today the fashion is to designate a week honoring some phase of industry, and invariably a Queen will be crowned.

There are beauty contests, Farm Maid Contests, Miss America, Miss Universe, Miss Pennsylvania, Miss Petroleum Industry, Miss Street Sweeper, on down the line.

Whoever said this is a man's world should take another look—unless he's a manufacturer of Crowns.

## 50 Years Ago

### This Week on Lancaster Farms

50 YEARS AGO (1906)

By JACK REICHARD

#### Octoraro Farmers Club Holds Meeting

Weeds, insects, automobiles and Negroes were the chief subjects up for discussion at the August, 1906, meeting of the Octoraro Farmers' Club at the home of James and Josephine Jackson. The discussion on weeds was led by Lewis Baker, based on a published article telling of experiments by Luther Burbank, who was trying to educate cutworms to work on dandelions and other weeds, so that vegetables and plants of value might be saved from the ravages of weeds.

"Is there anything we can do to protect ourselves from the automobiles?" was discussed at considerable length. The general opinion prevailed that automobiles should be made to stop until horses got past them.

The discussion on Negroes was based on a letter read by James Jackson, received from his son, Ralph, on a trip through Texas and Arkansas during the summer of 1906. The reading of Jackson's letter was followed by a report of the Second Annual Farmers' Conference at Lawrenceville, Va., read by the secretary, which stated, "the good progress the Negroes have made in this place has been the result of encouraging them to buy and pay for land and to show them how to farm it intelligently."

#### It's The Law

"It's the Law" with simple answers is offered by LANCASTER FARMING in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Bar Association. General interest questions are welcomed, and will be answered as soon as possible. Letters must be signed. Answer will not be published on a specified, requested day. Questions cannot be answered by mail, and LANCASTER FARMING will reject any inquiry which is not of general public interest. Address all inquiries to "It's the Law," LANCASTER FARMING Quarryville, Pa. (Fictitious initials will be used to protect the identity of the questions).

Q. What is the tax on a \$20,000 estate composed of a bank account and stocks and bonds if there is no will and what if there is a will? L.J.D.

A. The existence or non-existence of a will makes no difference in the amount of Pennsylvania Transfer Inheritance Tax which is payable. The tax rate is 2 percent of the net estate (the value of the estate after deduction of all debts) which passes to direct heirs, i.e., members of the decedent's immediate family, and 15 percent of the portion of the estate passing to collateral heirs or charities.

Q. A man and wife are divorced in Pennsylvania. A support order is on the man for two minor children. Does the remarriage of the mother absolve the father from further payments for the children, and does their stepfather become responsible for their support? V.M.B.

A. The natural father continues to be liable under the support order, until such time as the children become self-supporting or are adopted by their stepfather. The remarriage of the mother, without more, does not absolve the father from his support duties.

## 25 Years Ago

Twenty-five years ago this week Wheeler McMillen, associate editor of Country Home, addressed potato growers of Pennsylvania at State College on "How to Sell."

"There is need to sell agriculture, to itself and to the public," McMillen declared. "Eternal harping on the disadvantages and defects of a product is poor salesmanship. Farming may not be all roses, but as a business the country over it stands in fair comparison with other industries. It is high time for agriculture to abandon apologizing and start boasting."

In illustrating one fault of the market system, in 1931, he pointed out the fact that Buffalo, which is near Michigan, buys seven times as many potatoes from North Carolina as it does from Michigan, while Washington, D. C., gets most of its potatoes from the states of Michigan and Washington.

#### That Which

Alarm Clock that which scares daylights into you. — The Busy Bee, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

## Change in Milk Prices Announced

H. D. Allebach, president of the Inter-State Milk Producers Association, announced a 10 per cent a quart reduction in the retail price of milk in Philadelphia and surrounding areas. The reduction changed the standard scale of prices on grade B milk from twelve cents a quart. Grade A milk retailing at 14 and 15 cents a quart, was reduced to thirteen and 14 cents. Two-thirds of the reduction was taken by farmers, Allebach stated, 25 years ago this week.

That same week in August, 1931, a large barn on the W. Hawks farm in Lower Oxford Township, Chester County, burned to the ground. All contents, including machinery and the season's crops were destroyed. The property was occupied by the Thomas Dawson family, who were attending a carnival at Oxford at the time of the fire. The cause was not determined.

## Blossom for Making Insecticides

Farmers were watching with interest the progress in the growth of a new flowering plant on the Lancaster County farm of Luther Cox, of Buck, who has planted a half acre of the plants, set in rows, which were reported to bloom the following summer. The blossom, which was poisonous, was to be used and the extract used in the manufacture of insecticides.

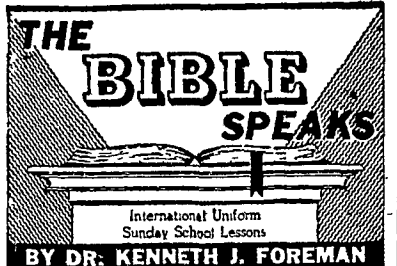
ment and frustration are real. —James would tell us—let's not whine about such things. Nobody loves to sit in a dentist's chair but all the same, sitting there the patient may well be thankful for dentists. Lying on a bed of pain one may not like the pain but if it is from an operation one may be thankful for the surgeon. So we have every right to thank God for the pains he sends us.

#### How Does Strength Come?

How does a coach build up a powerful football team? Not by taking the boys out to the field every afternoon in Cadillacs and letting them watch somebody else scrimmage. No strong team ever took a game yet, that had not had a full share of aching muscles, perhaps even broken bones, before hand. How does a recruit in the army put his muscles into shape? Not by tender words from a sergeant who wouldn't for the world hurt these poor young boys committed to his care. No, the sergeant is tough, and his job is to make the boys tough (this does not in the least mean that they have to be profane or mean or cruel, and you don't toughen up by sitting around. You do it by taking long hikes, hikes a little too long, in fact, lifting loads you'd rather not lift, carrying a pack that you think should have been meant for two men. How do students strengthen their minds? Not by letting the teacher do the work. The most effective teachers are those that make the students live hard. So it is in all walks of life. A strong bank is one that can come through years of depression; any bank can make it on a wave of prosperity. A strong farmer is a farmer who can keep on through drought and grasshoppers and boll weevils and what have you, a man who sticks with it while his weaker neighbors pick up and head for the end of the rainbow. Troubles make strength; without trial there will be no strength.

#### God Knows What He Is Doing

Some people think.—Yes, this is all very true. But there is such a thing as an overload. What if I am so overloaded I break down? The answer to that should be simple for the thoughtful Christian. One who believes in Providence will believe that no trial comes to any man without God's knowledge, indeed not without God's sending. He knows what we need strength, he knows what it will take to make us strong. One who trusts his life to the true God will be assured that God knows what he is doing. He knows what too much would be and he does not send it. (Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service.)



Background Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11; James 1; Devotional Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20

## Strength—How?

Lesson for August 26, 1956

THE nine short letters which have been the subject of the Bible studies throughout the Protestant churches of America these past two months are as different among themselves as their writers were different. The 3 letters of John were written by a "mystic," one for whom the things that are unseen are more real than anything the bodily eye can see. The letter of James was written by a man who would probably find himself very much at home in



Dr. Foreman

the typical American go-getting, practical-minded church. He deals with many problems in a short-spoken blunt fashion; and the problems are exactly those that an American pastor would run into most often in talking with his people.

#### Why Must This Happen to ME?

One question preachers are asked pretty often is something like this: "Why must this happen to me? I have been a good citizen, I try to be a good Christian, I do all the good I can . . . and now this has happened." "This" may mean a disappointment, disaster, sickness, trouble of almost any kind. James has a surprising answer. "Count it all joy," he says, when such things happen to you. The reason why trials ought to make us happy instead of sad is that trials make us strong. Of course there are always a few abnormal people who don't want to be strong, or don't care; but it is perfectly normal and right to want to be strong in every possible way. No sensible Christian will want to be healthy in body and mind, and yet be content with being a spiritual weakling.—This does not mean that troubles and trials don't hurt; indeed they do. There's no telling ourselves that we like being hurt,—we don't like it. Pain is real, death is real, disappoint-