

Lancaster Farming

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EFFICIENCY IN FARMING

American agriculture is producing about 50 per cent more output than in 1935-1939, and it is doing it with about 30 per cent fewer man-hours of work.

Here are some other statistics from a recent speech by the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture.

Farmers use over six million tons of finished steel a year, almost 300 million pounds of raw rubber, over 17 billion gallons of crude petroleum, 22 billion kilowatt hours of electricity.

There are 12 million tractors, cars and trucks on U. S. farms, almost a million grain combines, 700,000 mechanical corn pickers. Over 700,000 farms have milking machines. The average investment per worker in the farms of this country is more than \$14,000. The average investment for workers in manufacturing industries is a little over \$12,000.

Big business? You're blamed right.

YOUR SHARE — IN TAXES

The current cost of running the federal government is about \$407 a year for every man, woman and child in the nation. Government spending will reach \$69,100,000,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1957 — the largest total cost of Government for any peacetime year in history.

In 1956 the per capita cost was \$398; in fiscal 1955 it was \$394, but \$14 under the \$421 of fiscal 1954, and much below the peak of \$707 in 1944-1955. However, the new estimate will be six times greater than the \$68 of 1939.

Costs are going up — where it will stop, nobody knows.

CORN PICKING TIME

State Corn Picking Contests are leading many an agriculture calendar this season — a time when we can lament the passing of State Corn Husking Contests.

Back several years ago, we well recall, the crowds numbered in the thousands when the best pickers in the land battered the bangboard of a horse-drawn wagon in a machine-gun staccato. There were favorites, there were winners who held their national titles several years in a row.

The day of hand-husking, hand shucking — the hook or peg — is gone except in scattered instances. Corn shucking taxed the home kitchen almost as much as threshing. Both breakfast and supper were in the dark of day.

Then came the mechanical picker, more efficient, more productive, demanding less manpower, combined with powered elevators and lifts. Today these mechanical pickers, pickers-shellers compete in a field once it was man against man instead of machine versus machine.

American agriculture's movement to mechanization has been wonderful in increasing efficiency, but we still miss the bang on the bangboard.

500 TIMES GRANDPA

Mechanized farming has made it possible for a good farmer to produce 500 times more than his grandfather could, according to Dr. Karl Butler, Ithaca, N. Y., farm counselor.

But, agriculture is lagging far behind in research, and is now facing the greatest technological challenge of its history. "Farmers want machinery that they can afford and which will fit into their farms. Most farmers are either trying to expand their farms to fit their machinery or vice-versa."

What's ahead? Roy Bainer, agricultural educator, predicts the United States will need a 40 per cent boost in farm production to feed its population by 1975.

BOX SCORE

Now that the World Series are over, it's still time to keep box score — on the injuries and deaths that will result as the 1956 corn crop is harvested.

Be alert. Be cautious. Be safe.
Don't be a statistic

50 Years Ago

This Week on Lancaster Farms

50 YEARS AGO (1906)
By JACK REICHARD

October 12, 1906, a large section of the country was in the clutches of one of the earliest blizzards on record. Over a vast area of western Pennsylvania, heavy snow had fallen, damaging late crops and crippling railroad and trolley traffic. In Cleveland, Ohio, the snowfall was accompanied by intense cold, one person having been frozen to death.

From Canada, the storm had taken a southern course down the Mississippi Valley, leaving a white mantle of snow behind. The fruit crops of the middle west and the tobacco crops of Virginia and Kentucky were damaged by the freezing temperatures.

The cold wave extended to the cotton belt of middle Texas, where workers were at work day and night trying to harvest the crop and save it from ruin. Light to killing frost was reported from the cotton belt in Alabama, and in Tennessee and northern Mississippi, crops were nipped by the frost. Down along the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia was the coldest part of the country. At Mount Washington, U. S. Government observing station, the mercury was down to freezing, while four below zero was recorded at Elkins, W. Va.

At Harrisburg, 50 years ago, Governor Pennypacker sent personal letters to A. J. Cassatt, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad and George F. Baer, president of the Philadelphia and Reading, suggesting that they arrange for excursions over their lines in Pennsylvania to Harrisburg for the purpose of

Voice of Lancaster Farms

CORRECTION

KIRKWOOD — I was interested in the picture in LF of the Stoltzfus farm just sold. That is "Street Road," not Bellbank, and the covered bridge one of the oldest in the area. Street Road from Philadelphia to Harper's Ferry, Md., was the direct route used by all travelers back in the horse and buggy days many long years ago, a road very historically important to our state.

The old brick house now owned and lived in by the John Ruppert family had Revolutionary War fame and the area known as Bellbank and the Ruppert House are in it. Across the road (Street Road) lies a farm belonging to the John Holmes family, which is the oldest grant given by William Penn in this area.

I wonder if you followed the very scenic road, which shows the stream, farm and bridge with meadow beyond? — An LF Reader.

THANKS

KENNETT SQUARE, Pa. — May I at this time tell you how much I appreciated the outstanding cooperation and publicity which your magazine gave to me as Flying Farmer Queen of Pennsylvania of 1955-56. You did an outstanding job, Ernie, and I am sure that our many friends and associates in business as well as Flying Farmers all over the United States have read your articles.

You have been doing an outstanding job in your paper, and we wish to praise you for all that you did for us in the past year. May your paper continue to grow and spread the good news everywhere. — Lois M. Logan.

giving citizens of the state an opportunity to inspect the new state capitol.

On the Lancaster farm owned by A. L. and C. S. Herr, of Collins, the house and barn on the property burned to the ground.

The barn, which burned first, contained nearly 20 tons of straw, 10 tons of hay, phosphate and a large quantity of potatoes.

The fire spread to the house. It had been partly tenanted by some Italian people.

The fire was believed to have been started by a tramp. The buildings and contents were a total loss.

25 Years Ago

In the Lancaster garden of Amanda B. Myers, Kirkwood, two pepper plants not only produced large peppers, but also great numbers of them. One had 32 and the other 29 peppers.

Changes to bus lines instead of trolley lines in some parts of the county followed immediately after the official announcement of the merger.

Trolley-Bus Merger

The end of trolley lines in Lancaster County was evident in 1931, when a merger of city and county electric lines into a single organization known as the Conestoga Transportation Company was officially approved. Tobacco Experiment Station

Twenty five years ago this week, a ten acre plot of ground on the farm of Mrs. A. L. Lefever, one half mile north of Lancaster was taken over by Penn State College, as the site for a new Pennsylvania State Tobacco Experimental Station. A nine year lease was given with the privilege of erecting the necessary buildings and was signed by Dr. F. D. Gardner, representing P. S. C.

The former experiment station, located at Ephrata, was to be abandoned. Greater interest was expected in the new site because it was more centrally located and easily accessible to growers.

Exercises, incident to the transfer of the old Delaware Canal from the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company to the Commonwealth of Pa., was scheduled to be held on Oct. 17, 1931, at the Thompson Neely Mill, located on the Delaware River road between Washington Cross and New Hope. The property was to be converted into a State Park.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS
International Union Sunday School Lessons
BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Background Scripture: Exodus 20:1-21
Devotional Reading: Psalm 19:7-14

Why God Says No!

Lesson for October 14, 1956

A QUESTION often asked about the Ten Commandments is this: Why are they all in the negative? It all seems to be "Don't, don't" Does God hang chains on us to hamper our freedom? Is God more interested in stopping us from what we want to do than in showing us what to do? Why the emphasis on the negative? Isn't Christian morality, right living before God, a positive thing? Can a set of prohibitions be a solid base for life today?



Dr. Foreman

"Don't" Is a Useful Word
Let's look at this a little. For one thing, it must be remembered that the Ten Commandments, as they are called, were not invented by Moses or first revealed to him. We know that centuries before Moses, wise men were saying it already, and it is pretty safe to suppose that most people knew it,—namely that stealing and killing and adultery are wrong. The reason Moses gave the Ten Commandments was not that either he or God had just discovered them. These Commandments came out in their present form (or possibly a shorter form, enlarged later) for the benefit and guidance of a very primitive people, just out of slavery where they and their forefathers had been for generations. For people like that "Don't" is easier to understand than "Do." A little child can be saved from being hurt or killed just by learning the meaning of the little word NO. "Don't" is a useful word. It is simpler, too, to say "Don't" than "Do." Learning to do well takes time, and brains too. You don't have to learn to stop. You don't have to be a "brain" to stop doing wrong. So the Ten Commandments began at the right end, the simple end. "Thou shalt not," or "Don't," in other words, is not the whole of what goodness means; but it is a good place to begin.

Under Control

Nowadays it is not popular to mention such words or ideas as discipline, self-control, temperance, or restraint; but these are good things in their place, and no life is good that ignores them. Doing what you want to do when you feel like doing it without asking anybody is a small boy's dream, but it is no way for a grown man or woman to live. This is another reason why so many of the Ten Commandments begin with "Don't." Brakes say "No" to a car, and a car without brakes isn't safe for a minute. Stakes say "No" to sprawling vines, but the vines are the better for being tied up. Pruning shears say "No" to grapevines; but unpruned grapevines soon run down. Rails say "No" to tram wheels; and when the wheels (so to speak) decide to go where they please, you have a wreck. "Doing what comes naturally" may be silly, sinful, even criminal. Impulses can be harmful and hateful. Instincts may be warped or exaggerated. The disciplined, self-controlled life is not a life of mere repression; but if there is no repression anywhere, if there is no response and obedience when God says "No," then life becomes a tangle like an untrimmed grapevine, a smash-up like a train that tries to cross a field without rails.

Every Don't Has a Do!

Every "don't" has a matching "do" of some kind. Thou shalt not steal means also, Thou shalt not waste property, Thou shalt conserve the earth's resources, Thou shalt respect property. When you see a farmer using intelligent methods to prevent or cure soil erosion, you may think about it, and he may not; but he is trying to prevent stealing or wasting the land on which future generations may depend. He is obeying the Eighth Commandment. But such a farmer shows that right living consists not merely in refusing to commit a certain small list of selected crimes; right living is not only not stealing land (for example) from the rising generation, right living includes also doing all one can to pass on to those who shall come after, land that shall have become —because wisely used—more fertile and fruitful than it was before. In the same way with all other commandments, every Don't! has a Do! Thou shalt not kill means not only committing no murder, shortening no life; it means contributing to life and health all we can, wherever we can. "Temperance" is not mere restriction, it is not life-denying; it is life-building.

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