

Lancaster Farming

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CROP REPORTS

Bumper crops, excellent year, slim in some lines, an abundance of corn, a shortage of corn. Many and varied are the crop reports coming in to Lancaster Farming from farmers all over the nation. In Iowa, part of the state was hit by drouth, and the corn crop in some areas was curtailed, necessitating extra buying.

In Mississippi, one area reports a good year. Yet Missouri farmers are seeking funds to buy hay to feed drouth-stricken herds. In parts of Pennsylvania, excessive rains — especially in the western part — caused some farmers to sell their dairy cows during September rather than attempt to carry the animals over the winter months.

Here are some other Pennsylvania reports:

A fall roundup of Pennsylvania crop production for 1956 shows bigger volume for all field crops except oats and late potatoes, with wheat only slightly on the down side.

From the most bountiful potato yields, per acre (165 cwt per acre, 20 bags more than last year) the smallest acreage in history has produced almost the same number of tubers as last year.

In spite of a reduced crop, Pennsylvania commercial apple growers produced about 4,370,000 bu. for consumers. Killing frosts at blossom time in May caused a reduction from 6,500,000 in 1955.

Peaches fell about 19 per cent below 1955; grapes, at 26,200 tons, were 2,200 more than last year.

Good, bad; increases, decreases — it's all part of the gamble entitled farming.

Civil Defense—on the Farm

Much has been said about Civil Defense, and the lack of it, and sometimes one is inclined to think efforts in that direction are a bit on the futile or impractical side. Yet the civil defense role of the farmer is much more important than he may realize.

A five-point farm program has been outlined by the Federal Civil Defense Administration: 1, take care of your family and yourself; 2, keep your farm in production; 3, be ready to market your production; 4, be ready to take in evacuees, and 5, plan to help others.

Lancaster County's astounding agricultural production record during World War II is history. The County applied itself, despite rationing and restriction.

Much more there is that must be known. Many of the rules of civilian defense are principles the farm family has long applied. Reminders, such as these, however, point out the important role of the farm in civil defense. Pray God we'll never be forced to make use of them.

What Makes Animals Sunburn?

Most stockmen know that animals with light-colored hair—"blonds," so to speak, or animals with white areas, can suffer extreme discomfort from sunburn during the summer season. They provide shade for such animals and allow them to graze and feed during the hours of darkness.

But what may be a surprise to some is that the sun alone doesn't cause sunburning. It results from a combination of intense sunlight, long periods of exposure, and chlorophyll and other substances found in some plants, which, all together, cause "photosensitization," a term denoting the action which makes animals sensitive to the rays of the sun.

Dr. F. A. Hall, Purdue veterinarian, says feeding dry hay to animals therefore may be helpful in preventing this combination from developing, since photosensitization will not occur if chlorophyll and other substances from green plants are not present in great amount in the animal. Provision of shade and permitting animals to graze at night also helps prevent it, of course.



This Week in Lancaster Farming

By JACK REICHARD

50 YEARS AGO (1907)

Back in January, 1907 Lancaster County tobacco growers and buyers made front page news, involving "docking" practices set up by the buyers when deliveries were made at the warehouses. The dealers purchased the 1906 crop while the tobacco was still in the field; the growers signing a contract to deliver the product in a certain condition.

Previous to the delivery season the dealers sent out circulars to the farmers warning them to be careful as to the manner in which the crop was bundled, as they would receive and pay for only marketable tobacco.

When deliveries began shortly after the first of the year the dealers objected to the manner in which the tobacco was delivered, contending that the farmers did not properly sort the "seconds" from the "wrappers" and started to "dock" the growers, offering them the alternative of accepting the lower price or taking their tobacco home and resort to it. As most deliveries entailed considerable expense and travel over bad roads, the lower price was accepted under protest.

The farmers declared they had packed the tobacco the same as in previous years, and the "docking" scheme was a move by the buyers to get the tobacco at a lower price than the contract called for.

Some growers agitated the payment of a cash deposit by the packers, to be forfeited if they failed to take the crops at the price agreed upon, and advocated a growers organization to protect them from unfair treatment at the hands of tobacco dealers.

25 Years Ago

Twenty-five years ago, on the Lancaster farm of Park Copeland, Cochranville, the New Year began with 11 cows dead and two others sick from an outbreak of shipping fever. Dr. Hickman and Dr. Jas Hogg, veterinarians, performed an autopsy on one of the animals, declaring it was the worst kind of a case they had ever encountered. Four cows in the Copeland herd were not sick, which were believed to have been inoculated before coming into his possession.

Twenty-five years ago, there were few states in which fraud and gasoline tax evasion was not practiced, bearing full testimony to the futility of taxing a necessary commodity so high that the public rebels.

On the Atlantic Seaboard, gasoline bootlegging was reported "big business". Governor Pinchot estimated that tax evasion in Pennsylvania amounted to \$18,000,000 a year. Frauds also had been exposed in Illinois and Indiana, authorities in the latter declaring a minimum loss in revenue of \$2,000,000 annually. Louisiana reported immense quantities of gasoline brought into that state tax-free from Texas.

An Idaho farmer bought 20 gallons of gas, added two ciphers on his ticket, claiming exemption from the state for 2,000 gallons, collecting the claim of \$100. The most interesting thing in his case was that he was convicted of fraud and fined \$5, leaving him a clear profit of \$95.

The January, 1932, session of the Lancaster County Tobacco Growers' Association was held in the Farm Bureau Room, Woolworth Building, Lancaster, with the president, E. C. Cramer, presiding.

BIG FIREFLIES IN JAMAICA

Travelers returning from Jamaica, 50 years ago, reported fireflies in that land which emitted so brilliant a light that a dozen of them, enclosed within an inverted glass tumbler, enabled a person to read and write at night without the least difficulty. The flies, compared in size to American honey bees, were said to be perfectly harmless.

In Germany, 50 years ago, newspapers were commenting on the sagacity of a swallow which was being pursued by a hawk, and flew through the open window of a law court. Flying about the room, it at last rested on the head of a Justice, and remained there until the hawk went away.

1907 CIGAR PRODUCTION

The 9th Internal Revenue District, of which Lancaster was the center, held top place among the cigar manufacturing districts in the United States. During 1906, this district produced 763,702,018 cigars in 2,377 factories, consuming 14,766,543 pounds of tobacco. The 3rd district, of New York, ranked second place, where 698,153,671 cigars were manufactured that year.

THEY USED THE BATH TUB

Douglas Watson, San Francisco builder of cottages, 50 years ago, believed that the environment of people had something to do with their cleanliness or uncleanness, as the case might be.

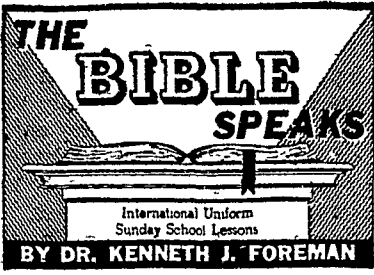
He stated that people failed to take a bath because there was no tub in the house. "Now I am building small cottages for poor people and each one will have a bathtub. We will call on these people some day to prove that I am right".

When Watson made an inspection at one of his cottages later, he found the bathtub had been carefully filled with earth, and a lovely garden was abloom with fuchsias and geraniums.

A half century ago, toothpicks imported into this country were made from quill and came from France. The largest factory in the world was near Paris, where an annual output of 20,000,000 quills were produced. The factory originally manufactured quill pens, but when these went out of general use it was converted into a toothpick mill.

OWNER GETS FINED

Baltimore, Md. — The owner of an Arlington avenue apartment house, Nathan Harris, was fined \$100 and costs on a charge of "causing a gas installation to be made in such a way as to create a hazard to life." Two tenants in the apartment house died from leaking gas.



Background Scripture: Matthew 1-2
Devotional Reading: Micah 4:1-5

Four Gospels

Lesson for January 6, 1957

THE story of the Wise Men who came to see the baby Jesus is so familiar that this column will deal this week with a question in the background of all study of the Gospels. Matthew is to be the book studied in the churches during the next three months. The existence of four gospels raises a very ancient question: "Why more than one? The early Christians church was somewhat embarrassed by that question. More attempts than one were made to discard all but one, or else to combine them all into one harmonized story. If the four gospels are alike, why repeat? And if they are different, which is right? Most of the problems involved cannot even be raised here. But there is room to set down a few notes on that one question: What is the point of having four gospels?"



Dr. Foreman

Gospels and Gospel
The conclusion to which the early church came, and for which we may well be grateful, is that there is only one Gospel, but four gospels: Adopted at a very early date were the headings we still read: The Gospel: according to Matthew, according to Mark—and so on. The gospels tell different stories, but the story is still the same. They all bear witness to the same Christ. Just as in a courtroom trial it is important if possible to have more than one eye-witness report of an accident, it is valuable to have more than one report of the life, character and teaching of Jesus. But just as, in court, it would raise suspicion if all the eye-witnesses agreed on all details, so it would raise suspicion and be of no help if all our gospels agreed on details. The essentials of the four gospels are all the same; and the variations add to our knowledge. It is plain that the early church must have thought that each gospel had something indispensable to

they were not to have kept it. should be remembered that our four gospels were not the only ones in existence. The early church did a good job of sifting, as any one can see who will take the trouble to read some of the fantastic or dull productions the church rejected (See The Apocryphal New Testament, in any large library.)

Portraits

Not one of the gospels is what in modern times would be called a "definitive biography" of Jesus—a story so complete that no one would ever bother to investigate further. They are not biographies at all. They are not photographs; they are more like portraits. A commercial photograph is a neutral sort of thing. A portrait is an interpretation. Mark interprets Jesus as the mighty Son of God with power. Very little teaching is reported by Mark—it is all action, and rapid action too. Luke's portrait is of the broad humanity of Jesus, his sympathy with all men, with women and children too. He gives us Jesus, the ideal human being. John's portrait interprets Jesus as the divine Son of God; in constant touch and harmony with the Father on high, doing the works of God and teaching the truth of God. In other gospels Jesus' teaching is, so to speak, in his own name. In John the reader is never allowed to forget that it is all the teaching of God. Matthew combines the wonder-worker and the teacher in one portrait; Jesus appears as the One with Authority. From the very beginning, where Jesus is presented as the son of kings, to the end where he is given, "all authority in heaven and earth," he moves with majesty and power.

Viewpoints

Not only are the portraits different, but the viewpoints of the four gospels are varied. Two features of Matthew's point of view will be evident all the way along. One is that he tries to interest Jewish readers. He quotes the Old Testament more often than any other gospel; he traces Jesus' family tree back to Abraham through the Hebrew kings (quite a contrast to the family tree given by Luke). To this day it remains one of the best gospels for interesting Jews in the life of Jesus. The other feature is that while Matthew begins, as it were, on the small stage of the Jewish people, he does not remain there. The Christ who comes first only as heir to the throne of David, is at last seen to have the very authority of God himself. Already in the gifts of the wise men Matthew hints his truth: Christ is Lord of all men everywhere.