

Lancaster Farming

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Facts on Farm Fatalities

The fatal-accident rate has been increasing on our farms in this country, according to a USDA tabulation of available data. ARS agricultural economist John Rush analyzed information from death certificates provided by the National Office of Vital Statistics. Fatality rates for accidents on farmland and about service buildings increased from 6.7 per 100,000 persons during 1940 to 1943 to 10.3 during 1949 to 1953. (Figures are based on information that is not comparable in every detail because of classification differences.)

During the 14-year period, 31,521 fatal accidents occurred on United States farms. This does not include either disabling injuries or fatal accidents that occurred in the homes or off the farms (such as traffic deaths). Rush pinpointed the time and kind of accidents, the age group and States in which accidents were most frequent.

Of the farm accidents occurring between 1949 and 1953, the greatest cause in 43 States was machinery. Drownings were the chief cause of deaths in Arizona and Texas, and firearms were the main factor in Rhode Island and West Virginia. Nevada deaths resulted equally from machinery, animals, firearms, and falls. Other accidental causes included electricity, lightning, and blows from falling objects.

The greatest number of fatalities occurred in the 15-to-19 age group, indicating that many young people had not acquired necessary skills or taken proper safety precautions in using farm machinery. Next greatest number of fatalities was in the 10 to 14 age group, followed by children under five. The 20-to-24 age group was the safest.

An earlier Indiana Agricultural Experiment Station study indicates more accidents occurred at 10 a.m. than any other time. Next peaks were at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., when fatigue possibly reduces alertness.

About one-fifth of all fatal farm accidents during 1949 and 1953 occurred in the Corn Belt States. An eighth of the accidents were in the Northeastern and Appalachian States. The largest number was in Texas, with 727, followed by Pennsylvania, 571, Illinois, 555, Iowa, 544, Wisconsin, 528, Missouri, 525, Ohio, 522, and California, 506.

Rush made a study in South Carolina between 1946 and 1955, on the basis of newspaper clippings. He tabulated fatal accidents of farmers and rural residents — including mishaps in the home and on the highway. About one-fifth (19 per cent) of the accidents were on farm land.

More fatalities occurred in December than any other month. July followed closely. Drownings occurred mainly in May, June, and July. Burns were most frequent in November through February, when farm people are exposed to open fireplaces and unguarded stoves. Machinery fatalities were highest in August. Pedestrian deaths topped the list in November and motor vehicle collisions were most frequent in September.

Lo! the Cockroach

A county feed salesman was remarking on an advertisement for agricultural chemicals carried in Lancaster Farming.

"They used to be one of my best customers when I was in that area," he said.

We asked why and what he was selling to a chemical company.

"Dog pellets," he said. "They said that they were the best food that they had found to feed their cockroaches."

It seems that the cockroach is to the chemical industry as the guinea pig is to medicine.

So we live and learn.



BY JACK REICHARD
 50 YEARS AGO (1907)

25 Years Ago

The priceless collection of china, rare bronzes and bric-a-brac gathered by Mrs. John Wanamaker from all parts of the world, which had escaped destruction in a fire which leveled in ruins Lyndhurst, the large country residence of the Wanamaker family, near Jenkintown, Pa., during February, 1907, was completely destroyed July 20, that year when the stables on the grounds in which the collection was temporarily housed were completely gutted. Three horses and all stable equipment were burned in the blaze.

The origin of both fires, which destroyed one of the most magnificent country estates in the United States, baffled investigators.

GIRL SAVED BY DOG'S BARK

When Miss Mamie Frey, East Cocalico Township, upper Lancaster County, was on her way to Sunday School that warm July morning, she took a short cut by crossing the creek near her home in a boat. While getting out on the opposite shore the boat slipped, throwing the girl into the water which covered her head. The family dog, which accompanied the girl to the stream, saw what had happened and began to bark, attracting the attention of the girl's father, Peter Frey, who rushed to the scene and pulled his struggling daughter out of the water and carried her home. She remained unconscious for several hours, but recovered.

BREAKS FINGER PULLING ONIONS

William Leeking, employed as hostler at Lancaster's Sorrel Horse Hotel stables, was working an onion top around his hand to an onion top around his hand to pull it out the ground he broke the middle finger of his right hand.

In Southern Lancaster County, at Fairfield, while Wells Wiley, of Wakefield, was attending the Mt. Zion M. E. Sunday School festival, his horse became frightened, tearing itself from the buggy, after breaking the shafts and kicking the dashboard to pieces. Two young ladies seated in the vehicle were thrown out but not hurt. The horse ran among other teams on the grounds, breaking the shafts of a buggy owned by Robert Collins, and tore a wheel off a buggy owned by Galen Girvin before it was caught.

OCTORARO FARMERS' CLUB IN SESSION

Lancaster County's Octoraro Farmers' Club met at the Spring Lawn farm of Edwin Chamber Saturday, July 20, a half century ago. Although most of the families were represented some of the male members were absent due to the busy crop season. Morning and afternoon programs were presented, with music furnished throughout the day by George Webster on the phonograph.

Following the serving of dinner, the men strolled over the farm inspecting the crops and noting things in general. The women folk spent a social hour in admiring the 75 feet of sweet peas which were in full bloom, the spacious garden and well kept lawn.

Williston Florida, was the country's chief cucumber growing center a half century ago. In 1906 the area produced 56,000 baskets of the product to supply northern markets. In 1907 growers expected to increase production to 70,000 baskets of cucumbers.

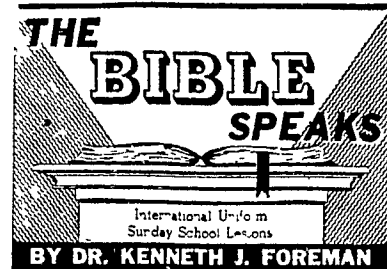
North Dakota farmers, who produced one-sixth of the nation's wheat output in 1932, resolved to hold out for one dollar a bushel. Dell Willis, of Tolna, a large wheat grower, was named chairman of the organization which had stirred up farmers in more than 400 North Dakota townships to pledge holding their wheat until the \$1 level was reached. When the set price was reached it was planned to sell 10 per cent of the crop monthly.

PRESIDENT HOOVER CUTS SALARIES

President Herbert Hoover cut his own salary 20 per cent and ordered reductions of 15 per cent in the pay of the Vice President and cabinet members in an economic move, 25 years ago this week.

Instead of \$75,000 yearly, Mr. Hoover was to receive \$6,000 and the Vice President and cabinet members were to get \$12,750 instead of \$15,000.

A fire blamed on heat from harvested oats destroyed a large barn on the farm of Allen Johnson at Pilot, Md. An unoccupied tenant house, used for storage purposes, also was destroyed.



Background Scripture: Numbers 13, 14 1-10, 24, 30-38, Joshua 14 6-15, 15 13-19, Judges 1 14-15
 Devotional Reading: Isaiah 40 27-31

Rugged Faith

Lesson for July 21, 1957

A MAN who at the age of 40 was not afraid to give a minority report even in the face of a threatened lynching, a man who at 85 was still asking for the hardest job and the most dangerous job in the country; such a man is worth more than a glance. Such a man was Caleb, a much younger contemporary of Moses.

We first hear of this study man when he and Joshua stood out alone against the overwhelming pessimism of the majority. "Report on Prospects." Twelve tribal leaders had been chosen to go into Palestine and see what things looked like. Ten of these leaders brought back the word (and archaeology shows it was true). The country is full of well-built, well-fortified cities. We shall not take it without a fight. But then they went on to say, "We shall lose the fight. Forget all about the conquest of Canaan, it can't be done. We are no better than grasshoppers!"

God-Conscious

On the facts, Caleb and Joshua agreed. A beautiful land, well-defended cities, plenty of fighting certain. But on the recommendations they had something different to say. "Do not fear," they said. "The Lord is with us." But no one believed them unless it was Moses. The people were so far from believing them that they threatened them with death by stoning. The difference between Caleb and Joshua, on the one side, and the masses of the people on the other, was the faith of these men. The majority thought only, "We can do nothing." This tiny minority thought, "We can do a great deal — if God is with us." The majority looked at the situation and found it hopeless, because they found it



Dr. Foreman

A stiff breeze carried burning embers to the nearby farm of Charles Smith, burning the barn, chicken house and hogpen to the ground.

Rising Sun Fire Co. responded to the call, and later called the Quarryville Fire Co. to aid in getting the flames under control.

The death of L. Wayne Brinton, Lancaster County farmer residing near Kirkwood, occurred in the Lancaster General Hospital, from injuries received while threshing.

Brinton had been feeding the machine, when it became overheated and the revolving cylinder burst, with the flying pieces striking him on the head and body. His son, Loran, who was close by, also received cuts in the face from the flying pieces of steel. Others assisting in the work of threshing were Brinton's son, Robert, Paul Ferguson, James Trimble and Henry McCall, neighbors, who escaped injury. The interior of the threshing rig was wrecked.

STORM DAMAGE IN YORK COUNTY

Crops were damaged and trees and poles knocked down in a storm that swept over York County July 22, 1932.

In the eastern section of York City the large pillars on the tower of the Fourth United Brethren Church were torn loose when struck by a bolt of lightning. The pillars crashed through the roof of the church and fell in the main auditorium.

In the northern section of the county hail fell, cutting standing crops to ribbons and smashing panes of glass in greenhouses in that area.

godless Caleb looked at the same situation with hope and confidence, because he saw God as the most important part of it. The reason why faith is strong is that faith is God-conscious.

On God's Side

Merely being aware of God is not the whole of faith, — not the whole of the rugged faith of Caleb. It is quite clear from what Caleb said, that he wanted to be, and believed he was, on God's side, and carrying out God's purposes. Faith not only sees God in hard situations, faith lines up with God, so far as God's will can be seen. There is a great deal of difference, for example, between faith as we find it in Luther and as we find it in Hitler. Both of them were men of strong faith. They believed themselves to be men of destiny. But then why were they so different? The difference was in this: Luther wished nothing higher than to follow the will of God wherever it might lead him, Hitler if he believed in God at all, expected God to support his own ambitions. A Hitler cracks up at the last, but a Luther does not. So Caleb outlived his entire generation for his hope and his faith were planted in God, not in himself.

Without Fear, Without Pride

Faith in God like all good things can be turned into a sort of mockery of itself, a cheap or grotesque imitation of reality. Faith can be a cover-up for fear. It can be used as a retreat to get out of attempting hard things. Once a young man was pleading in a great gathering of Christian leaders, for men to go out as Christian missionaries, — this in a day when missionaries were very few. An older minister rose and told the young man to sit down. "When God is ready to convert the heathen, he will do it without your help!" That minister was using his faith to conceal his own unwillingness to risk the dangers of being a missionary. Some parents are so much afraid of vaccination that they will refuse to let their children be vaccinated — we believe in God, they say. True faith is a rugged thing, as Caleb's was. It asks for the hardest tasks, it is not afraid of work or danger. Then faith can be twisted into pride; Hitler is an example of that, so was Napoleon. So was the Grand Inquisitor; so have been any number of tyrants in the church and out of it. True faith creates confidence, but not conceit. When a man of faith begins to confuse himself with God, rugged faith has changed to brittle arrogance.

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