

Lancaster Farming

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Fertilizer Use Drops

Fertilizer consumption decreased 8.37 per cent in the Middle Atlantic region during the past year. This compares with a decrease of 2.35 per cent for the nation as a whole.

Pennsylvania used only 92 per cent as much fertilizer last year as in the preceding year, but the amount of actual plant food used dropped only five per cent.

And although you will never see it on a bag, the average fertilizer used in the state was a 5.21-12.01-11.51. The composition most preferred by Pennsylvania farmers was 8-12-12 with 262,587 tons of this material being purchased. Next was 10-10-10 at 71,519 tons. Also in the running with 57,483 tons being sold with 6-9-12. The following mixtures with sales in the 18,000 to 24,000 ton bracket filled out the bulk of the sales: 5-10-10, 8-16-16, 8-12-16 and 10-15-15.

Of the fertilizer materials used in the past year, natural organics led the list with 9,375 tons being applied. Next was ammonium nitrate with 5,338 tons of this high nitrogen material being used.

The natural organic materials include dried blood, compost, cottonseed meal, fish scrap meal, dried manures, activated sewage sludge, animal tankage, and processed tankage.

These figures are taken from a report of commercial fertilizer and primary plant nutrient consumption prepared by the fertilizer and agricultural lime section of the Agricultural Research Service at Beltsville, Md.

The reports notes that in only two regions — the West South Central (Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas) and Pacific (Washington, Oregon and California)—were slight gains made, while in the other regions consumption was lower by amounts ranging up to nearly 11 per cent as compared to the preceding year.

In 1955-56 the total consumption of commercial mixed fertilizers amounted to 14,775,653 tons, or 66.58 per cent of the quantity of fertilizers. There were 1,536 grades reported. In addition, approximately 500 mixtures, not reported by grades, were used in California.

The total consumption of mixed fertilizers was 572,197 tons (3.73 per cent) less than in the preceding year, and the quantity decreased in each of the regions except the Pacific which showed an increase of 3.78 per cent.

Though 171 grades consumed in the continental U.S. represented 96.17 per cent of the total tonnage of mixed fertilizers used in this area, 15 of these accounted for 62.56 per cent of the tonnage.

These 15 were the same as those in 1954-55 except that the 6-12-12 grade replaced the 4-8-8 grade. The weighted average guaranteed nutrient content of the 15 grades was 4.80 per cent nitrogen, 12.12 per cent available P₂O₅, and 14.30 per cent K₂O (total, 28.22 per cent) as compared, respectively, with 4.51, 11.80 and 10.86 per cent (total, 27.17 per cent) in the preceding year. The proportionate increase in the concentration of nitrogen and potash were higher than in that of P₂O₅.

In 1955-56 the 5-10-10 grade was consumed in largest tonnage, while in each of the preceding six years the 3-12-12 grade showed the largest consumption.

Compared with the previous year, the principal changes in consumption of chemical nitrogen materials were increases in the tonnages of urea, 35 per cent; aqua ammonia, 34 per cent; and anhydrous ammonia, 18 per cent.

Phosphate rock was the only phosphate material that showed a large increase in consumption, 57 per cent, nearly all of which was in Illinois and Missouri, these two states using more than 85 per cent of the total tonnage of this material.

The consumption of potash materials for direct application increased only .9 per cent. Among the individual materials, the use of the 58 to 62 per cent grades of potassium chloride, which comprised 76 per cent of the total consumption of potash materials, showed the largest increase in quantity.



BY JACK REICHARD
 50 YEARS AGO (1907)

Milk producers in Southern Lancaster County were assured profitable prices and prompt pay for their deliveries back in 1907.

George Abbott, prominent Philadelphia milk dealer and butter manufacturer, purchased the Dickinson and Forbes plant at Quarryville, including its numerous branches, and was constructing milk receiving stations along the entire line of the Lancaster, Oxford and Southern narrow gauge railroad.

Abbott pointed out the move would increase his milk supply over a million and a half pounds each month.

LIGHTNING KILLS CAT, SPARES MISTRESS

A freak of lightning, at Stewartstown, in southern York County, entered the home of Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Shaffer. Mrs. Shaffer was seated upon a chair in the parlor with her pet cat nearby. The lightning killed the cat, leaving its mistress unharmed.

Elsewhere in Stewartstown the schoolhouse was struck by lightning, and four hogs in a sty near the town were killed.

On the farm of David Gerber, near Davidsburg, six cows were killed in pasture during the same storm.

GUNNER MISSED CAT SHOT BOY

John Weaver, 10, of Lancaster, was in the Lancaster General Hospital, suffering with a torn left hip resulting from a discharge of gun shot.

The lad was in the yard at the rear of his home when a neighbor, who was annoyed over the loss of numerous chicks by a cat, raised his gun and fired, missing the cat, with young Weaver receiving the full discharge from the gun. The man did not see the boy.

No action was taken by the authorities against the gunner, as they were satisfied the shooting was accidental.

A BIT OF JOHN MACNEILL WIT

An English paper, in describing a great convention, had this paragraph about the singing: "At No. 2 platform the chairman in a rather weak voice announced the hymn, 'Count your Blessings' But the response was feeble until Rev. John MacNeill sprang to the rescue, shouting: 'Now, then, "Count your blessings." I've got a wife and seven. How many have you got?' The singing went with a swing after that."

GOOD BUTTERMAKERS

A State College farmer was given the highest rating out of 24 buttermakers entering samples in the 1907 butter-scoring contest at State College.

Out of 24 samples submitted only seven scored 90 per cent pure or better.

A. L. Martin, State College, scored 93½ per cent pure. Next to Martin was E. C. Wivel, southern Lancaster County, who scored 92 per cent.

Wivel operated the Conowingo Dairy Co., a co-operative.

PHYSICIAN HAD COLD TREATMENT

According to the Milwaukee Journal, back in 1907, a bald-headed physician had the following to say on how not to catch a cold.

"I used to be dreadfully subject to colds, even in summer. I had to wear a black skullcap all the time. The minute I took it off I began to sneeze and wheeze. But now for a year I have not once worn a skullcap and I have not once had a cold. Why, I could go and stand bareheaded in a snowstorm without any ill effect. My immunity to colds comes from this: Every morning I put my head under the cold water to run for a minute on my

bald crown This is refreshing, and since I began to do it I have never had a cold."

25 Years Ago

Twenty-five years ago this week lightning caused wide spread property damage, burned live stock and injured a number of persons in Lancaster County.

Three persons were burned in Columbia by lightning bolts which entered homes. A bolt which apparently flashed through the door of Mrs. Ambrose Smith's residence struck a lamp, burned the insulation of the lamp cord, and slightly burned Mrs. Smith on the hand and foot and her 5-year-old son, Ambrose, Jr., on the hand and leg.

About the same time, lightning entered the window at the home of Jacob Buck, Columbia's night policeman Buck, who was sleeping at the time, was knocked out of bed and burned on the arm.

Heaviest damage was caused by a fire on the Jacob B. Thomas farm near New Danville, tenanted by Roy Wilson. Two horses, eight hogs, chickens, farm machinery and crops were destroyed when the barn was burned to the ground. Firemen from five companies saved the house and other outbuildings. Thomas estimated the loss at \$12,000.

A barn on the farm of Allen H. Hoffer, near Manheim, rebuilt after its destruction by lightning

in April, 1932, was damaged the second time that year, with loss estimated at \$7,500. A bull, two calves and two horses were burned to death.

While firemen from Manheim and Mt. Joy battled the Hoffer blaze, part of the Manheim Fire Co. was summoned to another fire at Amos Frey's residence near Manheim. The roof and ceiling were damaged, with loss placed at \$500.

Pennsylvania Railroad officials estimated \$1,000 damage was caused by fire started by a bolt of lightning which struck a motor shed in the railroad yards at Lancaster.

Another bolt struck the residence of Willam Hager in Lancaster and damaged the third floor of the house. Hager estimated damage at \$300.

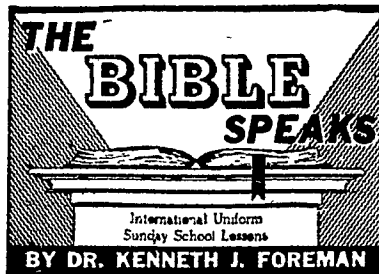
R.F.C. TURNS DOWN REQUEST FOR STATE AID

Pennsylvania was given notice by the Reconstruction Finance Corp. at Washington that it must first help itself before it could expect to receive Federal aid for relief purpose, back in 1932.

That attitude of the R.F.C. board was made public, with no mincing words, as it turned down Governor Pinchot's request for an immediate loan of \$10,000,000, which was later to be expanded to \$45,000,000.

The board declined to advance the loan, at a conference with Governor Pinchot and representatives of the Cabinet and the Pennsylvania State Legislature.

That same week, in 1932, E. A. Seaman, in charge of the Lancaster office of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Markets, announced he had been informed by Secretary of Agriculture John A. McSparran that the office would be closed, effective Aug. 6.



Background Scripture: Ruth.
 Devotional Reading: Deuteronomy 10: 17-21.

Foreigner

Lesson for August 4, 1957

AMERICA has always been a land of foreigners. The first human beings who ever came to these shores were natives of other lands. We think of the Indians as having lived here always, but their ancestors came from Asia across the Bering Strait. Some ancestor of every one who reads this sentence was once recently—or long ago—an immigrant to this country. And still they keep coming. The coming of Hungarians is fresh in our minds; but they are only one among many races in our American melting pot. In this we are more like Brazil or Australia than like long-settled countries such as Norway and Scotland.



Dr. Foreman

Why don't people stay put? Why this age-long trek from one land to another? Sometimes it is a mass-movement, sometimes a mere trickle of individuals. But migration is almost never aimless. There are always reasons. The story of Ruth, in the Bible book named for her, is the story of an immigrant girl, and very suggestive for our times too. This particular young woman left her native land to go among strangers at a time and place when strangers and migrants had a much harder time of it than they do even now. But her motives were simple, strong and good. She went from Moab to Judah because she loved her mother-in-law Naomi, the mother of her dead young husband. One of the most beautiful expressions of devotion, by the way, to be found anywhere, is in the book of Ruth where the young woman declares her determination to follow Naomi wherever she goes;—a small poem of love, from a daughter-in-law to her mother-in-law. Ruth's motive in moving

from her native country to a strange one was simply her love for her family. Many persons have come to America for no other reason than this, that their families had come or were coming. Think of the Hungarian families who want to stay together; of the war brides from Germany and Italy and Japan; of the newcomers from Greece, China, Ireland and all over the world, who as soon as they get through customs have headed straight for some city where they could live near their relatives. Most foreigners arrive with mixed motives; so did our own ancestors. And some of those motives are just as good as Ruth's.

Contributions

Ruth, like most immigrants, had to start at the bottom of the ladder, both economically and socially. She was one of the extremely poor for whom the ancient law had been made: Do not harvest our fields clean—leave some gleanings for the poor of the land. So in her humble way, picking up what she could find in the fields of Boaz, Ruth contributed to the "labor pool" of her new home. Boaz was bright enough to see that Ruth had something to contribute besides physical strength. (She could carry a 90-pound sack of grain without help.) She had character of a rare sort. It took courage on the side of Boaz to decide to marry her, for he would be going against the prejudices of his neighbors, even against the law, which banned Moabites down to the tenth generation—and Ruth was only the first! But Boaz knew that this young woman, as wife and mother, would be an asset to his family and his country. And we know how right he was; how she became an ancestor of King David and even of the greater King Jesus.

Welcome

It is only natural for people, families, communities and even nations to become ingrown, to be suspicious of strangers. Some places hardly ever admit any one to their closed circle. In a Virginia community a daughter of one of the "First Families," speaking of a neighbor, said, "Her family came here only 60 years ago—they don't really belong here!" What a lonely life that neighbor must have led! Newcomers have to prove themselves, as all men must; but it is shabby treatment not even to give them a chance. Happy is the community, and blessed the church, that will be as quick to help the needy among its newcomers, and to perceive the good in them, as Boaz was with Ruth, the penniless immigrant.

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