

Lancaster Farming

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In Case Of Emergency

A team of USDA, State, and local specialists throughout the Nation stands ready to go into action in case of emergency to save our livestock and crops from disease and destruction.

This team now operates on a full-scale, peacetime basis to help prevent any foreign livestock and plant pests and diseases from coming into our country and to control those we already have. It is also set up to slip quickly into high gear in case of biological warfare — deliberate use of disease-producing agents against animals and plants. One of its important new functions is to tell our farmers how to minimize the effects of radioactive fallout on livestock, crops, and farm products.

This country has been able to defend itself in past wars because of the production of our farms and factories. In the future, however, an enemy may attempt to weaken or destroy these resources by any means possible. Deliberate introduction of disease as an act of sabotage, for instance, could cripple our livestock and crop industries. That could limit our food supply as well as many sources of clothing and medicine.

An enemy could select the host, disease, time, and place of outbreak to make animal and plant disease control more difficult and to cause devastating losses. Similar disease could be introduced at the same time to confuse diagnosis and eradication. It's unfortunately true that some animal diseases — native and foreign, harmless and fatal — have similar symptoms and are difficult to distinguish. Combining different diseases might produce contradictory signs and different incubation periods.

Our Federal Civil Defense Administration realized the potential threat of deliberately caused animal and plant disease. So, in September 1954, FCDA delegated to USDA the responsibility for protecting our crops and livestock against biological warfare. This job was given to ARS because of the longtime experience of its regulatory personnel in handling cooperative State-Federal operations. ARS immediately organized a countrywide series of meetings to establish a plan for coping with biological warfare. Participating were State and Federal regulatory officials, representatives of diagnostic laboratories, State experiment stations, and agricultural and veterinary colleges.

These planners knew that control of biological warfare on livestock meant, basically, control of foreign diseases. Principles of disease control and eradication are the same, whether diseases get in accidentally or deliberately. Thus, planners decided the best way to deal with biological warfare on livestock was to have a well-trained standby force that could be quickly expanded in time of war. With this in mind, a State-Federal Emergency Animal Disease Eradication Organization was set up in most States to deal with dangerous animal diseases of foreign origin.

In the past, we've looked upon many animal and plant pests and diseases as peculiar to Europe, Asia, and Africa. But today's fast intercontinental air transportation and the buildup of trade and travel have given such pests and diseases new importance. These factors, plus our own fast livestock marketing, have greatly increased the danger of accidental and deliberate transmission. Furthermore, we have at least 8,000 domestic insects competing for our food and fiber. Deliberate dissemination of foreign plant pests would complicate an already complex control problem.

Up until now, times has been on our side. Shipments of livestock by sea took from 15 to 30 days. This period gave most diseases time to develop signs that could be observed. Today, for the first time in history, we are importing more animals by air than by ocean vessel. Animals arrive in hours instead of days.

We move animals rapidly within our borders, too. The nationwide outbreak of vesicular exanthema in swine is a forceful example of how fast animal disease can spread. VE was limited for many years to California until 1952, when it escaped via raw garbage sent out of the State. Within 6 weeks, 18 States reported the disease, and a short time later, 13 more.



BY JACK REICHARD

50 YEARS AGO (1907)

A progressive town in the dairy section of the west had inaugurated as a regular feature in its annual public events a dairy-men's picnic, which was held for the twofold purpose of recreation and education. The picnic was arranged by officials of the Cooperative Dairy Assn. working with the business men of the town, and invitations were extended to all residents and people residing in the surrounding countryside. Folks were asked to bring well filled baskets of eatables, while the committee provided free amusement in the way of merry-go-rounds, band concerts and sports of various kinds. Following the picnic dinner a program featuring talks and demonstrations on dairy subjects were presented by dairy experts from the state agricultural college.

POTATO DIGGING DEMONSTRATION

Quite an interesting potato digging demonstration took place on the farm of E. Henry Haines, southern Lancaster County, 50 years ago this week. Haines, who had 16 acres in potatoes, was contemplating the purchase of a mechanical digger and was anxious to secure the most satisfactory machine on the market.

He invited several dealers to make a demonstration in his potato field. Representatives of "The Hallock" and "The Hoover" machines responded. Prior to the demonstrations three disinterested persons were chosen to act as judges. They were B. Z. Hess, of Willow Street, Joseph Ross, Oxford, and G. Bromfield, Rising Sun, Maryland.

Both machines were demonstrated under favorable and unfavorable conditions and did excellent work. The first report of the judges was a disagreement, but they finally decided in favor of the Hoover digger because "they believed it separated the vines from the potatoes better".

Four horses were used to pull each digging machine. A large crowd of potato growers from Lancaster, York and Chester Counties, and points in Maryland had assembled to witness the demonstrations.

Elsewhere in lower Lancaster County that week, Jacob Graybill of near The Buck, suffered a crushed right hand and had the little finger torn off, while helping to set a threshing machine into position on the farm of Phares Evans.

In Montana, a half century ago, where the raising of sheep was one of the leading industries, it was common for the owners of large ranches to clean up \$150,000 a year with a minimum of effort.

Montana headed the list in the sheep and wool industry in 1906, with some 4,940,000 sheep which yielded 35,815,000 pounds of wool valued at \$8,523,970.

Farmers in Michigan during the year 1906 raised more than 5,000,000 bushels of beans, from which they realized between \$8,000,000 and \$10,000,000.

With the development of the electrical sciences in the 1900's, it is interesting to note that the world's copper output in 1881 was placed at 63,000 tons selling at 18 cents per pound and amounting to \$65,000,000. In 1906 the annual production was 800,000 tons selling at a little over 20 cents per pound, amounting to \$365,000,000.

25 Years Ago

Fire of unknown origin destroyed a large barn, chicken house, two wagon sheds and a straw shed on the farm of War-

ren Bailey, near Cochranville in Chester County, causing damage estimated at \$25,000.

The fire was discovered by Miss Mabel Bailey, a daughter of the owner, who was awakened by the flames and roused members of the family, then summoned the Atglen, Oxford and Parkesburg Fire Companies.

The blaze had gained such headway when the firemen arrived that they were unable to save the buildings.

The season's crops, including a large supply of hay and wheat, and all farm machinery were destroyed. A calf, seven chickens and 20 turkeys were burned.

During the height of the fire, sparks swept across two fields and threatened a barn on the property of David McMillian. The Christiana Fire Company was summoned to protect the building.

\$100,000 BLAZE AT ELKTON, MARYLAND

A downpour of rain, close proximity of big Elk Creek, and the efficient work of a dozen fire companies within a radius of 25 miles, saved the town of Elkton, Md., from being destroyed, 25 years ago this week.

The fire broke out in a lumber storage building of the Elkton Supply Co. and quickly gained

such headway that two other large buildings and a double residence were destroyed. The loss was estimated at \$100,000.

That same week lightning destroyed a barn on the Lancaster farm of Benjamin B. Shelly, R3 Manheim. The loss was estimated at \$10,000.

The flames spread through the barn to a corn barn, tobacco shed and hog pen.

Manheim firemen saved the tobacco shed and also prevented the dwelling from catching fire, but the barn and two smaller buildings went up in smoke. Three cows, two mules, a bull, eight hogs, two dogs and a number of chickens and rabbits perished in the fire. The season's crops and all farm machinery, including a tractor and fodder cutter, were destroyed.

MAN FROZEN TO DEATH

Back in August, 1932, Harry Lanfersieck, 49, of St. Louis, was frozen to death.

Lanfersieck's body was found in a vat partly filled with brine in a refrigerator car where he had gone to get ice. He apparently had stepped into the vat, thinking the frozen brine was solid. He broke through and was unable to climb up the slippery slides of the vat.

The Long Island Potato Growers Assn in New York State voted not to sell potatoes for less than 65 cents a hundredweight, 25 years ago this week.

About 1,000 potato growers attended the gathering and pledged support to New Jersey growers in a move to boost potato prices.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Uniform
Sunday School Lessons

BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Background Scripture: 11 Kings 22:1-23:30, 11 Chronicles 34-35
Devotional Reading: Psalm 119:57-64.

In Capitols

Lesson for September 1, 1957

PEOPLE in capitols have tremendous power. A President, a senator, a parliament, a cabinet member . . . whether it is the county court house or the world-renowned capitol building of a mighty nation, the people who work under the dome, just because they work there, have a leverage



Dr. Foreman

for moving public opinion, for getting things done on an immense scale, a power far greater than any one of them has by himself. The man there in his office, or in his seat in the legislative chamber, may be, and usually is, a man of parts, a man above the average in personality and ability. But however able the man under the dome may be personally, his office gives him even greater power. The voice of the man who was elected carries more weight than the voice of the man he defeated.

November Is Coming

The ancient Hebrews were a democratic people in some ways, but in others they were most unlike us. At the time of King Josiah the kingship was by no means an elective office. "And his son reigned in his stead" is the regular formula. So the Hebrews had at that time nothing to say about who should be their kings. They took whatever son the royal harem produced first. For good ones (there were some) they thanked God, and for the bad ones they were thankful they were no worse. King Josiah, whose story may be read in the Background Scripture, was one of the outstanding good kings. But it was custom and tradition that made him king, not the people. With us it is different. The people have to decide who shall occupy our places of great power. November is com-

ing; many will be elected, many more defeated, in our American elections. It is not too soon to ask ourselves seriously, what kind of men do we want under our capitol dome? Sometimes the choice offered us makes us discouraged, so that we stay at home and don't vote. But even if all we have is a choice between two third-raters, a good third-rater is better than a poor one. If we have good men in our capitols, it is our responsibility to see that they get there.

Little Capitols

It's a peculiar thing, but often true, that although candidates for local offices can be better known than those for state or national office, rascals and ne'er-do-wells are more often elected to the small offices than to the large ones. For some reasons, local government gets less attention from the voters than it should. The mayor of a single large city, today controls more power over more people than King Josiah ever did. It is in the "little capitol" if you like, the county court houses for example, that public affairs sometimes take the wrong turn. Where there is a public program well conceived and organized, it can look good as a public law, it can look good as it comes to the states . . . but when it goes through the local court-houses it can turn into some pretty rotten trickery. In a certain state not long ago federal funds for a very good purpose had to be cut off from a dozen or more countries because the officials there had been lining their pockets with easy money. It's a poor voter, one with a small sense of responsibility, who takes pains to elect good senators and presidents, but who when it comes to voting the local ticket, just says, Oh well . . . and votes straight because it's easiest.

Capitols Can't Do It All

The sad truth is, King Josiah's reforms didn't stick. They didn't, because they were reforms from the top. Even an absolute monarch can make his country no better than his people want it to be. It is true, we ought to have the best officials, from town to county to state to nation, that we can elect; but even if they were all praying, intelligent, devoted Christians, they cannot make this a better country merely by passing laws. Like Josiah, our men in government can make this a better country. Only if we the people want to have it so.

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