

# Lancaster Farming

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## With a Grain of Salt?

WE HEARD A COUPLE of tales the past week that we thought were good enough to pass along

Wayne Rentschler attended the annual meeting of the American Institute of Cooperation, held at Ft. Collins, Colo. He said that before he and his wife started the trip, he was prevailed upon to remove his fishing tackle from the car. The result — he had to pass up some of the best trout fishing in the country in the Rocky Mountains.

Rentschler also claims that this was not a "honeymoon" trip. You know — "Honey, do this," and "Honey, do that"

Arhe Anderson, swine herdsman at Masonic Homes, was illustrating the jumping power of certain breeds of swine at a meeting of the county swine producers association directors

"You think they can't jump," he said. "I woke up one night at the Illinois State Fair with a 500 pound boar slobbering in my face. And if you don't think that's a way to wake up quick, try it some time"

## What Rent for Beef Animals?

THE MAXIMUM RENT a beef animal should pay, and the most a farmer should spend on buildings, can be figured by a formula developed by USDA in cooperation with Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station

The formula allows for simple, one-story, open-front shelter barns. These are the most economical type of buildings for sheltering beef animals. Open areas are well suited for removing manure as well as for bringing in power equipment and supplies. Hay and bedding storage is less expensive at ground level than in lofts, and storage in horizontal silos is simpler and more economical than in vertical silos

Nothing is included in bigness, uniform architecture, and better appearance. ARS agricultural economist R. N. Van Arsdall says this should be charged to personal pride or advertising — not to cattle

First step in determining rent per animal is to estimate the average gross return by subtracting original cost from sale cost. If a 500-pound steer bought for 20 cents a pound, or \$100, sold at 23 cents a pound at the weight of 1,000 pounds, or \$230, the gross is \$130.

To figure the annual rent, take eight per cent of the gross. (This eight per cent represents the usual cost of building rent in Midwest beef enterprises.) That would be \$10.40 for the portion of annual gross income that could be allotted from each animal for use of the building.

This figure (\$10.40 here) represents interest on investment, depreciation, repairs, maintenance, taxes, insurance, and miscellaneous expenses. These costs (taking eight per cent of gross income) usually total nine per cent of the cost of buildings in the original investment.

To find what the maximum original investment should be, divide the annual rent by nine per cent. In this case, \$10.40 divided by nine per cent is \$116 — the amount justified per animal for buildings. This includes such expenses as beef barn with feed storage and yard paving.

The figure represents the maximum allowable for necessary buildings — not necessarily the most economical figure. The formula answer indicates the break-even point and may be used to prevent overspending.

To determine the cost justified for buildings, multiply the number of animals times the amount justified per animal. With 40 animals (times \$116), the total is \$4,640. The smaller the herd, the more difficult it is to build within the cost indicated by the formula.

Economists warn that errors in estimating future gross income will be reflected in the estimate of how much should be spent for buildings. Unusually high returns from beef animals do not always justify high investment in buildings. If gross income is usually \$100, an animal that has a \$200 gross income should be figured as when determining building expenditures. A cow that produces a \$200 calf does not need twice as much housing as that produces a calf worth \$100.



## This Week in Lancaster Farming

BY JACK REICHARD

50 YEARS AGO (1907)

In Minnesota a half century ago, it was a common thing for a family to have a fine chicken or turkey dinner at the expense of their neighbor. A state law relative to poultry running at large provided that when fowl ventured off their owners' premises and trespassed on the property of another they may be considered as wild game and treated as such — killed and eaten without the owner having any recourse at law.

In other states, back in 1907, trespassing chickens could be killed but not eaten.

### GROUNDING WIRE FENCES

F. E. Trigg, prominent writer on farm subjects a half century ago, advised farmers to ground wire fences which inclosed pastures in order to prevent the loss of livestock by lightning.

Trigg explained this could be done by simply taking a short piece of wire, wrapping it about each of the two or three wires which constituted the fence, and burying the end of the ground wire in the earth to a depth of from 18 to 24 inches directly beneath the fence.

Actual field tests proved that it was a rare case, where farm animals which had sought shelter under trees near a grounded wire fence during thunderstorms, had been killed by lightning.

(Note: This is still considered a good practice.)

### HOW TO COOK ASPARAGUS

How to cook asparagus and how not to cook it was a subject discussed among housewives and cooks in general a half century ago.

"Most folk cut the binders and allow the stalks to float around in a vessel like derelict logs in a Maine freshet. When served the tip are as mush, while the stalks are too hard for mastication. This is criminal negligence — worse, it is criminal ignorance," stated the New York Press.

The Press recommended placing the bunch of asparagus on end in water two inches below its tips. Then boil and boil and boil until the stalks became tender. In the meantime the tips were cooked by steam.

The writer concluded "The stalk is quite as tender as the tip, yet by the old method of cooking most of the former is too hard for mastication by anything less powerful than a rock crusher."

Labor Day Monday, September, 1907, in Lancaster County was observed by a general shutdown of all factories and a large picnic at Rocky Springs Park, sponsored by the Central Labor Union. Special features of the all day outing were the athletic sports.

At Marietta the day was observed with a firemen's parade, and at Denver the union cigar-makers held a colorful parade.

### SHOT BIG CRANE

Fred Boyd, near Oak Shade, lower Lancaster County, shot a huge crane back in September, 1907. The large wading bird measured 74 inches from tip to tip of wings, and stood 66 inches in height.

## 25 Years Ago

25 YEARS AGO (1932)

Seven parties had candidates for U. S. President entered in the Pennsylvania general election. In addition, candidates for other offices had filed under names of 15 parties including the two major parties.

Candidates for President whose

names appeared on the Pennsylvania ballot in 1932 were Republican, Herbert Hoover, Washington, D. C.; Democrat, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Albany, N. Y.; Prohibition, William D. Upshaw, former Georgia Congressman, Socialist, Norman Thomas, New York; Jobless, the Rev. James R. Cox, Pittsburgh; Industrialist, Verne L. Reynolds, N. Y.; Communist, William Z. Foster, New York.

### TAXLESS CITY?

Residents of Chanute, Kans., boasted their's was a taxless city, back in 1932, which sounded too good to be true even in those days yet in a sense it was true.

But as many so-called good things there was a catch to the Chanute claim which was of utmost importance. Chanute residents did pay taxes. The only difference between them and other communities the payments were not called taxes. They were called water, gas and electric light rates.

Instead of levying a direct property tax for the support of municipal government the commissioners over-charged the users of municipally owned electric light, gas and water services and used the surplus to pay municipal bills.

But the joker in the system was that Chanute property owners residing outside the city got all the

benefits of city protection and improvement without paying a penny.

NEW LANC. S. A. HEAD

The Lancaster Salvation Army had a newly appointed leader in Sept., 1932. He was Adjutant James Henderson, of Philadelphia. Prior to Adjutant Henderson's work in the "City of Brotherly Love", he was in charge of Salvation Army work in the large mid-western cities of Dayton and Columbus, Ohio.

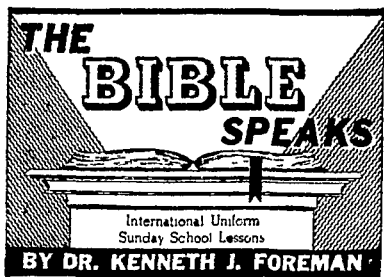
### L. A. C. MOVED TO CURB RECKLESS DRIVING

The Lancaster Automobile Club in a move to curb reckless driving on the streets and highways in Lancaster County, authorized a committee of 125 members to report to the club's headquarters every flagrant case of motor law violation they witnessed within the borders of Lancaster County.

J. G. Forney, chairman of the Club's Safety Council, was named head of the crusade, but personnel of the general committee was not made public.

S. Edward Gable, club president, stated "First offenders will receive a warning from the Club. In cases of second and third offenses, either legal action will follow or the driver will be reported to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles with the recommendation that his license be revoked."

Other moves placed on record by the Club's Board of Directors at their Sept., 1932, meeting, called for new highway bridges at Witmer, east of Lancaster, and a new span across the Susquehanna River at a point midway between Columbia and Conowingo.



Background Scripture: Jeremiah 36.  
 Devotional Reading: Psalm 19 7-14

## The Staff

Lesson for September 8, 1957

THERE is a lot of paper work in the Kingdom of God. No doubt when the Kingdom comes in its final glory, paper work will not be needed any more. But right now there are mountains of it. Next time you are in the city where your denominational headquarters are, or your Board of Missions, or the place where they put out your Sunday school literature, just go in and introduce yourself and look around. You may be amazed at the number of typewriters it takes to operate one denomination. When famed missionary Schweitzer visited New York after the war, he went to the headquarters of the church that had kept behind him while he was "orphaned" by the war, and he spoke especially to the office workers. He wanted them to know that the missionary on the field could not stay there without these anonymous humble helpers back of him.



Dr. Foreman

### Besides the Minister

In large congregations there is a staff of people besides the minister. No one man all by himself could possibly do anything but buzz around like a bee in a beehive station, in a church where the membership runs up near or over the thousand mark. There may be assistant ministers, each one perhaps with a particular specialty; secretaries, receptionists, a hostess, a secretary of men's work, one for women's work, a minister of music, a director of Christian education, — all of these regular salaried people paid by the church.

There is a good Bible precedent for all this. The prophet Jeremiah had a scribe named Baruch, who wrote out Jeremiah's sermons and helped him revise them after the original copy had been destroyed. Baruch was not a prophet himself.

He would probably never have been heard from, if he had not been Jeremiah's secretary. On the other hand, some of Jeremiah's most striking sermons would have perished if it had not been for Baruch's faithful work putting them into written shape. We know too that Paul's letter to the Romans was not actually penned by Paul but by a secretary named Tertius (Rom. 16:22). When Paul made a list of various kinds of "gifts" and gifted people in the church, he names "helpers" right along with healers and administrators (I Cor. 12:28). So from the beginning till now, the "staff" has been as much needed as the preacher.

### Church Vocations

Young people in high school who are Christians ought to know what the usual vocational counselor will not tell them (because not knowing): namely that there are many vocations open, wide open, where Christians are needed to serve God and man through the Church, vocations which are not the ministry-of-preaching but are ministries in their own right. Especially is this true on the mission field. Right now there are mission boards calling for teachers, nurses, doctors, agricultural specialists, dentists, industrial workers, all over the world. Here at home — to name only one of these vocations — the "Director of Christian Education" is a kind of job for which there are not nearly as many trained workers as the church needs.

### Volunteers

Most churches, however, are small. They cannot afford a staff, they have trouble even in scraping up money for a janitor. In many such little churches the minister is beating his head out trying to do all the chores himself besides preaching. This is where the volunteer worker comes in. We are used to the idea of volunteer Sunday school teachers and choir singers, why not a volunteer staff? In most small churches you could find some one who could take dictation and run a typewriter or mimeograph machine, some one to volunteer to dust the church early Sunday morning (a needed chore often forgotten); some one to answer the minister's phone and give him time for needed study or visiting. Almost any church can have a good staff to help the preacher, — they have the ability, all they need is the volunteers.

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