

# Lancaster Farming

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## BY JACK REICHARD 50 YEARS AGO (1907)

A north Iowa farmer who experimented with raising mint in 1907 was so successful that he planned to put out fifty acres in 1908. Although weather conditions throughout the growing season were not the most favorable, the crop gave him a return of \$65 per acre.

The mint was planted in rows one way, cultivated like any other crop, cut with a mower, raked with a horse rake and hauled to the still in basket racks. The mint was pitched into vats equipped with tight covers holding about forty barrels each and tramped down by one man. When the covers were put in place, steam was forced into the bottom of the vat from a traction engine.

A pipe from the top led to a system of distilling pipes that were cooled by streams of water flowing over them which condensed the steam. The distilled oil of peppermint was easily separated from the water.

The oil was sold at \$2.66 per pound and the entire cost of the outfit was about \$800.

A central Iowa farm tenant stated that he and his wife had raised and sold enough poultry on the 160 acre farm they were working in 1907 to pay the entire year's rent. The proceeds of the crops raised and dairy products sold were put in the bank, the farmer said.

A farmer living on a western rural route, wishing to surprise a close friend residing in a town some 60 miles away, sent him five pounds of honey by mail. By the time the package had reached its destination it had sprung a leak, with the result that every parcel in the pouch was smeared.

In Lancaster County, Mrs. Sara A. Neuman, of Rapho Twp., had apples 33 years old. In an issue of the Mt. Joy Bulletin, 50 years ago this week, it reported that Mrs. Neuman "has apples preserved with cloves, said apples having been picked in the year 1874."

The shortest crop during the fall of 1907 was the supply of freight cars to transport the bumper grain and vegetable product crops of the nation to the markets.

Fifty years ago this week the three story brick building of the Columbia Embroidery Co. located along the Susquehanna at Wrightsville was gutted by fire. The Wrightsville Star Publishing Co. which occupied a portion of the structure also was burned out. Firemen placed the combined loss at \$30,000.

In Lancaster County that week sleighs and sleds were put into service, with an average of six inches of snow covering fields and roads. Sleighting on the pikes was reported good, while "on the rough roads not so good."

## 25 Years Ago

Twenty-five years ago the finest steer in the world was sold at auction and brought only \$1.25 per pound or \$1,675.25.

The steer, a Hereford named Texas Special, was auctioned at the International Livestock Exhibition in Chicago, where it was adjudged grand champion of the world.

Texas Special was bought by Pfaltzer Bros. Packing Company in Chicago.

Men who had been judging cattle at the livestock show for many years said the steer was the finest ever exhibited, but brought \$7 a pound less than the 1929 champion Lucky Strike.

Texas Special was owned by C. M. Largent & Company, Merkel, Texas.

## 200 GALLON DISTILLERY FOUND ON LANCASTER FARM

Four 50-gallon stills and 3,575 gallons of liquor were seized when State Police raided a farm in West Cocalico Twp., near Denver, and arrested Adam Hertzog who occupied the farm, and Clinton Bucher. The men were charged with illegal manufacture, sale, possession and the transportation of liquor.

The four stills were concealed in chicken houses, while an outbuilding on the farm contained vats filled with 3,000 gallons of mash, which the officials destroyed.

An automobile, in which 15 gallons of applejack was found, was confiscated. It bore license tags issued to Bucher.

Bound for the deer country of Cameron County, three Pennsylvania men were killed when the car in which they were traveling crashed into a tree after striking and killing a large buck in the road near Yellow Springs.

Dead were Clarence Simendinger, Summerhill, Louis J. Kurtz, Claysburg, and John Ritchey, of Portage.

The men were traveling in a sedan. The operator apparently failed to see the deer in his path until it was too late to stop.

Three cows and two calves escaped from a truck operated by Raymond E. Kopenhaver, Elizabethtown when another car operated by Elwood R. Snyder, also of Elizabethtown, collided with the truck.

The rear of the truck was damaged in the collision and the frightened animals jumped from the truck and fled to the nearby fields.

Snyder and his wife, Mary, escaped injury.

Elsewhere in Lancaster County that night, thieves entered the building used by the Lancaster County egg auction in New Holland and carried off ten crates of fresh eggs.

## RAT REVEALS \$250 CASH

Rats on the farm of Charles Holscomb, near Bartley, Neb., were an asset. They found \$250 for the farm owner. Holscomb saw a large rat run under the barn with a silver dollar in its mouth. He investigated and found a hidden cache of silver coins buried in a pail beneath the structure. It was not known how the money got there.

In Washington, D. C., back in 1932, Uncle Sam, his credit still good, went merrily along borrowing money. In October that year he was borrowing \$450,000,000 for four and a half years at three per cent. Part of the money was earmarked to pay off some 300 millions of old debts, adding about \$117,000,000 to the public debt.

One of Dicken's most lovable characters used to say, when he paid off with an old note with a new note, "Thank God, that debt is paid."

## Farm Values Steady

PENNSYLVANIA which usually exceeds the national average in farm real estate value increases, failed to respond to a national rise of two per cent during the past three months. Most observers believe that this is due to the recent drought.

The volume of sales in the summer and early fall of this year continued at the low level of recent years. The number of farm ownership transfers attributable to financial distress was less than in the comparable months of 1956.

There appears to be little prospect that the pressures to increase existing farms will lessen within the next few years. Thousands of commercial farms are still too small for the most efficient use of presently known production techniques. With the spread in net farm income between the least efficient and the most efficient operators becoming wider, those who are most successful in adopting technological advances can be expected to provide effective demand for the relatively few tracts of land that come on the market each year.

Market forces are likely to capitalize much of the increase in income realized from fertilizer, irrigation and better management practices into the price of land.

Despite the rise in market values, the number of farms offered for sale has remained near a record low. Present owners appear to be in a generally strong financial position and few have been forced to sell in recent years. The capital gains tax and the fact that receipt of rental income does not affect eligibility for social security payments have contributed to a tight supply situation.

## Farm Income Up Second Year

FARM INCOME IS UP a little more this year, making two years of gain following four consecutive years of decline, according to the most recent Farm Income Situation report from the USDA.

The increase is likely to be maintained in 1958, when farm income is expected to average much the same as in 1957, the report predicts. Farmer's realized net income the first nine months of this year was up two per cent over the same period in 1956, mostly due to increased payments under the Soil Bank program.

Although present prospects do not indicate any further increase next year in total farm income, continued reductions in the number of farms and in the number of people living on farms, together with increasing income from off-farm sources, might well result in some further advance in average income per farm and per person living on farms.

The net income for farmers in the nation will be about 12.1 billion dollars this year, compared with 11.9 billion for the preceding year. Gross income is up about two per cent. Inventories are up, production costs rose only two per cent. Thus a two per cent increase in realized net income is seen.

Getting a little closer to home in Pennsylvania, livestock and livestock products brought in a total of \$413,328,000 in the first nine months of this year. This is an increase of \$400,000 from the same period in 1956.

Crop values show an increase of \$2 million from a year ago giving the state a net increase of \$2,311,000 in cash receipts in the first nine months of this year.

However, in September of this year the effect of the drought in the Keystone State was seen in the figures. Farm marketings of crops dropped \$3,000,000 from the same month a year ago. August was nearly as bad with a \$2 million drop. However, increased income from animals offset these losses to a great extent.

For the coming year the experts predict that an increase is expected in farmers' cash receipts from marketing cotton, potatoes, eggs and poultry. They also feel that the upward trend in dairy receipts will continue. Total receipts from livestock and products is likely to increase further next year. Total crop receipts may show little change.

## No Problem There

Hollywood points out that radical changes in fashions in women's clothes prevent the reshooting of many old films. Here's where the nudists can smile — Arkansas Gazette, (Little Rock).

**THE BIBLE SPEAKS**

International Union  
Sunday School Lessons

**BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN**

Background Scripture: Philippians 1.  
Devotional Reading: Philippians 1:3-11.

**Full Courage**

Lesson for December 1, 1957

SOME of the best of the Bible was written in jail. In fact, the Bible was mostly written not only about, but by and for, people in trouble. When Saint Paul wrote his famous little letter to the church at Philippi, he had been in a Roman prison for some time. If his trial went against him, he had nothing to expect but a death sentence. He was well along in years, too just at the time of life when a man welcomes comforts, Paul had to get along without them. Paul needed the prayers of his friends, the help of the Holy Spirit. But he was also confident that with this help, he would honor Christ "with full courage," whether in living or in dying.



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## Never Easy

It is almost never easy to stand up and be counted as a Christian. Easy enough when nothing is involved, but when being a Christian gets one into trouble, or even laughed at, that's different. The people these days who need our prayers and deserve our honor are the Christians in countries behind the iron curtain. We sometimes may think they are not as good Christians as they ought to be, but they are better than some of us would be in their circumstances. Take a high school boy in East Germany, for example. If he goes to church on Sunday, he will have to cut a youth meeting, set by the government at church time, on purpose. His absence will go on record and when he applies for a job or wants to go to college he will find doors closed against him, because he was loyal to the church and not the government. You might think that going to church once a week is not much of a "witness for Christ" but in a situation like that it is nothing short of heroic.

## Everything Against Him

"Joining the church" calls for some stiffness of backbone, even in America. Young people who do it know that on the fence there is a gathering of vultures waiting for them to make their first mistake, commit their first sin as church members,—waiting for the chance to make fun, to say "I told you so." But it takes even more courage to confess Christ in a country where Christians are thought to be unpatriotic, and Christianity a "foreigners' religion." It takes most courage of all in a fanatic world where a person who becomes a Christian runs a risk of being killed for it.

Paul would understand this, for he had everything to discourage him. On the outside of his jail there were some "Christians" preachers who had their knives out for him, character-assassins as they were. And inside the prison, all the company Paul would have were other prisoners and Roman soldiers,—no very sympathetic congregation! Yet Paul went right on being a Christian and speaking a good word for Jesus. It was a situation that had everything to dishearten him. Many another in the same fix would have thought: What a glorious testimony I can give when I get out of here!

## God Brings the Best

We know (from Romans) that Paul had wanted very much to visit Rome and preach there. But he hadn't the slightest ambition to go to jail there. He was eager to give a Christian witness, but it hadn't occurred to him that God would provide for him a very small church and a mighty unpromising congregation—a church house no bigger than a jail cell, a congregation mostly criminals and prison guards. And yet,—faced with this, he made the brave best of it, and was actually happy over it. God knows best, he brings the best out of the worst situations, the least likely people.

For one thing, the Gospel had made its way, only a beginning, but still a real start, in circles that would have been very hard to crash from the outside. The Praetorian Guard was made of hard men, but they were beginning to catch on to the Gospel. Timid Christians, one suspect outside the jail as well as in, were lifting their heads, catching the contagion of Paul's courage. And suppose the death-cell is ahead? Paul is not afraid. In death as in life, Paul says, "I shall not be at all ashamed."

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