

Most Farmers Using Conservation Reserve To Retire Poorer Land from Production

A RECENT survey by the United States Department of Agriculture concerning the Conservation Reserve of the Soil Bank program shows that most farmers are using that plan to get fields not well adapted for cultivation shifted to permanent cover.

Some 500 farmers in six states were interviewed. Their answers were diverse. Some operators of large farms are utilizing the programs to reduce the size of their farming operations and need for hired labor. Others are reducing the size of farming operations because of health, age or other reasons.

In Maine, about a third of the farmers said that they are using the program to conserve or improve productivity. About a quarter said they needed the payments to pay taxes or meet other income needs. Other reasons listed were age, too much land to cultivate, labor hard to get, lack of capital required to farm the land or that the land was inconveniently located.

About a quarter of the farmers interviewed in Wisconsin and South Carolina said they wanted to improve the soil.

Tree planting is getting a much larger play in the southern states than in the north. In all other areas, grass cover is going on the retired acres.

In the Great Plains this program is especially popular. Farmers in these 10 states, where a long and severe drought was ended last year, were the top users of the conservation program in 1956 and 1957. About two thirds of all cropland placed in the program during those two years came from these 10 states.

And two-thirds of all grass planting scheduled on conservation reserve land

under 1956 and 1957 contracts was there. The rains last year enabled farmers to obtain good stands of perennial grasses.

These farmers in the middle of the dust bowl area also say that they intend to keep the land in grass after the contracts expire.

Much of the land being replanted was virgin sod until it was plowed during World War II in an effort to produce more wheat to fill the then great demand. In that part of the nation the re-establishment of sod cover is a long expensive and tedious project.

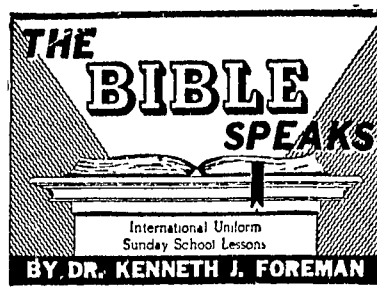
The 1958 signup for the conservation reserve program will end on April 15. Contracts in this program run for three, five or 10 years.

WITH MEAT animal prices continuing at a high level, stockmen are wondering how much longer it can last. Here is what the government has to say in the latest Agricultural Situation Outlook.

"Cows, heifers and calves are being held back from slaughter as farmers prepare to rebuild herds, and slaughter of these classes probably will continue below last year. Marketings of fed cattle, though, will be close to the 1957 level.

"No big change from a year earlier is expected in hog slaughter until fall marketings of the spring crop. Marketings may rise a little in late winter and early spring. Prices may dip at that time, though they are likely to remain relatively high through summer."

The Outlook also notes that the number of cattle and calves on farms is down one per cent from a year earlier, the second straight drop in the current downturn.



Bible Material: Mark 5: 18-20, Luke 8: 26-39, 10: 1-2, Acts 5: 42, 1 Thessalonians 1: 6-10
Devotional Reading: Colossians 1: 24-29

Going Church

Lesson for March 16, 1958

THE common expression, "a going church," can mean a number of different things. Sometimes it means no more than a church the doors of which are seen to be open once in a while, even if only every other Sunday. Sometimes it means a rapidly growing church, one with a big Sunday school and not enough room to park. Sometimes it means a church with progressive methods and unusual ideas, or a church that takes the lead in its denomination.



Dr. Foreman

"Go Home to Your Friends"

There is a better meaning of "going church" than any of these. It is an even better meaning than "generous." If the budget of a church runs up over \$100,000 annually, if the people there give to missions more money than any other congregation in the entire state, everybody who knows about it will call it a going church. But there is something better than that. A church really gets going when its members begin to do that simple thing which Jesus told the man to do who had been bedeviled so long: "Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you." A going church is one whose members talk to other people in their homes and all around the community—talk to them about Christ.

Winning the Family

A going church again, is one where, as the book of Acts puts it, "teaching and preaching" Jesus is going on all the time. The Greek word for "preaching" here does not mean standing in a pulpit and talking in a loud voice. It means simply telling the story, letting people know. People were not in

vading one another's homes, of course. Each home became its own center of preaching and teaching.

Whether a church practices infant baptism, or whether they use a dedication service, all churches agree, in theory, that parents ought to do whatever they can, through the years, to introduce their children to Christ. A going church is one that helps its young parents to do this. Some parents will tell you they don't want to influence their children, so they won't say a word about religion to them but wait and let the boys and girls think for themselves. That's a bit silly, isn't it? You teach your child what is proper food and how to eat it. You help them with their arithmetic, you talk to them about everything you know about. Why do you keep silence about the most important Person in the world? If a child never hears the name "Jesus" outside a church, he's likely to conclude that Jesus doesn't mean much to his parents. . . and he may never become a Christian at all.

Person by Person

A going church furthermore is not only telling what Jesus has done "person to person" but also person by person. Paul has been called the greatest press agent who ever lived. By this it is meant that he was the most enthusiastic single "salesman" the Christian faith has ever known. Paul could talk with large crowds, and often did. But when he stayed in a city for any length of time, we know he took time for individuals. "You will remember," he says to the Thessalonians, "how we dealt with each one of you personally, like a father with his own children" (1 Thess. 2:11, Phillips translation). A going church may have evangelistic meetings, and evangelistic sermons. But if it takes Saint Paul for a guide, no church will imagine that this is all there is to evangelism. Distributing the same tract to everybody within range of the church is still not the thing. For people are different. "Like a father with his own children," Paul said. A father knows that no two of his children are alike, and what will work with one won't work with another. The Gospel is always the same; but the ways of telling the Gospel story so as to persuade people by it, are as varied as the personalities of men.

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BY JACK REICHARD
75 Years Ago

POLICE BREAK UP MORAL RACKET

Josiah Quincy in an article for the Atlantic back in 1883 told a story given by Daniel Webster, a noted American statesman and orator, at a dinner in New York. The theme of the talk centered upon the importance of doing small things thoroughly and with the full measure of one's ability. This Webster illustrated by an experience of a petty insurance case that was brought to him when a young lawyer in Portsmouth only a small amount was involved and a \$20 fee was all that was promised.

"He knew that to do his client full justice a journey to Boston to consult the Law Library would be desirable which meant that he would be out of pocket by such an expenditure and for his fee he would receive no adequate compensation. After some hesitation he decided to do his very best regardless of what it might cost. He went to Boston looked up the authorities and won the case.

Years later Webster then famous was passing through New York. An important insurance case was to be tried the day following his arrival in the city and one of the counsels had been suddenly taken ill. Money was no object and Webster was begged to name his terms and conduct the case.

"I told them," said Webster, "that it was preposterous to expect me to prepare a legal argument on a few hours notice. They insisted however that I should look at the papers and this after some demur I consented to do well. It was my old twenty dollar case over again and as I need not forget anything, I had all the authorities at my finger tips. The court knew that I had no time to prepare and was astonished at my range of acquisitions. So you see I was handsomely paid both in fame and money for that journey to Boston."

George F. Pearson 30 and his wife Nellie were arrested in Boston, Mass. on charges of blackmail. It was alleged that the woman ensnared victims by her beauty and suasive graces, while her husband appeared on the scene at the critical moment to exact large sums of money as the price of damage to the presumed dignity as husband.

Both were natives of Bangor, Me. and operated in various cities in the New England states.

50 Years Ago

An authority on Indian history speaking on the various customs of America's original inhabitants told how the natives cured their corn or maize as they called it. The historian stated:

Long shallow ditches were made in the ground and filled with dry wood which was set on fire. In the meantime the young maidens of the tribe gathered the tenderest corn in the field and brought it to the fire pit in baskets. They removed the outer husks and placed the ears in a row on the live coals then kept turning the ears over and over with sticks.

When the thin layers of husk were scorched the ears were tossed out of the ditch with the sticks.

After the roasting the scorched husks were removed and the grains of corn separated from the cob by the use of sharp edged shells of the fresh water mussel. The grain was then spread on skins and set in the sun to dry. Dried corn was cured in this manner to last over the winter season.

LANCASTER FARMERS APPEAL FOR WORKERS

Jack in March 1908 the Lancaster Farmers League in the southern end of the county sent out letters to charity organizations in several of the large East Ohio cities appealing for workers. Strong farmers were willing to pay good wages for the right kind

Lancaster Farming

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of labor

In a letter to W. F. McSparran a league official, the Philadelphia Society for Organized Charity offered to cooperate in securing good places for "men who are willing and anxious to do more instead of less than is required of them."

McSparran advised the society that the league farmers could use a hundred or more men.

25 Years Ago

Henry W. Grady, the great Southern editor and orator, who died in 1890, gave advice to the farmers of his native Georgia and the South in general which is as sound today as it was when it was spoken. Grady said:

"When every farmer in the South shall eat bread from his own fields and meat from his own pasture, and disturbed by no creditor and enslaved by no debt, shall sit among his teeming gardens and orchards and vineyards and dairies and barnyard pitching his crops in his own wisdom and growing them in independence making cotton his clean surplus, and selling it in his own time and in his chosen market and not at a master's bidding—getting his pay in cash and not in a receipted mortgage that discharges his debt but does not restore his freedom—then shall be breaking the fullness of our day."

Twenty five years ago more potatoes were moved to market by motor truck in Pennsylvania than any other important potato growing state in the country according to the Federal State Crop Reporting Service Records on the 1932 crop up to January 1, 1932 showed that 85 per cent of the total trucked to consuming centers compared to one per cent by rail.

Pennsylvania was listed one of the six leading potato states in



Max Smith

Now Is The Time . . .

By MAX SMITH

County Agricultural Agent

TO FORCE EARLY PASTURE — Early pasture will be most welcome on many farms this spring. Both winter grains and more permanent kinds of pasture mixtures may be brought into production earlier by top dressing this month with nitrogen fertilizer. Applications of 50 to 60 pounds per acre of actual nitrogen should provide grazing 10 days to two weeks earlier than normal. On permanent pastures it is recommended that only a part of the field be forced with this fertilizer application.

TO TOP DRESS GRASS STANDS — New seedings of 1957 that failed to obtain a good stand of clover or alfalfa need not be destroyed providing a good catch of timothy or other forage grass is present. The top dressing of these fields during the month of March with 70 to 80 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre will give succulent growth of the grasses and good yields. With this practice it is very important to harvest the growth at heading time in order to get the highest feeding value. Quality forage may still be obtained without the presence of much clover or alfalfa.

TO SEED SPRING OATS — Larger yield from spring oats will be obtained if the seeding is made during the last week in March as compared to any later seedings. Oats require cool wet weather for maximum yields therefore early seedings mature more before hot weather arrives here in the southeastern part of the state. If the oats are to serve as a nurse crop for a new grass seeding then only one bushel per acre should be seeded otherwise one and one half to two bushels per acre may be seeded.

TO MAKE NEW PASTURE SEEDINGS — Spring and fall are the two best times to make new seedings of pasture mixtures with the early September seedings being favored. If a spring seeding is to be made, it is recommended that it be done during late March or early April. This permits a maximum amount of cool moist weather before the hot summer months. The ground should be limed and fertilized according to soil tests before the seeding is made. A light seeding of spring oats makes a good nurse crop.

the nation and in 1932 produced 1,000,000 bushels. Louns, who had her husband arrested for desertion admitted she threw him bodily out of their home. Mrs. Hannah Corbin of St. Louis