

Emphasis Placed On Nation's Farm Surplus Questioned

THE READER MAY well recall how the allegedly huge size of our farm surpluses has been constantly publicized. Day after day for years these surpluses were held forth as the villain in the agricultural woodpile.

Well, anyway just how big are those surpluses?

Dr. W. M. Meyers, President of the American Society of Agronomy in an address before its annual meeting at Purdue University said: "Our farm production exceeds consumption by only 3 or 4 per cent. This is indeed a narrow margin and we must always, if we can, retain a small margin over our heads."

The direct conflict between this leading agronomist in his appraisal of farm surpluses, and that of high officials of the U S D A and some leaders of farm organizations is at once apparent.

He spoke as a Scientist with high regard for facts when he emphasized the size of the surpluses in relation to consumption.

Too often those in chief policy making positions in government and farm organizations allow their economic and political philosophies to dictate their appraisal of economic facts.

This has been true to an unusual degree during the past few years. We have only to recall the recurring news items furnished by such leaders emphasizing the huge size of these surpluses giving in detail the billions of dollars of the taxpayers money used to finance their storage. The blame for surpluses—which were regarded as evil—was invariably placed on the farm programs, especially price supports.

Leading Agronomists are on record attributing the steady growth in farm output of the last 15 years to the farm "technological revolution." Price supports at best were

only one of many factors causing surpluses—certainly not the chief cause.

At no time in recent years—if ever—have the consumers of food and fiber been taken on such a fanciful propaganda ride as that which has been powered by these distorted interpretations of the size and significance of our farm surpluses.

Largely because of this 3 or 4 per cent surplus the Consumer today can buy more staple foods with an hour's income than at any time during the past 4 or 5 decades.

It is the farmer—who takes it in the pocketbook and in the chin when he produces above consumption. This largely because we have used the results of millions of dollars and many years of research in teaching him how to produce 2 blades of grass, 2 ears of corn and 2 bushels of potatoes where one grew before, but left him with little help in marketing his greatly increased produce.

Cooperative marketing has helped greatly in some fields, but in fields where the surpluses are greatest, they are inadequate.

In appraising the meaning and value of our 3 to 4 per cent farm surplus let us take account of the millions of hungry people in other lands who have been fed because of it.

Consumers will regret the day when our food surpluses turn into deficiencies. When that occurs food prices rise sharply. We hope to see the day when the farmer too can rejoice in a surplus such as we now have.

That day will come when we have the courage to plan such use of our farm surpluses, and the dedicated will to see to it that these surpluses shall not destroy the market for the entire crop.

— The Farmer's Exchange

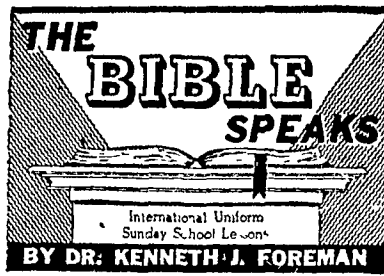
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PENNSYLVANIA'S SWINE INDUSTRY can cope with current changes in agriculture provided hog raisers produce quality meat-type hogs, improve their efficiency and enlarge their operations.

This reassurance was given by industry spokesmen at a recent statewide swine meeting conducted by livestock extension

at Penn State University. Attending were breeders, feeders and packers.

Howard White, Allentown packer, said the homemaker is demanding quality—less fatty—pork. He warned that unless they shift to the meat-type hog they will lose favor with consumers. Packers, he said, will pay a premium for the meatier animals



Bible Material: Exodus 20 15, Leviticus 6 4, 25 35-38, Deuteronomy 25 13-16, Proverbs 11 1, Amos 8 4-8, Luke 19 1-10, James 5 1-8; I Peter 4 7-11

Devotional Reading: Micah 6 9-15

God In Business

Lesson for September 14, 1958

WHERE can we find God? In church, yes; in the great outdoors, yes. In prayer in the quiet room, or under the mighty far-off stars. God is everywhere.

But is God in business? We don't mean, is God doing business? He always is, of course. We mean, is God in the business life of our time? Is he on the stock exchange, is he in attendance at board meetings of great corporations, is he in the little country stores, is he in horse trades or on used-car lots? "The Economy" is a phrase used so often nowadays that even teen-agers must know in general what it means. "The Economy" is today's jargon for all the financial domgs that keep our industrial and agricultural wheels going, the word includes those four pillars of all business anywhere any time: production, marketing, accounting and finance. Is God in the economy of America?



Dr. Foreman

Simple Honesty
Now it might be that not a reader of this column is a "business man." For all that, every reader is engaged in business some way or other part of the time. "Money isn't everything, but money's into everything." If we live, breathe and eat groceries, we are connected, more or less, with the vast web of buying, selling, owning, renting, earning, spending (yes and wasting, which is economics gone mad), all of which we lump together under the head of "The Economy" or just "economic life." Let us think not of something big, something a congressman might plan for. Let us think of economics on Main Street, at the supermarket, on the bus, maybe our few dollars at the bank. Let's forget about the hundred-dollar bills and think about small

change

Are we honest about all these things? Does our religion affect the way we price what we have to sell (if only a few eggs or bales of hay)? Do we make honest statements about what we buy and sell? The command of God is: "Thou shalt not steal." Nothing said about "Thou shalt not steal a whole lot," or "Thou shalt not steal unless thou canst get by with it." Taking any kind of advantage of any other person (or corporation, for that matter) so that they are the poorer for what you did, is stealing.

Is it a sin to be rich?

There are so many condemnations of rich people in the Bible, that some readers of it have the impression that God condemns rich people just because they are rich. This is not true. A more careful reading shows that whenever a wealthy person is denounced in the name of God, it isn't because of his wealth, by itself. There are too many highly-praised persons of wealth in the Bible to allow us to believe that wealth is a sin, period. The point is not: How much do you have? or, What is the amount, in dollars, which is the limit a good Christian can have? The point is: How did you get what you have? Jesus' brother James calls down doom on certain rich farmers, not because they had money but because their wealth was gained by underpaying their hired men. Making money by making men poor is stealing, and sin.

Is this spirit possible?

Saint Peter gives us what is better than a rule: he tells us the right kind of spirit that a Christian ought to have. Our gifts, he writes, are to be employed "for one another," service is to be rendered in such as to glorify God. We all feel that this is the right spirit for "church work." But is it practicable to take this same spirit into business, into our economic life? Is it possible, in business transactions, to serve one another for the glory of God? This is a vital question. If we have to say No, it is not practicable, then we are saying that we can be Christian only in our leisure time, not our workingtime. If we want to live as Christians around the clock, throughout the week, then we shall have to think out ways in which we can carry this spirit of devotion to God and man into the dollars-and-cents world. Can it be done? Each reader is challenged to make the experiment.

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Now Is The Time . . .

By MAX SMITH

County Agricultural Agent



Max Smith

TO TREAT SEED GRAIN — Plant treated seeds for winter grains for improved stands, bigger yields, and better quality. Growers using their own crop for seed should use one of the recommended treatments, the use of chemicals or hot water will give good results. An Extension Leaflet is available on the subject.

TO KILL POTATO VINES — Both research and experience has shown that chemical vine killers give more efficient killing of vines that mechanical beating. Most effective chemicals are sodium arsenite and the di-nitro compounds. The chemical should be applied with the regular sprayer about 10 days to two weeks prior to harvest. Better ripening and skin-set of the potatoes will be

obtained

TO BE CAREFUL OF SILO GAS — During silo filling time it is recommended that operators be cautious about entering a partly filled silo without running the blower for several minutes. Over night fermentation of the newly chopped crop sometimes provides a chance for the gas to fill the silo and the silo chute. Corn that has been heavily fertilized with nitrogen in a very dry year is more likely to be dangerous. Care should always be exercised during the filling operation.

TO MAKE QUALITY SILAGE — The kind of silage that is taken from the silo next winter largely depends upon the kind of forage crop that went into the silo this summer or fall. Also the presence of adequate moisture is necessary for proper packing and fermentation. If the crop is dry, or has been frosted and dry then it may be necessary to add water at the blower during the filling operation.

TO PRACTICE SAFETY — The fall months usually find some of our more dangerous machines in operation. That is if the operators are not practicing all safety measures. The silage choppers and the corn pickers warrant all safety precautions in order to prevent injury. Usually we don't take time to be perfectly safe.

Lancaster Farming

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A Big Role

During a 70-year lifetime, an average American consumes 6,000 loaves of bread, three oxen, four calves, four sheep, 300 chickens, 12,000 pounds of vegetables, 9,000 pounds of potatoes, 14,000 pounds of fruit, 6,000 quarts of milk, 5,000 eggs, 8,000 pounds of sugar, 2,000 pounds of cheese, all of which came from America's 4,782,393 farms. And then some people have the nerve to say the farmer isn't an important segment of our population.

"Volts and Jolts",

REA Paper

THIS WEEK

— In Washington

With Clinton Davidson

THE NEW FARM LAW



Davidson

Farm program administrators in Washington this week are trying to solve the farm law puzzle which the 85th Congress tossed into their lap just before leaving town.

The new law calls for changes in programs affecting corn, cotton, rice, oats, barley, rye and grain sorghums. It sets up a whole new set of rules and regulations for growers of those commodities.

Agriculture Department officials have not so far been able to make an estimate of how much the new program will cost or how much it may add to already large surpluses. It may be weeks before an official interpretation of the law is available.

It is at best a make-shift program involving many compromises. Congressmen we have talked with do not agree on just what the program is intended to do. They voted for it because they felt it was the best that was proposed.

Corn Allotments Out

The new program abandons cotton after many years to control the acreage planted in corn. There will be no corn allotments starting in 1959. The support rate to be set by the Secretary of Agriculture will apply to all corn grown.

The law says however that no supports shall be less than 65% of parity. That will be somewhere near \$1.15 a bushel in 1959. It provides that other feed grains —

oats, barley, rye and grain sorghums — shall be supported at prices "fair in relation to the feed value of corn."

Congress left it up to the Secretary to make the decision as to the support rate that would be "fair." Support officials estimate that will be about '88¢ a bu for oats, \$1.25 a bu for barley, \$1.70 a bu for rye and \$2.50 a cwt for grain sorghums.

Two Cotton Programs

The law calls for a 16 million acre cotton allotment, starting in 1959. That's about 10% under this year. Growers will choose between two very different programs in 1959 and 1960.

Program A says that if they plant within their allotment the government will buy their cotton at 80% of parity, a national average of about 36 cents a pound.

Program B permits them to overplant their allotment by up to 40% and get price supports at 60% of parity, about 31¢ a pound in 1959 and 1960 only. After 1960 all growers would have to plant within their allotments to get supports at 70% of parity in 1961 and 65% thereafter.

The rice program continues the national allotment at 16 million acres and permits the Secretary to set supports anywhere between 75% and 90% of parity in 1959 and 1960, then drops supports to 70% of parity in 1961 and to 65% of parity in 1962 and thereafter.