

FROM WHERE WE STAND

Measure Your Material Again

An old Arabian proverb says, "Measure your material ten times, you can cut it only once."

Farmers today are measuring financial returns against rising capital outlay and wondering where they can cut to beat the price squeeze. Many dairymen are looking for a way to maintain a grade A standing without going to the expense of installing bulk tank and bulk handling equipment.

So-called cow pools which came over the horizon in a blaze of publicity a few years ago offer the dairyman some of these advantages. But, by and large, cow pools, milking cooperatives, contract milking systems, dairy corporations, or whatever else they may be called are simply a means by which a person or company with money can purchase dairy cows and the feed and equipment to produce milk, and hire someone else to do the work.

This all sounds innocent enough on the face of it, but so did the broiler contracts of a few years ago. Only a few years back the poultry industry was being looked upon as the ideal pattern for efficient production and marketing of meat.

Following close on the heels of wholesale adoption of contract broiler production came a shipping market, forcing many of the smaller producers out of the business. At the present time one of the largest hatcheries in the country has thrown itself into voluntary bankruptcy from financial troubles that may exceed one and a quarter million dollars. In our own county one of the big contractors of a few years ago is today discouraging

broiler contracting.

Layer contracts came next with subsequent depression of egg prices, but not to the extremes to which broilers went, mainly because the percentage of contracting was not as large.

Throughout the corn belt there is a movement, meeting with considerable success, to contract hog feeding operations. One reason hog feeding has not been more completely contracted is probably because of the large percentage of home grown grain fed to hogs.

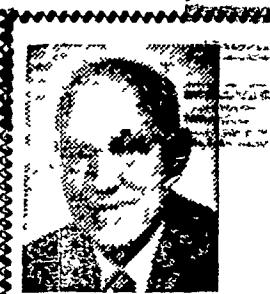
The broiler industry is slowly regaining its position in the nation's agricultural picture, but it still has a long way to go. There are some indications that the egg industry has even farther to go. Hog prices have not been all that farmers would like to see, but they have not really hit bottom as poultry prices have done.

Dairy prices have not been high in some areas, but generally they have held their own about as well as any farm commodity.

If the time comes when a man or a company can own dairy cows without doing the milking, dairying may well be on the road to over production and lowered prices. Unless the dairymen of this country want to become mere farm laborers, they must continue to own and control a substantial part of the farming business.

Contract dairying might look like a good pattern to follow, and it might look like the available goods can be stretched by using this source of capital, but dairymen had better measure their material again. They can cut it only once.

At least that's how it looks from where we stand.



THIS WEEK —In Washington With Clinton Davidson Farmers Praised

Nikita Krushchev was impressed more by the ability of so few in this country to produce so much food for so many people than by anything else he saw.

Time and again, and especially after his visit to Coon Rapids, Ia., Russia's top man expressed his unstinted admiration for American farmers. They are, he admitted, the best in the world.

Krushchev fairly drooled over the food surpluses which cause many Americans so much concern. He said, in effect, that he wished he had that problem in Russia for a while anyway.

He was impressed by the fact that American farms are so highly mechanized that one or two men are able to operate a highly productive 200-acre farm. In Russia a similar farm would require many workers.

Krushchev Didn't Boast

Krushchev boasted about Russia's sputniks, moon rockets, military weapons and industrial progress, but he was

frank to admit that we are far ahead of Russia in agriculture.

It amazed him to learn that in the United States only 12 percent of the people live on farms and that each produces enough to feed and clothe nine people in this country and still leave enough to meet the needs of one person in a foreign country.

Krushchev didn't say so, but in Russia six out of every ten people live on farms. Each Russian farmer doesn't produce enough to feed himself and one person in the cities. That's quite a contrast.

Russia has an area double that of the United States, but her productive farm land is about the same as in this country. Although, Russian mechanization of farming has made great strides in recent years, more than half of all farm work is hand labor.

Although no reliable figures are available, it is known that the American diet is considerably superior to that in Russia. We, for example, consume twice as much meat, milk and eggs per capita as the Russians.

Surplus Worries

Krushchev's remarks in Iowa made a lot of people wonder whether our surpluses are as much of a burden as we seem to think they are. They are far less a worry than not quite enough would be.

In this country we produce only about 7 per cent more food than we consume. In Russia according to the most reliable information, food production is at least 20 per cent below that needed to provide a diet equal to that of this country.

Ours is one of the few countries in the world where

the constant threat of hunger if not actual hunger, is not a problem. It is the only country where farmers are constantly criticized for their productive efficiency. In other countries they are praised.

Americans eat better than 9 out of every 10 people in the rest of the world, and for a smaller percentage of their income. If Khrushchev's visit taught us anything, it should be that we ought to be thankful for the best farmers in the world.

Educated Rural People Will Be In Demand Soon

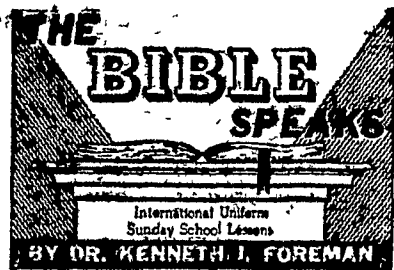
"Dr. Robert B. Corbett, president of New Mexico State University, said in a speech recently that a few years ago young men were told not to take engineering because engineers were a dime a dozen. Today, he stated, men trained in engineering are the scarcest and most demanded in our economy."

"The same situation could conceivably develop in farming. Our population is increasing so rapidly that in 10 years, according to Dr. Corbett, unless the nation is careful, it may wake up and find itself incapable of providing food for that sharply expanding population." (Newberry, S. C., Observer)

PROTECT LIVESTOCK

Keep livestock out of fields of frosted sudan grass or sorghum, urges Dr. Samuel Guss, Penn State extension veterinarian. When these plants are frosted, deadly acids are formed. Just a few mouthfuls of this frosted forage can kill cows. In case of poisoning, early treatment is imperative.

The 1959 Census of Agriculture will get underway in Pennsylvania Nov. 11. The information will provide an up-to-date guide for future farm planning. Questionnaires will be sent through the mail to farm operators, and a few days later a census taker will call for the answers.



Sharing

Lesson for October 18, 1959

CHRISTIANITY is a religion of sharing, but not all sharing is Christian. Sharing when you have to isn't it, otherwise everybody who pays taxes would be a Christian. Sharing very rarely is hardly it, either, because Christian sharing is a constant habit, not an occasional spasm. Giving away what you don't want, cleaning out your closets and giving to Volunteers the benefit of your junk, is some distance yet from Christian sharing. Sharing things can be Christian; indeed the Apostle John inquires whether we can imagine we have the love of God in us if we do not share with the needy (I John 3:17). But Christian sharing is something over and beyond letting other people use some of the things we call ours, some of the time.



Dr. Foreman

Sharing Christ
It can all be put into two words. At its best and highest, Christian sharing means sharing Christ. But in order to understand those two simple words, put together in that way, we have to do some further thinking. A short story in the book of Acts (chap. 3) helps to make this clear. Peter and John have become such famous men that we forget how poor they actually were. They had been fishermen, and they had been away from their lake a long time. When they told the beggar they had no silver nor gold, they were as good as saying they had nothing but pennies. Yet they gave that beggar something far better than money; they gave him the power of Christ. What happened is recorded as a miracle, and miracles are not in our times granted to most men to perform. Yet sharing Christ is still possible. Observe that the poorest Christian, the one least able to share

money or things had what the world who is not, namely Christ.

An Amazing Case

Here is a case which occurred less than a miracle too of fratres what "stamen, In the city a foreign student along doing no. Some young hood see him. They had ing about how money to go to a night. So—being rushed this foreign only took what had, only a dollar papers reported dered him, then were arrested, an Pennsylvania took them of the murder. All a familiar in big interest—conviction chair.

But the astonishment. The family dent were Koreans. They wrote to the Pennsylvania ask prosecute those boys to help them. More Korean family we of getting up a fuses) to be used tion—ordinary, an religious, of the killed their young

Bringing Christ In

No doubt many people, when they case, felt irritated angry. "Those hood murder, let 'em business have those ing religion into it the point they did ion" into it, they into the situation sharing Christ in him into every situation, for instance ship on Sunday in the offering we. But the hard way way—to share Christ about him or to talk about him to make every situation and murder—you have invited help others

(Based on outline the Division of the National Council of Christ in the Community Press

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH

TO SELECT MEAT-TYPE HOGS—Hog breeders and feed realize that modern markets demand a larger proportion of fat; also, that not any one breed is more of a meat type than another is largely a matter of selecting breeding animals within each breed. Individuals that have length and are preferred over short, fat, hogs; animals that appear to have less of large muscles are also Selection is very important if spring are to be of the proper type.

TO DELAY HAY CUTTINGS—Fourth or fifth cutting alfalfa should not be made now until several days after the killing frost; to remove the final cutting during late September or early October before frost could result in injury to the stand. After a killing frost, the leaves go down into the roots and are stored during the winter. After this period, experience has shown little gain in the next year's crop. Since hay drying weather is not in October, it might be best to remove the growth of alfalfa for green-feeding. In new stands of alfalfa, it allow some cover for the winter.

TO GIVE CALVES SPECIAL CARE—The winter season will soon be on hand and many new born calves be housed; these dairy calves are the replacement calves from now and should get the best care and growing the heifers this first winter. They should have warm, dry, sunny, and draft-free quarters. Calves should have warm, dry, sunny, and draft-free quarters. They should get regular feedings and have access to the best legume hay on the farm. A small leaflet "Raising Dairy Calves" is available from the Extension Service.

TO PREVENT CHILLING COW UDDERS—Mastitis prevention is much cheaper and better than any cure. In the fall months dairy cattle should not be allowed to lay on the ground after cold weather arrives. Feeding of high-producing udder tissue could bring mastitis condition. When frosts and freezing weather arrive, dairy cows should be housed at night to prevent mastitis.

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