

## FROM WHERE WE STAND

### Secretary Benson Praises Farmers

Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson today made public a letter written by him recently to the presidents of nearly 100 leading farm and non-farm nationwide organizations urging that they help focus public attention on the "debt of gratitude which all Americans owe to their neighbors on farms and ranches."

Text of the letter follows:

"My recent trade development and good will trip to Europe left me more than ever impressed with the fact that the American people owe a special debt of gratitude to our farmers and ranchers. Their efficiency and productiveness are basic to our national progress and high standard of living.

"Each farm worker in the United States produces, on the average, enough food and fiber for about 25 persons. In contrast, a farm worker in the Soviet Union produces enough for only six or seven persons. Never have so few produced so much for so many as our farmers have done in recent years.

"The productivity of our farmers and ranchers has not only supplied abundant quantities of food to consumers and raw materials to industry; it has also released manpower for the needs of the total

economy, which has given America the highest standard of living in all history.

"The accomplishments of American agriculture thus give striking evidence of the value of free enterprise, individual initiative, and creative achievements. Four-fifth of our agriculture is free of government controls. Our surplus problems are limited to a very few commodities—commodities for which agriculture has not had full freedom to make necessary adjustments. I have complete confidence that our farm people, given necessary freedom, will continue to do a great job.

"It seems appropriate to me that additional public attention be focused on this debt of gratitude which all Americans owe to their neighbors on farms and ranches. Having farmed for many years and worked with agriculture all my life, I have always had a keen appreciation of the excellent job farmers do. I have tried to express this feeling at every opportunity and I am pleased about the good work being done by many groups to publicize these facts. I hope all of us who are deeply interested in this will make every effort to remind the general public about agriculture's fundamental contribution to our American way of life."



Davidson

## THIS WEEK —In Washington With Clinton Davidson Farming In Russia

Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Benson returned recently from a first-hand survey of farming and farm living conditions inside Russia. His authoritative comments and comparisons with American agriculture probably are the most reliable that are available from behind the Iron Curtain.

The Secretary traveled through farming areas, stopping often to talk with Russian farm people. He also talked with Russian agricultural officials. From his observations we get a good comparison between U. S. and USSR farming.

"You have read," he said, "that the Soviet Union has made, and is making, great strides toward a more efficient agriculture. This is true.

"Yet, according to Soviet sources some 50 million persons were working in agriculture in 1956—43 per cent of their total labor force.

The Soviet Union, in other words, has several times as many people actively engaged in agriculture as we have, yet our total production exceeds theirs by a wide margin."

#### Forty Years Behind

Khrushchev has boasted from time to time that Soviet agricultural production will soon equal, and then surpass that of the United States. Russian farm output per worker is about equal to that of the average American farmer at the time of World War I, and it is only about one-third the current U. S. output per worker.

Consider that in this country we are attempting to restrain farm production, while in Russia there is a great effort to expand production, and you see that the Russians have a long, long way to go to catch up with us.

"There is," Benson noted, "a big gap between their productivity and ours—a still wider gap between their marketing and ours—and a tremendous chasm between their farm standards of living and ours.

"Compared with a typical American farm, life on a Soviet farm is almost primitive. They have about one million tractors, all owned by the State. We have nearly five million, owned by individuals.

"Hand Labor vs. Power  
"Few Soviet farms have electricity, compared with 96 per cent of ours, and with electricity in the U. S. have come running water, radios, television, refrigerators, deep freezers, vacuum cleaners and a whole multitude of labor-saving devices unknown on the average Russian farm.

"Many families on Soviet farms live in wooden cabins, even mud huts. They get to town about as often as farmers in this country used to 60 or 75 years ago.

"Our farm families drive modern cars on hard-surfaced highways. The Soviet farm family rides in horse-drawn carts over roads to match We have more telephones on farms in this country than can be found in all of Russia city and farm combined.

"After a first hand look at agriculture under contrasting forms of government and in three Communist countries," Benson said, "I'm all the more convinced of the superiority of our agricultural system of privately owned family farms, the profit motive, competitive markets, and freedom for the farmer to decide what he wants to grow and market.

"How fortunate we are to live in this land, how grate-

## Oats Winterkill In January Say PSU Researchers

Winter oats kills in January in Pennsylvania and not in March as often assumed, according to the latest experiments by Robert P. Pfeifer of the Agricultural Experiment Station, the Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. Pfeifer and associates have found that the major portion of the winter-kill of oats occurs when the soil temperature falls below 22 degrees Fahrenheit. This is usually between January 1 and February 6. Their discovery has held true during the past two years of field studies and special cold chamber tests.

"Only the deep-freeze effect of frozen soil on oat seedlings makes them look alive," Dr. Pfeifer explains. "Under these conditions dead seedlings will look alive until frost leaves the ground in March or later," he adds.

The Penn State researchers are now using their soil temperature discovery to determine winter hardiness of the different oat varieties. By freezing seedlings in artificial cold chambers, they can determine winter kill for any one variety.

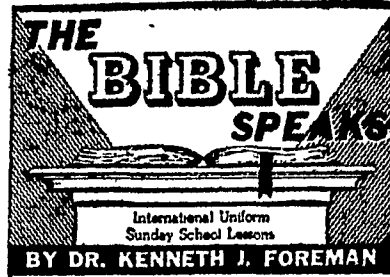
This method of determining winter hardiness can also be used with winter wheat and barley, Dr. Pfeifer points out. We can now predict winterkill of winter grain well before the Spring planting season, he adds.

Tests indicate that cold hardiness of the more frost-resistant oat varieties is directly related to earliness of planting. Winter injury increases with late plantings. Seedlings made on September 10 had 48 per cent winter injury. When planted September 21 the winter injury rose to 52 per cent. Winter injury sharply increased to 88 per cent when the planting date was October 2.

"In future experiments we want to find out what happens in hardy oat varieties to cause them to build up resistance to freezing temperatures," Dr. Pfeifer states.

Ground corn cobs are good feed for beef cattle during the winter if the cobs are supplemented with three and a half pounds of supplement per cow daily.

ful we should be, and how determined to keep our country free and strong."



Bible Material: Acts 9 10-31.  
Devotional Reading: Colossians 3.12-17.

## New Convert Lesson for December 6, 1959

FIFTEEN thousand, nine hundred eighty-two persons decided for Christ when Billy Graham was down in New Zealand last "spring." (It was fall down there.) What will happen to those 15,000 new converts? What has happened to converts in other Billy Graham meetings? The answer to that question depends on the converts themselves; but it depends also a great deal on what other Christians do about it. Billy himself has said, "After the obstetrician comes the pediatrician." The birth of a baby is important good news; but suppose from that moment everybody forgets the baby and nobody does a single thing for him? In that case the baby might as well never have been born.



Dr. Foreman

#### Getting Acquainted

Saint Paul was a new convert once. The church of the ages owes much to him, but we also owe a great debt to some people without whose help Paul would hardly have become the great apostle and missionary that he was.

He was very eager to get back to Jerusalem where he had built up his career as an anti-Christian. He risked his life, in fact, to get back there. He knew that the most effective place to give a good witness is just where you have made a bad witness in times past. It is much easier to go to a strange place for a complete new start, than to make the new start in the old surroundings. But Paul seldom took the easiest way, and so we find him back in Jerusalem... a lonely man. For not a Christian there would speak to him. He was known as a bloodthirsty and implacable enemy of all Christians. When he began speaking for Christ instead of against him, the Christians were shocked and afraid. All

but one man, Barnabas. He took this new convert and introduced him to the church leaders as a fellow-Christian. And when they got acquainted with the man Paul, things began to be different.

That's the first thing a Christian can do with new converts: just get acquainted. Do you have evangelistic services in your church or community? And if so, what are the new Christians to you? Mere statistics, just a list of names? Or are they really people? If all the new converts mean to the older Christians is statistics, then that's all they'll ever be, statistics. And in the end, statistics of missing persons.

New converts are often more scared than they like to admit. Can I hold out? they ask themselves over and over. They have not yet discovered that it is not a question of their holding on, but of God's. Now put a man who half-distrusts himself in the midst of people who have no faith in him, just waiting like buzzards for him to fall so they can pick his reputation to the bone, and you start him off against terrific odds. New converts need all the encouragement they can get. It is nothing short of cruel for people who profess to be Christians, to act and talk as if they were betting on failure for any new Christian. Furthermore, we may note that good, practical Barnabas did not keep his confidence in young Paul to himself. He took him personally to the leading Christians of the city.

#### A Job

Paul was a tentmaker, not as a hobby but as a job for pay. Perhaps he worked at that trade in Jerusalem. But whether he did or not, the job that really interested him was an opportunity to witness for Christ. He preached and he debated around Jerusalem, and we may be sure he would not have been given an opportunity to do this if the Apostles had not approved. In short, to put it into modern terms, they gave him a job in the church. Not that he was paid for it; but the point is, the church encouraged him to speak for Christ, to use his talents as thinker and speaker and debater, on behalf of Jesus. The most weakening thing older Christians can do for a new one is to throttle him down, to choke off his enthusiasm. The best thing older Christians can do for a new convert is to encourage him to win others.

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## Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

TO PROTECT BARNYARD MANURE—Manure continues to be one of the most valuable fertilizer crops from the farm, all measures should be taken to conserve the elements throughout the entire year. With most dairy herds the daily manure production is hauled directly to the field. If the manure is to be stored, it should be placed in a concrete pit so that the valuable nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash elements will not be washed away. The application of super-phosphate to stored manure will help hold its fertilizer value.

TO PROTECT THOSE ROSES—Winter winds and alternate freezing and thawing are hard on all types of roses; especially the hybrid tea roses and the floribundas are subject to winter injury. The roses are not to be covered to keep them warm, but rather to keep the soil and plant temperatures as uniform as possible. When the ground is once frozen around the plant roots we don't want alternate freezing and thawing. We suggest mounding soil up around the plants at least six to eight inches high and then cover with straw or strawy manure. Windbreaks are also needed if the plants are exposed to the west or the north.

TO PROTECT YOUNG CALVES—Dairymen are reminded that the proper care and growth of the young heifer calves is essential to a good future herd in the milking string. Calf pens with plenty of light, dry, and free from drafts are essential. In barns where an exhaust fan system of ventilation is in operation it is important that the fan be located over or near the calf pens in order to keep them as warm as possible. Most cases of scours and pneumonia can be prevented with proper conditions and care.

TO TAKE SOIL SAMPLES—There is still time to take soil samples here in the southeast before the ground freezes for the winter. There are many advantages to having the testing done now as compared to waiting until next spring. The test will be just as accurate, you will get a more prompt reply due to fewer samples to be tested now, and you will have the recommendations in plenty of time to take early delivery and take advantage of reduced winter prices. Soil test envelopes and full details available at our Extension Office.

**Lancaster Farming**  
Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly  
P. O. Box 1524  
Lancaster, Penna.  
Offices:  
53 North Duke St.  
Lancaster, Penna.  
Phone - Lancaster  
EXpress 4-3047  
Jack Owen, Editor  
Robert G. Campbell Advertising  
Director & Business Manager  
Established November 4, 1915  
Published every Saturday by  
Lancaster Farming Lancaster Pa.  
Entered as 2nd class matter at  
Lancaster Pa. under Act of Mar  
3, 1879, additional entry at Mount  
Joy Pa.  
Subscription Rates: \$2 per year;  
Three years \$5. Single copy Price  
5 Cents.  
Members: Pa. Newspaper Publishers' Association, National Editorial Association.