

FROM WHERE WE STAND - M-H 30, To Spray Or Not To Spray

A June first news release from the United States Department of Agriculture cautions tobacco growers against the use of Maleic Hydrazide (MH-30) for the control of sucker growth on tobacco.

The USDA acted, the report said, after it had received numerous strong protests against the chemical from the major tobacco companies.

The USDA apparently is worried that the use of the chemical could seriously jeopardize the tobacco price support program as well as the domestic and foreign markets for United States tobacco.

It appears we are on the same old merry-go-round we stepped on last year when some of us who played it straight stepped off to get our faces full of dirt.

Tobacco companies last year cautioned against the use of chemical growth inhibitors at the risk of severe price penalties for treated tobacco.

Many conscientious tobacco farmers took the companies at their word and went through the age-old chore of hand suckering, while some of their adventuresome neighbors risked price cuts for the convenience of chemical suckering.

When the buyers-hit the sheds last

fall, most of the tobacco was sold before the conscientious farmers had time to say, "But I suckered mine by hand."

What happened to the promised differential in price? Several farmers reported that the buyer did not even ask how the suckers were removed from the crop.

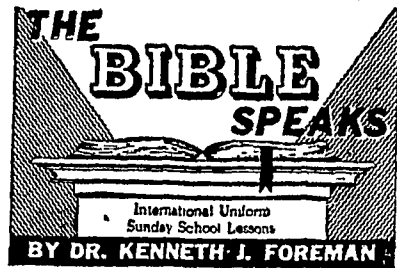
The release mentioned, goes on to say that while the buying companies insist that they will not knowingly buy treated tobacco, they readily admit that treated tobacco, in many instances, does not show adverse physical effects that can be detected on the auction floor.

Tobacco bought on the auction floor is one thing, but the Lancaster county tobacco market is another.

In many cases the buyers were on the farms during the growing season, and still no premium was paid for the hand suckered crop.

If the tobacco companies intend to discriminate against the chemically treated tobacco, they made a poor start last season. There will be many more farmers willing to test them out again this year.

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



Bible Material: Matthew 7 13-14; Luke 15 11-32.
Devotional Reading: Psalm 1.

The Two Ways

Lesson for June 12, 1960

THE NOTION that you can find out what is right by seeing how many people do it, is not an idea you can find in the Bible. If what the majority of people do makes anything right, then you are really deciding right and wrong by voting on it. The truth is, the majority of people are wrong at least as often as they are right. Jesus believed that in his day, at any rate, the majority was on the wrong road. There are two ways or roads through this world, he said, Dr. Foreman one is broad and the other narrow. One is easy to find, the other you cannot find so easily. What is more, the broad road is popular and the narrow road is not. But the real question to ask about any road is: Where does it go? Where shall I land if I follow it?



Dr. Foreman

thinking travelers) of the highway. It is like the broad concrete highways that cross the nation. Wider and faster roads being built all the time; the accident rate keeps going up. The reason why the broad road is preferred is that you don't need your brakes on it very often. There are no stop-lights on a three-way for most of its distance. Forgetting about brakes is dangerous. There used to be a stretch of road in North Carolina, equally divided between a straight shoot through low hills and a very crooked steep climb the Blue Ridge. For years there was not a fatal accident on the narrow, steep and crooked part of the road, but many accidents on the straight stretch to the east. Going up the mountain down, drivers were careful. Once down, they would let their brakes go and zoom off—many of them to early death. So it is for persons or for nations: life with brakes goes swiftly to destruction. And the name for the brakes we have to apply to ourselves is Discipline.

As Important as steering

There are three things a car must have, at the very least. It must have power to move, it must have a steering mechanism that works and it must have brakes so the driver can slow down or stop. So it is on the roads of life. A traveler must have power, he must be able to steer, and he must be able to hold himself down. Brakes are every bit as important as the steering shaft. So it is the life of every man; without discipline he is running just as fast as a risk as if he had no driving power at all. Discipline means being able to say No to yourself. Discipline means being able to choose what is unpleasant, if it is right. Discipline means loving yourself less than means, in the first place, choosing a road because it leads to life. Not because it is easy.

No one would venture to choose the wrong road is crowded with more than the other. But sometimes we wonder. A nation made up of people who never say No to themselves, a nation made of people who always want the easy way for the least, who translate "I must have it" into "I must have it," is a nation like that going to be better than its people?


(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Religious Community Press Service)

To life or to destruction?

Life and destruction are opposites. You would think any one could see that. But to judge from the way many people act, it is plain that they think the same road leads both to destruction and to life. Many a man walks the broad road with plenty of company, knowing (or at least having heard) that the road ends in destruction. But he thinks life is a wayside stop, indeed he rather pities the poor fools that took the narrow rocky road to life, when it is so much pleasanter to take the broad road. The truth is, on the contrary, that you can't reach life by the road that goes to destruction. You have to choose.

Discipline

Why is it that the road to life is sparsely traveled and the road to destruction crowded? It isn't that people prefer destruction. It's the road that attracts them. Let's look at one attractive feature (that is to say, one that does attract un-



THIS WEEK
—In Washington
With Clinton Davidson
Farm Income Up

Davidson

It is always good news when something turns out to be better than you had expected. That is the way most farmers feel now about farm prices and income.

Six months ago, farmers were warned by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to expect another billion dollar decline this year in their net income. That, coming on top of a two billion dollar drop in 1959, was pretty discouraging.

The forecast of another round of belt-tightening for farmers wasn't surprising, though, because farm prices and income have gone down in nine of the past 10 years. The only exception was 1958.

However, instead of continuing downward farm prices have been rising at a rate of about one per cent a month since the start of this year. That has been the national average for all farm commodities. Naturally, some farmers have fared better than others.

Outlook Forecast

Last fall the Department of Agriculture, as it has for the past 30 years, invited agricultural economists from all parts of the country to participate in an Outlook Conference to forecast market demand, prices and income for the year ahead.

The economists took a dim view of 1960. Farm prices, they noted, had dropped an average of 7 per cent during 1959. Net farm income

had declined from \$13 billion in 1958 to \$11 billion in 1959. It looked then like more of the same in 1960.

The parity ratio which the economists use to measure the fairness of prices received by farmers when compared with prices they pay for machinery and other things used on the farm, had dropped to a 20-year low last fall. The ratio was 77% of parity, compared with a fair price of 100% of parity.

That meant that the average of prices received by farmers was only a little more than three-quarters of a fair price. Production costs took 70 cents out of every dollar farmers received from the sale of their products.

Then, unexpectedly, prices received by most farmers began to go up in January. Economists shook their heads and said it couldn't last, that it was only a temporary reversal and that the downward trend would be resumed.

But when the slow but steady climb in the average of prices continued in February, March and April they began to concede that they may have been mistaken in their earlier predictions that 1960 prices would show an overall drop of three to five per cent.

By late spring the price average had climbed from 77 per cent to 80 per cent of parity. The most spectacular increase was a 25 per cent climb in hog prices, from an average of \$12 in January to \$16 a hundred pounds in April. Prices of other livestock also increased, though not by as much as hogs.

The economists still have their fingers crossed on the remainder of this year, but around the Department of Agriculture there is a growing feeling that farmers have escaped, for this year at least disastrously low prices that could have forced many thousands of them into bankruptcy.

Advertisers will be glad to have you mention Lancaster Farming when answering advertisements.

Farm Work Catching Up

Conditions for farm field work were somewhat improved during the past week, although rains and wet ground continued to plague Pennsylvania farmers, the State Crop Reporting Service said in its weekly crop and weather roundup.

Surplus moisture was reported in fewer areas than the previous week but low spots are still soggy in all areas.

Vegetable production was benefited by some overall improvement in weather conditions. Higher temperatures are now needed to put most crops on normal growing schedule. Final plantings of tomatoes have been made but the total planted acreage may be 10 per cent or more below original intentions.

Strawberry set is average or above in most areas due to heavy precipitation and with favorable weather a bumper crop could develop. Local berries are at their peak and quality is mostly excellent.

Tree fruits are sizing and some dropping has been reported.

Corn planting is 50 to 90 per cent complete in Lancaster County but planting is nearly two weeks off last year's schedule and well behind normal. Overall conditions of corn that has emerged is considerably below a year ago. Some farmers are now planting shorter season corn or changing to silage corn or other crops.

Most alfalfa hay is only of fair quality. Weather has hindered spraying of forage crops and has resulted in serious damage to the hay crop in some areas. Barley fields are beginning to turn color and considerable lodging is reported. Generally large heading of wheat is reported.

Rural Rhythms

CAN-NIVERSARY
By: Carol Dean Huber
One hundred and fifty years ago
A man named Phil Durand Decided food would keep if sealed
Into an airtight can.

The farm wife used a can of glass,
But his was tin you see:
Farms growing canning crops will share
This Can-niversary.

Now is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

TO SPRAY ALFALFA STUBBLES — On many unsprayed alfalfa fields the alfalfa weevil are waiting upon the second growth; if these fields are not sprayed at once, little or no second crop can be harvested. Growers are urged to spray with one pint of Malathion immediately after taking off the first crop.

TO KILL LEAF HOPPERS ON ALFALFA — When the second growth of alfalfa is 4 to 6 inches tall, three pints per acre of 25% emulsion of Methoxychlor will kill the leaf hopper and increase the tonnage of the second crop. This insect is often the cause of a stunted and yellowish second cutting.

TO USE CAUTION IN CORN CULTIVATION — The roots of too many corn plants are injured by the cultivator, as corn gets larger the cultivator must be set more shallow and farther away from the row. The shearing of the roots injures the plant and reduces the yield.

TO MAKE SILAGE FROM WINTER WHEAT AND WINTER OATS — Both of these grains are about in the blossom to milk stage when they are at their best to be made into grass silage. They should be chopped directly into the silo without any wilting period; many growers will try to mix some cover or alfalfa with the load in order to improve the quality. A preservative should be used similar to that used with other kinds of grass silage. Growers with extra acres of winter wheat might consider this means of getting the most out of their crop.

TO BE CAREFUL WITH NITROGEN FERTILIZERS — Nitrogen fertilizers will give quick growth of new plant tissues when used properly; however, in the case of tobacco plants, extreme care should be used. If more green color or faster growth is desired, then the inorganic forms of nitrogen such as nitrogen or nitrate of soda may be used at the rate of 3 to 4 pounds per 1000 square feet of bed, however, softer plants will result if fast growth is realized. Always, a complete kill of the plants will be made if larger amounts are used. Dried blood is a good source of organic nitrogen at the rate of 3 to 5 pounds per 1000 square feet and will not make the plants as soft or tender. All of these should be washed down after each treatment.

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