

## FROM WHERE WE STAND - Family Farm Is Not Doomed

Everywhere we turn these days we hear someone say, "Things aint like they used to be."

We agree. And we say, "It sure is a good thing."

We most often hear the sad refrain of "things ain't . . ." connected with an expression of fear that the ever-growing mechanization of agriculture along with other advanced farming techniques and tools, will lead to the virtual disappearance of the family farm, and its replacement with the big corporation farm.

Dr. Carl Butler, one of this country's leading agricultural economists vigorously disputes this view. He writes: "The family farm is not disappearing. True, some family farms are finding it convenient to incorporate. If this is corporation farming, make the most of it, but actually a very small percentage of the farms in the United States are either corporation farms or incorporated. The majority are family owned and family operated.

In fact, today about 96 or 97 per cent of all the farms in the United States are family-operated units. There has been no significant decrease in the

proportion of family farms during the last 20 or 30 years."

Dr. Butler also says that the number of hired professional farm managers has actually declined a little in recent years, which means that the percentage of owner-operators has shown an increase.

Actually, mechanization has meant the salvation of the family farm, whether or not it has gone through the formality of incorporation. It has made possible more production at reduced cost. Even more important in the long pull it has given the small, as well as the large, farmer the means of improving and conserving irreplaceable land—the six inches of topsoil that stand between us and famine. It has reduced or eliminated back-breaking drudgery. It has made farming into a business and a profession, even while maintaining it as a way of life.

To quote Dr. Butler once more, "The future of the family farm seems to be assured."

We could never return to things as they used to be if we wanted, and who would want to if we could?

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

## Farm Chemicals - Friend or Foe?

Twenty years ago industry produced some 50 basic chemicals for use on our farms. Now the number exceeds 200.

Of the 1959 volume (about 50 million tons), some 90 per cent would not have been available at the beginning of World War II.

Pesticides cost farmers about \$29 million annually in the 1930's; now the cost is near \$260 million.

The upward trend in the use of chemicals is going to continue for obvious reasons. The consumer has come to expect products with quality and sanitation standards never dreamed of by our forefathers. Farmers must compete for the consumer market and chemicals offer the only economical means of maintaining high quality produce.

Returns and rewards are great when chemicals are used properly. Improper use of chemicals can be extremely dangerous. Like any other tool, chemicals must be used in the manner and for the purpose for which they were intended.

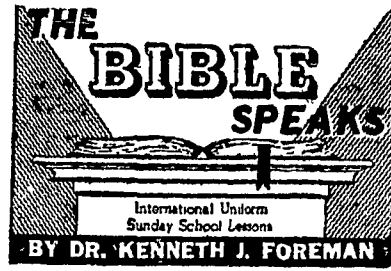
Chemicals pose questions of proper use, residues, proper application machinery and others. These questions must have our attention.

But in giving them our attention we must adhere to reason. We cannot legislate our way out of the residue or the safety problem. We must press for the formulation of safer chemicals—with the widest margin of safety to consumers and natural resources—which will still be effective in their assigned task.

Only a few of the hundreds of potential new farm chemicals studied each year eventually reach the market. Many that do a superior job of killing insects, disease organisms or weeds are rejected because they do not meet exacting safety standards.

Chemicals are essential production tools. If we are to continue providing food, in the variety and quality we want, we have no present alternative to the use of chemicals.

Surely we are competent to use them to great advantage without great harm to ourselves.



Bible Material: Psalms 96; 103; 136.  
Devotional Reading: Psalm 66 1-14.

### We Give Thanks

Lesson for November 20, 1960

"THANKSGIVING will never be as commercialized as Christmas," some one remarked, "because no presents are given at Thanksgiving. Stores can sell Christmas gifts, but they can't sell gratitude!"

Well... is this true? No presents at Thanksgiving?

On the contrary, when this holiday is truly celebrated, it is precisely because of the avalanche of gifts. Only these are not gifts that can be bought in a store, they are not gifts to which any price tag can be attached. They are God's gifts, and Thanksgiving is the day when we stop to think about him and thank him. Or do we?



Dr. Foreman

#### Who Give Thanks

You don't always feel very deeply grateful for something you have earned by hard work. You may be very glad you got whatever it was. You may be highly satisfied by getting it. But if thanks are due, they may be more in the way of self-congratulations than anything else. You are most in the mood for thanks when you know very well that you did not and perhaps could not have produced whatever it is for which you are thankful. We who give thanks to God—whether every morning or every Sunday or on such special occasions as our national Thanksgiving holiday—are his beneficiaries. There is no possible way of repaying God for his blessings.

It is quite true that there are some blessings in life which we do not have unless we work for them. For example, the respect of the community where we live is a real blessing; but without genuine effort on a man's part, other people will never respect him. Health is an incalculable asset; but health never perches over a man's door if

the man persists in doing things that ruin health. But nevertheless in such cases, and others the same, one can demand respect nor health. There is no precise set of the keeping of which one way be as bouncy as a year-old. Some people keep rules all their lives but are yet are repudiated by neighbors. (Jesus suffers tragedy.)

#### Whom Do We Thank?

There are other blessings more evidently come from the world at creation, the seasons, the of the skies, the marvel self, this body so crammed with miracles, this spirit that out of time and space, for we thank God because of other Creator. Yet there are blessings that come to us from friends, parents, brothers—yes, even through enemies. Here we can give thanks. First we can thank the friends, relatives, strangers who brought these blessings. Here we can thank God. Sit down at a quiet time and thank yourself about any part of your life, let us say the trust in God whom you know—self, where did this come from? the long run?

#### For What Are We Thanking?

We give thanks to God for great mercies, for sparing us from destruction, for the forgiveness of sins (the greatest blessing we can have) and "hope of glory." But in the midst of these great mercies we may overlook the small mercies from His hands, those little things without which life could not be. Easiest of all to overlook are those blessings that come disguised in a time of suffering. One may not see God has in mind—one tempted even to feel that the forgotten and does not count time—in God's time—we look back and see our pain is not in vain. And then we may see that not only did God do it, he sent it, for reasons we shall see.

(Based on outlines copy from the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Christian Church in the U. S. A. Community Press Service)

## Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH

**TO CLIP UDDERS AND FLANKS**—The practice of clipping the udder flank belly of the dairy cow is to be encouraged during the fall and winter months. Clipping the cow is much easier to keep in the daiy routine of washing and clipping. In most cases it will be necessary to clip several times during the winter months.

**TO PROVIDE PLENTY OF BEDDING**—Cow comfort is best attained by bedding that the animals do not have to lie on bare concrete floors. Many milking cows that are held in stanchions have their legs and udders injured by their weight touching concrete. Cold concrete and udders exposed to the milking udder has caused many cases of mastitis. Several inches of bedding should be under each cow at all times.



MAX S.

**TO PUT COLOR INTO HUNTING TOGS**—The big hunting season is at hand and many hunters will be expected to the sharp eye of other hunters. Hunting safety is important at all times and every precaution should be taken to prevent an accident. The color of the clothing is important in the woods in order not to be mistaken for a deer. Wear either bright red or yellow to be seen easily by other hunters; yellow is actually more visible than the traditional red.

**TO TOP DRESS NEW SEEDINGS**—The practice of top dressing small grain and new legume seeding with manure during late fall or early winter is to be encouraged. Manure will furnish some extra nitrogen next spring, more important, will help cover the ground this winter to prevent freezing out and heaving. This will be especially helpful in the case of very late seedings that did not get a good start.



Davidson

### THIS WEEK

—In Washington

With Clinton Davidson

### Community Service

Ordinary we don't go in much for contests. As a rule they are conducted with a great deal of ballyhoo intended to grind some special axe of the sponsor.

There are of course, exceptions. One of those is the nation-wide Community Service Contest sponsored since 1948 jointly by the National Grange and the Sears Roebuck Foundation.

This is a contest in which more than a million farm and small town people work nearly 100 million hours each year to make their communities a better place in which to work, live and raise their families.

This year Grange members and non-members have worked together in more than 5,000 communities in 37 states to build schools, churches, community meeting halls, hospitals and clinics, playgrounds and parks, and on hundreds of other worthwhile projects.

#### A Self-Help Program

This is a contest in which rural people survey the needs of their community, then join together in meeting those needs. Judges pick the winner in each state, then another set of judges select the "top ten" from among the state winners.

Five nationally-known men then make a two-week airplane tour of the "top ten" to select the first, second, third, fourth and fifth place winners. Awards range from

\$10,000 for first place to \$1,500 for fifth. The other five receive \$1,000 each.

The contest has been called "the greatest force for community improvement in America," and "the contest in which everybody wins," because every community that participates improves itself.

In thousands of communities recreational and entertainment facilities have been provided for children and young people. Church attendance has been increased. Safety projects have been undertaken to reduce accidents.

#### Winners Announced

Awards to the 1960 contest winners are to be made Saturday, Nov. 19, at the annual convention of the National Grange, oldest of the farm organizations, in Winston-Salem, N. C.

The first prize of \$10,000 will be made to the community of Vale, Oregon, through (Turn to Page 5)

### Rural Rhythms

#### THANKFULNESS

By Carol Dean Huber

Where, but in the country, Should there be thankfulness?

As everything that grows Proclaims that God will bless.

Where, but in the country, Can we, in conscience, pray And thank the Lord for all He gives us every day?

**Lancaster Farming**  
Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly  
P. O. Box 1524  
Lancaster, Penna.  
Offices:  
51 North Duke St.  
Lancaster, Penna.  
Phone - Lancaster  
EXpress 4-3047  
Jack Owen, Editor  
Robert G. Campbell, Advertising Director & Business Manager  
Established November 4, 1955  
Published every Saturday by Lancaster Farming, Lancaster, Pa.  
Entered as 2nd class matter at Lancaster, Pa. under Act of Mar. 8, 1879 additional entry at Mount Joy, Pa.  
Subscription Rates: \$2 per year; three years \$5. Single copy 10 cents.  
Members Pa. Newspaper Publishers' Association; National Editorial Association.