

FROM WHERE WE STAND . Why Not Buck The Production Cycle?

Why don't producers see the peak price coming and aim for a good market?

This old question was asked again last week by one of the officers of the Lancaster Poultry Association.

We stopped in at the Poultry Center after the Thursday auction to find out the results of the sale and got into a discussion with a buyer and some of the auction personnel.

Prices at the auction were at the highest point in more than a year, but the volume at the sale was at the lowest point in several weeks.

"Prices have been advancing for several weeks. I don't know why more growers didn't consign broilers to this sale. The market will probably be flooded next week and knock the props out from under the sale," the buyer said.

Well there might be several reasons for the small number of broilers offered. It just might be that there are not a large number of broilers ready for the market because the low prices of the past several months have discouraged heavy placement of broiler chicks; Or it might be that the growers are hoping the peak has not yet been reached; Or it might be that the weather or a weather report caused several growers to change their minds about marketing last week.

Whatever the cause, the pattern is a well-known one. The well-known law of supply and demand still functions. When the demand is greater than the supply, prices go up and when the market is overloaded, prices tend to go down.

Doubtless the price at the Poultry Center last week will encourage some growers to place more chicks than he had planned to place or to place chicks where he had not planned to place any at all.

For this reason we have production cycles. There have been production cycles ever since man produced in surplus of his own needs and tried to dispose of his oversupply to his neighbors.

It is the normal trend to increase production during times of peak prices, but the problem is this; production begun during periods of peak prices is not ready for market until the price situation has time to endure a lot of change.

"Everyone is doing it," seems to be reason enough for some producers to increase production or to cut back production.

It is easy to do a thing when everyone else is doing it. It takes real courage to buck the trend. It takes real foresight to look at the situation as it will be, rather than as it is.

Production cycles will continue to be. Price cycles will continue to rise and fall pretty much in converse proportions. Those who jump in and out will continue to push the cycles higher

and deeper.

Producers of farm products can not stop production cycles, and joining the group only makes the cycle more severe.

Why fight the cycle? You can make it work for you.

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

Of Crows and Corn

Your editor goes through about one waste-basket-full of messages every day—messages that someone somewhere in America wants Eastern Indiana farm men to hear. (And it is a pretty good sized waste basket, too)

We are not unhappy about this. In fact we often wish that even more people from Eastern Indiana, itself, would take the time to tell their stories in The Eastern Indiana Farmer. We appreciate your mailed in and called in reports of farm organization meetings, 4-H news, and other bits of news about community happenings. What we like is for you to help us keep the news as fresh and up-to-date as possible.

But to get back to the waste-basket full, industries with new ideas for farm implements and livestock feeders, especially want you to listen to messages about their products. We usually leave this up to your local dealers, and they have something to tell you each week about vital ingredients for your farm operation when you read their advertisements.

But here is an example of what we are talking about: A release came to us recently from Saginaw, Michigan, saying that graphite sprinkled on seed-corn has been proved to have resulted in more uniform spreading because of its lubricating action in seeding machines.

This seems an interesting idea.

"There has always been the problem of seed, especially when it has been treated with insecticide, sticking together or to parts of the seeding machine," the release continued.

"This has resulted in wasteful and non-uniform plantings. Now, with graphite lubrication, the seeds do not adhere to each other or the machine, and uniform feeding is attained.

"Dry graphite, ground to about 200 mesh screen size, is sprinkled on the seed prior to spreading. The seeds become uniformly coated, and have a dark grayish color."

Now get this: the dark color, claims the release, offers the additional advantages of faster germinations, and less waste, since crows are not attracted by the coated seeds.

Now you tell us: will it work?

Incidentally, this message was sent to us for you by The United States Graphite Company. —The Eastern Indiana Farmer.

that he was well aware of the fact that per capita farm income is less than half the national non-farm average, and that farmers can buy less with what they have to spend than at any time since 1939

"This" he said, "isn't just a farm problem. It is a national problem. (Turn to page 5)

Lancaster Farming

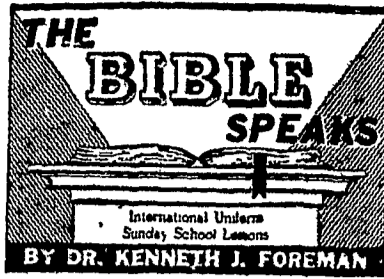
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Bible Material: John 12.
Devotional Reading: Matthew 16 13-23.

Loving and Losing

Lesson for February 26, 1961

THE HEADLINE above might lead you to think this is a column about a boy and a girl. If that's what you are looking for, read no further. That's not what this is about. We are talking about something more important than an imaginary girl or boy. This is about life, your life. We may as well come to the point at once. "He who loves his life loses it." This is a quotation from Jesus Christ. As if it were not hard enough to understand by itself, Jesus adds an even harder sentence: "He who hates his life in the world will keep it for eternal life." Jesus never talked nonsense; but he often said things that made men walk away, asking themselves, What can this mean? This is one of those hard sayings.



Dr. Foreman

The Cross is the Answer

Jesus did not explain his riddle in words. He explained it by action. Let it never be doubted that Christ was fully normal, apart from sin. "Like his brethren in every respect," a New Testament writer says. Now the will-to-live is strong in every man. In some persons of unsound mind there is no will-to-live, only the will-to-die. But Jesus never strikes you (nor any one else) as a morbid type, who would go around hating himself and hating life. Jesus had a joy in living, this is clear from all we know of him. Yet he came at last to a crisis in life where he had a chance to choose to live, perhaps for many years; but chose to die. He loved life; but he would not treasure his life above all things else. He loved life; but it came to the point where he knew the best investment of his life would be to "lay it down" (to use his own words).

Suppose Jesus Had Refused?

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



TO DO SOIL TESTING—All property owners should become acquainted with the local soil testing facilities. Home owners in town, in the suburbs, or full-time farmers may have samples of soil tested for various soil elements. As soon as the samples may be taken, dried, and prepared, the services will be better during March than later in the spring.

MAX SMITH TO KEEP DAIRY COWS WELL BEDDED

— With either the stall barn or the loose housing system of handling the milking herd it is very important that the cows have plenty of clean bedding at all times. With loose housing at this time of the year it may require additional beddings in order to keep the bedded area clean; it is strongly advised that the loafing area include any feed, water, or hay facilities so that the cows are there only for lying down on the clean, bedded area.

TO PROPERLY SANITIZE DAIRY UTENSILS—Sanitizing

means killing any bacteria that may have landed on the equipment since the previous milking and washing. The use of the sanitizer such as chlorine, iodophors, or the quaternary ammonium compounds should be applied only to clean equipment. Just prior to using the equipment, rinse the utensils with one of these sanitizers, drain well and allow to stand several minutes before milking. This practice will result in a lower bacteria count and higher quality milk.

TO RECOGNIZE SOIL ORGANIC MATTER PROBLEM—

Many Lancaster County soils continue to be low in organic matter (humus). The great amount of complete soil testing done in recent years reveals this county to be one of the lowest in the State in this respect. Longer rotations, cover crops, sod crops, and the addition of a maximum amount of animal and vegetable waste to the soil is highly recommended. This subject will be presented at the County "Soils Day" on February 28th.



THIS WEEK

—In Washington

With Clinton Davidson

Top Priority

President John F. Kennedy and Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman regard "the farm problem" as one of the toughest and most urgent domestic problems of the new Administration in Washington.

In private talks with farm leaders and members of Congress they rate low net farm income and mounting surpluses a more complex and pressing problem than the business slump and rising industrial unemployment.

Along with many economists, President Kennedy and Secretary Freeman believe the business decline has to a large degree been

the result of the decline in purchasing power of the twenty-million people who live on farms.

Also, they think the post-war record number of unemployed has been swollen by the two million workers who have left farming to seek jobs in the city during the past few years.

A new approach At a meeting, behind closed doors, with farm and congressional leaders recently, President Kennedy said: "I and my party have pledged ourselves to raise the income of farmers. That promise we intend to keep." He reminded the group

Jesus sometimes said he "had to suffer and die; but what kind of necessity was this? No outside force pushed him. True, once he got into the hands of the police, the end was foreseen by every one. Yet even then Jesus said he could summon angels to his aid. And before that, it would have been perfectly simple not to offend the Pharisees and the scribes. Pilate had never heard of him and would never have heard of him if the chief priests and the rest of the Sanhedrin had not brought Jesus before him. Jesus had no quarrel with the Roman Governor; and could have lived to a ripe old age, in retirement somewhere. But then what about the rest of us? What would we think of God? If Jesus was the divine Word made flesh, if he was God-made-man, and if he had refused the cross, then we would have known that there is one thing God would not do for man. God would teach man, condemn man, praise or punish man; but God would not die for man. God would not let himself be hurt. . . . But Christ chose the Cross. He chose to die, not for himself alone but for every man.

The Dying Seed

Look into the garden ground after it has been planted. What do you find? To the eye, nothing, just seeds rotting in the ground, seeds that will never come out again, seeds falling apart, dying. Look again; every living seed is setting up a green stem that will hold up another plant. To have life, you must first have death. To have victory, you must be willing to take scars. It is so with gardens. It is so with life. Jesus' sacrifice is not the only one needed to save the world. Let us suppose for a moment that every Christian in the church were just as selfish, just as much a Me-Firster, as anybody outside the church. What would the church amount to? Nothing more than another pompous club that would never have lasted as long as it has, of course; it would never have existed at all. Consider the roll of history. Some people called "Great" when nothing about them was great except their names. Who are the truly great ones? They are, they have always been, those who did not love themselves. They were those who lived for others—whether in one sacrifice of heroism or through their daily lives.

Based on outlines of the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches in the U. S. A. Courtesy Press Service.