

FROM WHERE WE STAND Surplus Or Just Good Insurance

Things have a way of just about balancing out in this business of farming.

Last summer, many farmers made more good quality hay than they had made in years and years. In addition to high quality hay stored by many dairymen and livestock feeders, surplus grass, legume, and corn forage was put in temporary or permanent silos.

Over most of the county, record yields of corn for grain were harvested. So much corn was grown on many farms that temporary storage had to be provided for the crop.

Then along came a long, hard, cold winter. Most Garden Spot farmers were still in good shape so far as feed is concerned.

But with the spring season opening so slowly, very little growth has been made by the early pastures. It appears now that winter feeding may have to be continued later into the season. What looked like it might develop into a surplus commodity last fall might turn out to be good insurance this spring.

Insurance in the form of temporary pasture is another excellent investment for the livestock farmer. Most of the permanent pastures in this part of the world are mainly bluegrass and white dutch clover, as all dairymen know.

The old established pastures furnish

a large amount of feed if they are managed properly, and many of these pastures are on land too steep or rocky to make reseeding practical.

But bluegrass does have its drawbacks. There are other crops (such as rye) which will make growth earlier in the spring; there are crops (such as sudan grass) which will produce more forage in the hot, dry months of summer, and there are crops (such as some of the cereal grains) which will produce feed later in the season. With the use of some of these other crops planted for temporary pasture, it is possible to extend the grazing period over a considerable longer time.

One precaution might be worth mentioning. If a temporary pasture is used, don't keep livestock on it so long that the bluegrass gets old and tough. With the large amount of moisture put into the ground last winter, bluegrass is likely to make rapid growth and get ahead of the livestock during May.

However, if no temporary pasture is used, care should be taken not to graze the permanent grass too hard before it begins its rapid growth.

Many Lancaster County farmers could realize much greater value from their pasture lands through a program of management. The "let it grow" philosophy used on the old established bluegrass-white clover hillsides is poor economy as well as poor conservation.

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

Orbiting Hot Dogs

Someone has figured out that the frankfurters Americans consume each year could reach to the moon and back and circle the world five times. On picnic, baseball and cook-out days, it is small wonder the orbiting hot dogs don't block the sun's rays.

Ever since the sandwich appeared on the scene, its taste and convenience have made it an all American favorite. This year, for example, the average American will consume about six pounds of meat in this form, the American Meat Institute estimates.

Legand has it that a sausage peddler at the 1883 St. Louis Fair created the weiner sandwich. He had been handing his customers white gloves to protect them from the juicy meat until the gloves and his profits began to disappear. When he wrapped a bun around a sausage, a national institution was born.

The frankfurter is at home in the ballpark, at a bench outing, the backyard patio, a picnic, or a queen's lawn party. All this in addition to being easy on the budget. No wonder the hot dog has remained so popular.

improving farm income would include direct, so-called "compensatory" payments; price support loans or purchases; in-kind payments for land diverted to soil conservation, or "incentive" payments for taking land out of cultivation.

Bargaining Power

The main objective of the farm proposal, Mr. Kennedy explained, would be to give farmers, with government backing, the power to act collectively in establishing fair prices for what they produce.

This is a power now guaranteed by Federal laws to labor unions, which bargain collectively to set wage scales. Industry seeks to protect its prices through the fair trade practice laws.

But, farmers' power to set prices would be limited, Mr. Kennedy declared, by disapproval of any program which would "exploit the consumer." Prices, he said, must be fair to both producers and consumers.

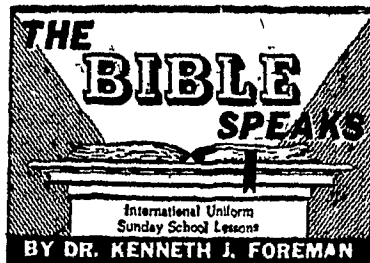
Whether Congress approves the President's plan almost certainly will be decided by (Turn to page 5)

Rural Rhythms MISCONCEPTION

By: Carol Dean Huber

Ebenezer has curly hair, Black and silky too, A broad deep chest, a flowing mane, And eyes of reepest blue.

I'm never far away from him; He is my friend of course; More than just a friendly pet; Ebenezer is my horse.



Bible Material: Job 1-2; 19:13-26; James 1:12-15.
Devotional Reading: 1 Peter 5:9-11.

No Insurance

Lesson for April 16, 1961

IF MORE questions are raised than are answered, in the Bible study for this week, that is because for three weeks the center of attention is on the book of Job, part of the Bible's "Wisdom Literature." The book of Job itself

raises a question which it does not finally answer. The important thing this week is to get hold of the problem. Next week and the week after that we shall be concerned more with the answers.

Job Is Every Man

There is no need to inquire whether this book of Job refers to some historical individual named Job, or whether this is a drama, a book of profound thought cast into the form of a story. For Job lives on every street, your middle name is Job. Job is the man who has everything. He is the man that Americans all want to be. He "has it made." He has a big family that is a credit to him, he has wealth more than he needs. He has solved the problem of security. He does not need help from the government nor from any man. He is, you might say, insured against trouble. Wealthy, respected, successful—put Job into modern tailor-made clothes, exchange his tent for a big house at a desirable address, and he looks so much like a 20th-century American of the "high salary bracket" kind, that a play can actually be written today, with the scene laid in our time and nation, using the very plot of the book of Job, and that play can be a smash hit on Broadway and around the country.

Most other books of the Old Testament are distinctly Jewish. This book of Job is not. The man Job is not a Jew; he is called (purposely) vaguely a man from Uz, one of the "children of the East,"

no son of Israel. Here is universal man. His questions are all men's questions, his problems our own.

When Life Crashes In

The reader of Job should inch along a few verses at a time. Take your next day off and read the book straight through, or you can't do that, then take at least a chapter at a time. The book is mostly a debate, but the debate begins with a story about another debate, one between God and Satan. God asks Satan if he has taken a good look at Job: "there is a good man for you!" Satan does not agree. Job is not good, he is only smart, Satan says. Job is good because God has blessed him with success and happiness. Let God (as it were) stop Job's pay and he will see the last of Job. So God gives Satan leave to do his worst, only he must not touch Job himself.

Then comes a smashing series of disasters. Job's wealth and his family are all swept away, and Job is left poor and lonely with only a bitter wife for company. But Job does not turn away from God. The next time Satan comes to visit God, God asks him: "Do you see my servant Job?" He is better than you thought. You moved me against him, to destroy him without cause; but he still is a good man. Oh, Satan says, he still has his health. He can stand life again. Let me drag him down in sickness and pain, and you will hear him curse you to your face. Then God, who believes in the man Job, gives Satan permission to wreck this man's body, and it is done. Now the problem is a terrible one. It is this: Why does God permit disasters?

No Insurance

Some of the answers brought out in the book of Job will be mentioned in the next two weeks' columns. For the present, the point is that there is no insurance in this world, against trouble. To be sure, you can buy insurance which will put a check-in your hand if your husband dies. But you cannot buy insurance which will guarantee he will live as long as you do. There is absolutely no insurance that life, your life, will not end in. No amount of goodness, heroism, no amount of service done to others, will insure you that you will go down to your grave without a care of a grain in the world. The only insurance you can buy (and it is good so long as it goes) will pay you money when the crash comes.

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Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



TO BE CAREFUL WITH FERTILIZER—All gardeners are urged to be careful in not permitting complete fertilizer from coming directly in contact with seeds or with the roots of plants. Fertilizers containing any nitrogen or potash will interfere with seed germination and will burn the plant roots. The fertilizer should be well mixed with the soil or be placed on a band to the side and below the plant roots.

MAX SMITH TO EXERCISE CAREFUL DAIRY HERD MANAGEMENT—Good management of the dairy herd is advised at all times during the year; however, at the start of the pasture season special care should be used in order to prevent off-flavored milk. Much of the trouble from "grassy" flavored milk can be prevented by: (1) Removing the herd from the pasture at least four hours before the milking period, (2) Feeding hay and silage before the herd goes out to pasture, (3) Keeping the barn well ventilated at all times, and (4) not grazing the milking herd on garlicky pastures.

TO FERTILIZE FARM PONDS—When vegetation starts to grow in the spring farm pond owners should apply the first application of a complete fertilizer to the pond water in order to encourage the growth of plankton; these very small water plants are needed in order to give the greenish (or brownish) color to the water, this coloring is needed in order to keep out the sun's ray and to discourage weeds and algae. A complete fertilizer such as 10-10-10 at the rate of 80 pounds per acre of water every 2 to 3 weeks until the color develops is suggested.

TO PLACE CORN FERTILIZER PROPERLY—Many stands of corn have been reduced in recent years because of fertilizer burn on the seed; with the trend toward more liberal use of fertilizers it is very important that the seed and fertilizer be kept separate in the ground. Plowing under the larger part of the fertilizer is strongly advised. At planting time the fertilizer should be placed about 2 inches to the side and below the kernels. All growers are urged to adjust their corn planters in order to make this possible.



THIS WEEK —In Washington With Clinton Davidson Farm Message

Farmers should take a careful look at what Washington is planning for their future, then tell their congressmen whether they approve.

President Kennedy's market supply management proposal sent to Congress recently is both complicated and far-reaching in the effect it would have, if adopted, on both farmers and city consumers.

The heart of the proposal is that producers of each farm commodity should be allowed to choose the kind of a program they want and

then, if Congress doesn't disapprove, put it into effect.

The course proposed for farmers in the future differs substantially from that advocated by the previous Administration in that it calls for strong action to control production and raise farm prices.

Farmer Committees

Under the Kennedy plan growers of each farm commodity would elect members of a committee which would, with the cooperation of the Secretary of Agriculture, draft a program applying to their commodity.

The program would then be submitted to growers in a referendum and, if approved by two-thirds of those voting, it would go into effect unless disapproved by the Senate or the House within 60 days.

The President asked Congress to amend present farm laws to permit each of the farmer-elected committees to choose just about whatever kind of a program they wanted.

He suggested that programs available to the committees include individual farmer marketing quotas, in bushels, pounds or bales. Or, if they preferred, production could be limited through acreage allotments.

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