

FROM WHERE WE STAND -

What's In The Fertilizer Bag

What's in the fertilizer bag?

We never cease to be amazed at the confusion that can be stirred up about what is in the fertilizer bag.

Just this past week we came across a question about a certain "organic" fertilizer which was labeled 0-3-0. The farmer had been talked into using the fertilizer in the belief that he was getting a bonus for his crops.

There are faddists in most lines of human endeavor, but it seems to us that there are more hoaxes perpetrated in the health, food and organic plant food businesses than most others.

We have no quarrel with honest businessmen who do not misrepresent organic plant foods. We agree there may be some advantages to using organic materials for fertilizers, but we do not believe that any one compound, organic, chemical or other, can be a cure all for a crop fertilization problem.

It is amazing to us that a smooth tongued operator could sell a material with a label 0-3-0 and convince the farmer he was getting a complete plant food.

Fertilizers do change. According to a report from the American Potash Institute, twenty years ago the leading grade of fertilizer in the Northeast was 3-8-5 with the plant nutrients of all grades sold at that time averaging 19.8 per cent. At present the leading grade of fertilizer is 5-10-5 with the average of all grades being 30 percent plant nutrients.

This is a far cry from the 0-3-0 fertilizer the farmer asked about this week.

He had been confused by the ratio of 1-1-1 which the salesman explained was in the bag of 10-10-10 he normally used for corn. He was considering paying almost as much for the three pounds of plant food in the organic fertilizer as he did for the 30 pounds of plant food in the chemical fertilizer.

As long as there are people who will go in for fads, there will be other people who will try to take advantage of their weaknesses.

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

Farm Public Relations

Agriculture's great need for good public relations is at long last being recognized. And better still, the recognition is being supplemented by positive action.

A really sound analysis of the farm problem, along with some constructive suggestions, comes from Robert C. Liebenow, a man in industry. Here is his letter:

"I do not need to point out to you that a critical farm problem exists in this country. All editors are well aware of the fact, and have written copiously about it.

May I suggest that the first key to-

ward a solution of this important problem has scarcely been mentioned in the news columns—particularly the news columns of urban papers.

This key, I submit, is education.

I believe an urgent need exists for a nation-wide campaign to improve agriculture's public relations—to awaken Americans to the critical importance of agriculture, and the need to keep it healthy.

More than anything else, American agriculture needs a good press agent—to tell the public that the farmer is not the villain in this picture, but that he is playing a vital role in our economy. Consider the following, if you will:

1. Farming is one of our biggest industries, employing some 7.5 million people (more than are employed in the steel, automotive, transportation and public utilities industries combined.)

2. Farmers buy, annually, between \$2.5 and \$3 billion worth of farm machinery, some \$3.5 billion worth of gasoline and other fuels, lubricants, maintenance products, etc. (Farmers use more petroleum than any other single industry.)

3. They buy millions of tires a year, and consume approximately 24 billion kwh of electricity.

Yes, the truth is that agriculture is still big and important business, and I think the fact should be trumpeted throughout the country."

ROBERT C. LIEBENOW

President, Chicago Board of Trade

The initiative for better public relations has just been taken by the Ford Motor Company in setting up the Ford Farm Forum. The Forum's function will be to issue quarterly reports to the public in order to create a better understanding and appreciation of agriculture—its problems, its achievements and its potential.

This is the kind of support needed by agriculture in its attempt to clear away the fog for public misunderstanding.

Another encouraging spot on the same horizon is the initiative taken by Cornell in sponsoring a conference on agricultural public relations. This meeting, held late last month at the College, was attended by representatives of most farm organizations.

Agreement was unanimous that there was great need for a positive public relations program for agriculture, and that there was a farm story to be told.

It is hoped that, out of this meeting, and further meetings like it, a coordinated program will be developed and put into action—in New York and elsewhere. Here is an area where there cannot possibly be any disagreement. The purposes are worthy of full support by all agricultural interests, and also by every branch of industry which serves agriculture.

Penn.-Jersey Farming

ber sold. It is one of the biggest users of electricity.

"Farming investment averages \$21,300 per worker. Compare that with U. S. industry's average of \$15,900 per worker. Four out of every 10 jobs in private employment are related to agriculture—in transportation, Processing, manufactur-

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Lancaster Farming

Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly

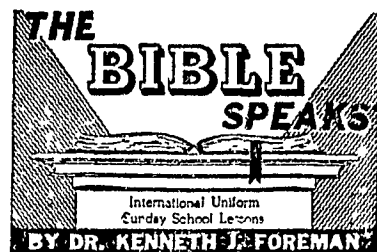
P. O. Box 1524
Lancaster, Penna.

Offices:
51 North Duke St.
Lancaster, Penna.

Home 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.
3, 1879. Additional entry at Mount
Airy, N. C.

Subscription Rates: \$2 per year,
single copy \$5. Single copy price
5 cents.

Members: Pa. Newspaper Publishers
Association, National Editors



Self-Discipline

Lesson for May 28, 1961

"SPARE the rod and spoil the child," an old proverb says. We can all "sound off" about the younger generation, how it's going to pot, and about the juvenile delinquents and what ought to be done about them. We have big ideas about educating parents to feel responsible for the kind of boys and girls their children are. This is all good, so far as it goes.



Dr. Foreman

But do you know the most common reason why parents don't discipline their children? They don't discipline themselves. One rod that must not be spared is the rod reserved by myself, for myself. If I make a bad job of self-discipline, I shan't be likely to be good at disciplining others.

If You Want It!

It can be said in simple words what discipline is. It means training a person to take, or do, what he doesn't like, or to keep from doing or taking what he does like. Self-discipline means learning this for yourself, and practicing it without anyone standing over you to make you do it.

There is one single requirement that must be met first of all. You must want, very strongly, what self-discipline will do for you. The writer of Prov 2 puts it into a nutshell, insight and understanding. Do you want these qualities in your character? They don't glide into your room on a moonbeam. No one ever was born with perfect insight and understanding. Nobody (except Jesus) ever achieved perfect insight and understanding. Nobody ever achieved enough of it to be worth while, without working at it, without wanting it. It comes hard enough at best, it never comes at all to fools who don't care.

The Bible is a very frank and outspoken book. There are parts of the Proverbs that plainly say the object of wisdom is to "pre-serve you from the loose woman." This might mean a professional prostitute, or it might not. Then, as now, the "young man without sense" (Prov 7:7) is easily taken in by the wrong kind of woman. No amount of warning, no amount of law-making, no good example,—nothing will keep a young man from being fatally fooled here unless he is self-disciplined from within.

And yet, while some people think that the "loose woman" is the one real danger to youth, the book of Proverbs would make us aware that there are other dangers. There is anger, for example. How many murders are committed out of anger, only God knows. But you may be pretty sure that the heat of anger which brought forth the murder was not the first to which the killer had given way. Some criminals will even put up as excuse the fact that they were emotionally disturbed. Such an excuse should deceive no one. All anger may be irresistible when you are in the middle of it, but it is possible to work on yourself so that you know the signs of anger coming up, and you can nip it in the bud before it starts. Diplomats and politicians can do this, and they don't claim supernatural help. How much more should a Christian, by the help of the Holy Spirit, be able to discipline himself away from acting like a barbarian or a spoiled child? Against robbery, laws and good advice can help prevent murder, but they can't prevent anger, the seed bed of murder. Only self-discipline can do that.

Red-Clay Wine

One other trouble which is common in mankind is liquor. The writer of the 23rd chapter of the Proverbs gave as good a description of a hangover as you can find anywhere. It's nothing less than red-clay wine. Now all the troubles of the drinker, whether he gets to the stage of being an alcoholic or not—all his troubles are actually artificial troubles. They are real, to be sure, but they are not natural. Sex and the acquisitive instinct and anger are all natural, however we may control them, but the taste of liquor is not found in any one. The way not to have the drinker's problems, is simply not to drink.

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

TO SPRAY CORN FOR WEED CONTROL

—Growers who did not spray their planted corn field with the pre-emergence chemicals may want to use the amine form of 2,4-D on the corn in the "spike" stage. This will control most of the broad leaf weeds and many of the grasses providing they have not already grown above the ground surface. Extra caution should be used against drift to susceptible crops. Only the amine form of 2,4-D should be used from now until late fall. The ester forms are dangerous.

TO TOPDRESS ALFALFA FIELDS — Many good alfalfa growers will apply extra fertilizer immediately after removing the first cutting, this application of a 0-20-20 or a 0-15-30 at the rate of 200 to 300 pounds per acre will help the latter cuttings and help maintain a good stand.

TO TREAT DAIRY COWS KIND AND GENTLE — Anything which scares or hurts the milking dairy cow will decrease production, therefore, when the cow is exposed to loud or strange noises or misuse, she will not let down her milk properly. Noisy children, barking dogs, yelling of humans, or any other loud disturbance should be avoided at milking time. Regularity of feeding and milking chores are also very important to top production.

TO WILT GRASS SILAGE—Many grass-legume forage mixtures are maturing in spite of the cool weather, the grasses are at the peak of their feeding value at heading time. Special effort should be extended to make silage from these mixtures that will be of the highest feeding value. The wilting of the crop after mowing and before putting into the silo is one way of reducing the excess moisture and seepage and in getting better quality feed. From two to four hours is usually needed to reduce the moisture to the desired 60 to 70 percent range. Proper wilting eliminates the need of any preservative and improves the silage quality.

TO PRACTICE FLY CONTROL—Warm weather will bring a heavy infestation of house and barn flies unless proper management is practiced. In the first place good fly control starts with clean surroundings and good sanitation measures. Destroy filth, manure piles, water and mud puddles and the problem is greatly reduced. In dairy barns the use of residual sprays such as Diazinon, Dibrom, or Ronnel may be used with success; the alternate use of these materials during the summer will prevent the build-up of fly resistance. A leaflet on "Fly Control" is available.



Davidson

THIS WEEK

—In Washington

With Clinton Davidson

An Exception

From time to time this column has been critical of the urban press for inaccurate and often unfair reporting of the farm situation. There always are exceptions to the rule, and the Springfield (Mo.) Leader and Press, is one.

Our hat is appreciatively doffed to the author of a recent editorial in the Leader and Press, titled "Look Before Damning" the editorial follows.

"Asked to name the nation's biggest industry what would be your guess? Railroading? Car manufacturing? Steel? Oil?"

"Wrong on all counts. Farming is far and away

the biggest—biggest in the number employed, the annual-dollar volume, in investments, in the consumption of industrial products.

"Look at some of the statistical facts: U.S. agriculture employs 7.4 million workers—more than in steel, automobiles, transportation, and public utilities combined. Agricultural investment totals \$203 billion, equal to about 75% of assets of all corporations in the land. Industry's Biggest Customer

"U.S. farming consumes \$3.5 billion in oil, lubricants and machinery maintenance each year. It buys \$2.5 to \$3 billion worth of new machinery, and 9% of all rub-