

FROM WHERE WE STAND - "The Barn's On Fire!!"

One of the most sickening sights on earth is a cloud of smoke rising over a barn full of crops and catt.e. All too many farmers will see a lifetime of investment go up in smoke this summer because high-moisture hay was put in the barn.

Spontaneous combustion in a hay mow can be a threat as long as 10 weeks after harvest, farm safety specialists estimate.

The probability of fire depends on the amount of hay and depth in the mow, how tight it is packed, outdoor temperature and humidity, and most important the amount of moisture in the hay itself, the experts say.

Ordinary hay in the presence of air will ignite at a temperature of 400 to 500 degrees. If conditions are favorable, this rise may occur in a few days in a mow of high moisture hay.

Another form of spontaneous combustion may occur over a longer period when temperature has not been very high. When hay remains away from air at a temperature of 130 degrees or above, its carbon assumes a finely divided form which readily combines with oxygen in the air at ordinary air temperatures. When carbon is in this state it will burst into flame on coming into contact with the air even at normal air temperatures. Such burning may occur weeks or months after the hay has been stored and even though no temperature over 130 degrees has been observed.

Since the chief cause of spontaneous heating of hay is the presence of excessive moisture, it is essential that no hay is put into storage until it is dry enough to keep without heating.

Baled hay should never be stored with more than 20 per cent moisture, while chopped hay should not contain more than 22 per cent and loose hay not over 25 per cent.

Some farmers will tell you that salt on the moist hay will prevent fire. Salt does help somewhat by absorbing moisture, but enough salt to prevent fire would make the hay unfit for feed.

Since the chief cause of spontaneous heating is the presence of excessive moisture in the hay, and since the presence of excessive moisture is usually caused by incomplete curing before storage, we would suggest to farmers that they not be in too great a hurry to put the hay in the barn.

If the farmer can not convince himself the hay is in condition to go in storage, he had better leave it in the field. It is better to lose one cutting

than to jeopardize the entire crop, and the barn as well.

And after the hay has been stored, it is wise to make sure there are no roof leaks over the hay mow. Moisture added after storage can cause heating just as surely as moisture hauled into the barn with the hay.

After the farmer has satisfied himself the hay is cured enough and has stored it in the barn, how does he know if his crop is safe from spontaneous combustion? Odors, vapors or smoke rising from the mow are indicators that all is not well, but the best way to check the condition of hay in storage is to take its temperature.

A simple device or probe for obtaining hay mow temperatures can be made of five-eighth inch pipe. For convenience the probe can be made in three or five foot sections and joined with couplings. The bottom should be sharpened so that it can be forced easily into the hay. A slot in the side of the bottom section will allow a thermometer to come to hay temperature very quickly.

For convenience the top section may be fitted with a pipe tee and handles attached to allow easy insertion in the hay. A hole can be drilled in the tee so that a glass thermometer on a string can be lowered into the probe.

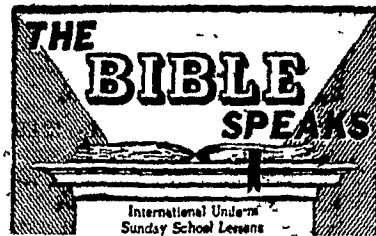
Safety engineers suggest placing boards over the surface of the hay if heating has been going on for several days since pockets of burning hay sometimes develop beneath the surface and may cave in if a man's weight is put on the surface of the hay.

Any temperature much above that of the outside air should be watched carefully for rapid rises. Usually readings up to 140 degrees are considered safe, but anything above 150 degrees is considered very dangerous. If the temperature in the mow goes above 175 degrees it is time to call the fire department and make arrangements for firemen to stand by while the hay is removed.

If the hay has heated only a few days, removal should not prove too difficult even at temperatures up to 200 degrees, but if the hay has been in storage several weeks, some of the carbon in the finely-divided state may be present and constitute a real hazard. Such hay when removed from the barn should be piled far enough away from the barn to cause no trouble if it should burst into flame.

The sight of a barn fire is one we can well do without this summer.

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



Mother of Jesus

Lesson for July 2, 1961

PICTURES of Jesus' Mother

Mary are nearly always of two sorts. One shows her as Queen of Heaven, standing on a cloud perhaps. The other shows her holding the baby Jesus. Now the Bible says nothing at all about her being Queen of Heaven, and it never suggests that we should pray to her. So Protestants do not paint pictures of Mary on a cloud. All they see is the young mother with the baby.

Dr. Foreman This is surely underrating her. In anxiety not to make an idol of Mary, many rush to the opposite extreme of neglecting her memory and failing to appreciate all she was and did.

Mary The Girl

True motherhood is more than bringing a child into the world and holding it up to be photographed or painted. Motherhood is a lifetime thing. It begins, actually, years before the child is born. Only the right kind of person can be the right kind of mother. Young women in Palestine were betrothed (engaged) at what we would think a very early age. Mary may not have been much over sixteen when Jesus was born. We can see from the story that she was poor. We know that she lived in a village which had never been known for anything good. Yet God chose this particular girl to be the mother of the world's Savior. Already as a girl God looked on her with favor, as the angel said. Already as a girl she was familiar with the Scriptures, as her song testifies. Already as a girl she must have been notably good. Would any ordinary man in Joseph's strange circumstances, have believed the angel of his dream? It was because Mary was the kind of girl

she was, that Joseph could continue to believe in her. We are not always old people. We may be very young. Mary served the title "Blessed women" while she was a girl. A good mother does not start being good only when her first child is born.

The Woman

Think rapidly over some of the things we know about Mary the woman who grew as her son grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man. We are told that Jesus the boy was "subject to his parents. In simple English Jesus obeyed his mother as Joseph. She was a woman who knew her mind, a mother who knew how to command obedience on a child's part and on the part of an adolescent for Jesus was on the edge of teens when Luke tells us he was "subject to" or "obedient to" Joseph and Mary. We have no reason to fancy that when he left home to take up his own life of obedience to God, he had to unlearn what he had learned at home. Think of his character and attitudes and (so far as we can know) Jesus the grown Teacher and Healer. What kind of home life lay behind this? Unless we are prepared to say that his surroundings, his family, had no effect on him, we are bound to suppose that in his life and character we have a reflection of the influence of his mother in whose home he grew for thirty years.

The Worshipper

The last picture we have of Mary in the New Testament is one of an upper room in Jerusalem, where she was one of a prayer-group. The one who we most often hear of in prayer, the "Magnificat" in many churches every Sunday. What people are remembering is a key to what they are remembering, long after their prayers? Mary was a person. Some people can pray beautiful prayers but at much account when a job is done. Others are very prayerful but are merely stammering they talk to God. Mary must have been a person whose prayers were the flower of wonderful service. Praying, her life was woven into the garment she made for "seamless throughout"

County Farm Production Worth Nearly \$90 Million

Lancaster County's farm production grossed almost \$90 million last year, breaking all previous records by \$1,374,300, figures released this week show

The previous high of \$88,443,200 realized in 1959 was topped by the \$89,817,500 figure for 1960.

Lancaster County continued to be far ahead of all other counties in the state

Milk was the leading money maker for garden spot farmers. The \$24,157,000 reportedly received put

this commodity in the top rank for the third consecutive year. Although the average price per hundredweight was down somewhat from the previous year, increased volume made up the difference. Lancaster County produced 492 million pounds of milk during the year.

Corn continued to be the number one crop in the state and Lancaster county led the parade in corn production with 91,000 acres being harvested for grain worth 7,763,000.

After two years of rough sledding, eggs regained the number two spot in total income production. Lancaster continued to lead all counties in the state with its \$23,093,000 value for eggs produced.

Tobacco value declined from \$15,412,000 in 1959 to \$13,495,000 last year but Lancaster County still produced over 90 per cent of the state's tobacco

Value of commodities in the \$89,817,500 are as follows Milk, \$24,157,000; Eggs

\$23,093,000; Tobacco \$13,495,000; Corn, \$10,293,500; Hay, \$6,112,700; Poultry \$6,097,500; Wheat, \$3,220,200; Potatoes, \$1,645,600; Barley, \$882,600; Oats, \$289,400; Apples, \$266,000; and Peaches, \$265,000.

HARVEST GRAIN

The right time to combine small grains is when the moisture is not over 14 per cent, according to Elmer Pifer, Penn State extension agronomist. All county agricultural agents have a simple moisture test to use as an aid to determine the proper time to combine small grains.

A registered Guernsey cow Penn Del Actors Forsyth Maid, owned by R. F. and L. A. Witmer, Willow Street, Pa, has completed an official DHIR production record of 14,050 lbs. of milk and 675 pounds of fat on two times daily for 305 days as a five year-old.



Now Is The Time . . .



MAX

BY MAX SMITH

TO CULTIVATE AT A DISTANCE

yield from many stalks of corn is lost when the roots are sheared off in cultivation. All operators should be instructed to stay away from the plants in order to prevent damage to the roots. This is very important and many acres are damaged each year. As the corn gets larger, the cultivator should be farther away.

TO OPERATE COMBINE SLOWLY

Small grain harvest is approaching and many bushels of barley and wheat will be combined also, many bushels of grain will be left in the field unless the combine operator has his machine properly adjusted and drives slow enough. This summer the amount of barley and wheat is very rank and there will be a lot of bulk to go through the combine; in recent years amounts of volunteer growth of grain in the field is that much of the crop is not in the bin. Farm owners should insist that the combine operators drive slow enough to get the grain out of the chaff.

TO GRAZE SUDAN GRASS

Livestock producers who plant sudan grass for summer pasture are cautioned against grazing the new growth until it is at least 18 inches tall, this is usually about 6 weeks after planting. When animals consume the new growth when it is much less than this stage of development, there may be some danger of prussic acid poisoning. Also, during the remainder of the summer if there is extreme dry weather (drought) and sudan grass stops growing, and then we get rain and rapid new growth, the animals should be kept out of the area until the new growth gets to the above height.

TO ALLOW ALFALFA TO BLOSSOM

Leading authorities urge all producers to permit one of the cuts of alfalfa to come into full bloom. Since the first cut is so rank and heavy, most growers prefer to let one or two later cuttings blossom. This practice helps to strengthen the root system of the alfalfa plant and prolong its productive life period.

TO USE CAUTION IN CORN SPRAYING

The use of D on corn over 18 inches tall without the use of drop nozzles could be inviting serious damage. After tall corn is sprayed, it becomes quite stiff and brittle for a few days. If there should be strong winds during this time the stalks may break off at the ground level. Sprayers are urged to spray the corn when 6 to 12 inches tall, possible, and to use drop nozzles on the taller stalks.

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