

From Where We Stand . . . The Law of Supply and Demand

A letter in our mail the other day said, "I am against quotas. If we would all stick together we could get the price of tobacco up to 40 cents a pound."

At a recent dairy meeting a dairyman expressed the idea that he didn't see too much wrong with price supports, but he was against anyone having the right to tell him how much milk he could produce.

Another dairyman said recently he was for letting supply and demand make the market with no help from any regulatory agency — government or farmer controlled. He cited the poultry business as an example to prove that a segment of agriculture could survive without a regulation except by the laws of supply and demand.

Now we believe every farmer should have a right to think as he pleases, and he must have a right to say what he thinks, but we believe he should think the thing through to the end before he tries to sell a program to himself or anyone else.

We certainly would not try to sell a program of tobacco acreage controls to tobacco farmers, but when the farmer said the price might go to 40 cents per pound if all tobacco farmers would stick together, he was just not being realistic.

In the first place, if all farmers really "stuck together" they would regulate themselves just as rigorously as government control proposed to do. Furthermore, while we are in favor of the farmer getting a fair return on investment, we do not believe he should seek outrageous prices, or he will soon be in a position of pricing his product out of a market.

In any program, we believe farmers should ask what is just and reasonable, and not soar off into flights of fancy, or spend time in wasteful thinking that they can ask for the moon and get it.

In the second situation, we believe there are too many farmers who want to have their cake and eat it too.

We know there have been some hard times on the farm. We have lived through some of them. We know that even now many farmers are having a hard time meeting obligations on the high capital investments they are forced to make in this highly-mechanized business.

Many farm programs in the past, some good and some bad, outlived their usefulness or simply failed because of poor administration or because unscrupulous farmers sought loop-holes and

padded their pockets at the expense of other farmers and the general taxpayer.

Many of these programs were not allowed to die their natural deaths when they had outlived their usefulness, or when they were found impractical because some politicians — on both sides of the aisle — also found that it was politically expedient to keep the programs from dying.

And because of these programs, there has grown up an attitude among too many farmers that a living should be guaranteed to any one who tills the soil whether he is a good businessman or not — whether he contributes to the well-being of the country or detracts from that well-being.

It is just not realistic to suppose that a price for a product should be guaranteed when no limit is imposed on the amount of production.

As to the law of supply and demand and its relationship to the poultry industry, it could — and very well may — operate in just the same way for the dairy industry.

Admittedly, there were no regulations imposed from without, and prices are higher in the industry, but there are not nearly as many poultrymen as before.

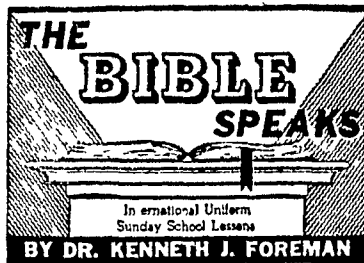
A hatchery representative told us last week that it is virtually impossible to sell a chick unless the hatchery will agree to wait for payment until the broilers are sold. He went on to say that the only accounts of any size at their hatchery were contract growers who had little or no money in the business, but were really employees for large companies who paid the grower a stipulated salary for every thousand broilers produced.

We can't help wondering how many dairymen remodeling their barns for more cows right now will be out of the business in five years from now, and of those still in the business, how many of them will be producing milk on contract to large corporations.

The law of supply and demand is a harsh law capable of throwing a market into complete chaos. When the market is confused, the consuming public tends to lose confidence in the product, and loss of confidence in agricultural produce is just what we mainly do not need.

We do not believe the American farmer can afford to allow the dairy market, or any other agricultural market to be thrown into chaos — even if it requires amendment of the harsh law of supply and demand.

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



Bible Material Exodus 20:16, Matthew 12:17, 26:69-75, Proverbs 12:17, Devotional Reading, Colossians 3:1-10

Why Be Truthful?

Lesson for March 11, 1962

SOME people can't "see" Christianity at all. Others can see some parts of it. Hot arguments go on among the experts: Is the Christian religion something so special and different that a non-Christian cannot understand it at all, or is there some point of contact, something which doesn't call for a special revelation before a man can see it?

Probably the Ten Commandments appeal to more "non-religious" persons than some other parts of Christianity. One of them we have for consideration this week as we have had others recently. Thou shalt not bear false witness. Or—turning it around as we can and must,—Thou shalt be truthful. Who cannot understand this? Who wants a liar for a friend? Who wants to do business with a man who can't be trusted? Who wants to marry a person whose word means nothing?

Nothing that is not true

The main difference between the ordinary understanding of truth and the Christian understanding of truth is that the Christian understands that truth is not truth when it is mixed with falsehood. It's like passing a glass of mixed water and carbonic acid to a visitor and telling him, "Have a glass of water." It is water, true enough; but not all of it. The word "water" is a true word for half of what is in the glass, a fatally false word for the rest of it. Perhaps the most dangerous form of untruth is a mixture of truth and falsehood; for the part-truth makes people think the whole thing is truth. They will take the lie-and-truth much more easily than a lie alone.

Not everything that is true

Second, while it is not ever right to tell a lie (unless, some would say, there is no other way to save a life), it is not by any means always right to tell all the truth. At a funeral, if some kind words are being said about the deceased, it would be the height of ungraciousness to dredge up all the sins and failings on his record. If you have to write a recommendation it is only right to be perfectly truthful in giving your opinion of the applicant for the job. To recommend a person (however kind your motive) about whom you have some serious doubt, is no real help to any one. On the other hand if you know of some discreditable incident which has nothing whatever to do with Mr. X's fitness for this particular job, it is hardly right to tell it just because it happens to be the truth.

Not just because it's true

If it's true, then tell it, is a poor rule. That's what is wrong with gossip even when the gossip is factually true. Truth can be told with bad intentions, with malice and resentment. There is an "eleventh commandment" alongside the famous ten: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Is it true? Is it by all means one question to ask about anything you want to say. If it isn't true, don't say it. If it is true, but if it is true there are other tests. Is it kind? Is it helpful? Is it the kind of thing you would want others to say and spread around about yourself?

In the image of God

The Christian motive for truthfulness is unique. Not that other motives are wrong. It is good to tell the truth because people depend on you if you do. It is good to tell the truth for its own sake. It is good to tell the truth because that way you never get caught in a network of lies. It is hard to get out of. Yes, yes. But the reason for being truthful is that we are sons and daughters of the God of truth. Two things we should always remember. One is that when God forgives sins, he "remembers them no more;" and when we forgive others, we should do the same, never dragging out of the past what we claim to have forgiven. The other thing is that we simply cannot deceive God. We can put on a false front for other people, but never for God. The God of truth knows the whole truth—about us.

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Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

To Observe Fertilizer Placement

With the trend toward heavier amounts of higher analysis fertilizer on most crops it is important to keep the seeds and the fertilizer from contacting each other. Fertilizers containing either nitrogen or potash will burn most seeds and reduce or stop germination. In most cases it is advised to put the fertilizer on separately from the seeds, or have it placed an inch or two to the side and one to two inches below the seeds or plants. When setting flower or vegetable plants the roots should not come directly in contact with a complete fertilizer.

To Sow Spring Oats Early

If weather conditions permit, spring oats growers should try to get the grain sowed during the last week in March or the first week in April, this is the best time to seed oats in southeastern Pennsylvania for best yields. It oats are to be used as a nurse crop, then the seeding rate should be one bushel per acre without any legume seeding the rate is 1½ to 2 bushel per acre.

To Spray For Wild Garlic

Early spring is the best time to spray pasture fields to

ing the feed-milk rations be-

To Treat Dairy Cows As Individuals

Many good dairymen will feed each cow as an individual animal and the amounts of hay, silage and grain will vary between animals. Some cows have the ability to make better use of large amounts of hay or grain and will give greater amounts of milk for this extra intake of feed nutrients. Inheritance is a big factor and results in greater ability to convert feed and roughage into milk. Good results may be expected by varying the feed-milk rations be-

Probe Slated Into Fair Funds

HARRISBURG — The Joint State Government Commission will have the full cooperation of the Department of Agriculture in a proposed probe of the distribution of state funds to farms for the payment of premiums. Secretary of Agriculture William L. Henning said today.

In the closing hours of the 1962 session of the General Assembly the Senate passed a resolution directing the Commission to "make a study of the problem of distribution of premium money to farm associations by the Department of Agriculture."

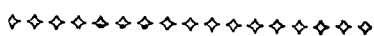
Expressing pleasure at the interest shown by the legislators, Secretary Henning recalled that the 1957 Legislature at the request of the Department, increased the overall appropriation for this purpose from \$100,000 to the present \$110,000.

Allocation of the funds is governed by law. The Secretary pointed out. A major eligibility requirement is that farms have available printed premium lists and file a statement of premium payments for a three-year period.

The law specifies that not more than \$1,000 may be allocated to any one farm and not more than \$2,000 to any one county.

"The funds are allocated to bona fide agricultural societies as prescribed by law," Secretary Henning said. "The purpose is to stimulate interest in the production of quality livestock, grains, fruits and vegetables. We are especially interested in providing incentives for farm youth — the Future Farmers of America and 4-H Club members."

Use of the funds by farms is limited to premium awards for exhibits of livestock and agricultural commodities.



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