

From Where We Stand . . . The Farmer and the Common Market

Next to the Billy Sol Estes case, the subject provoking the most questions among the National Farm Editors in Washington this week was the European Common Market.

Most of the editors were asking just what it is, how does it work, and what effect will it have on American Agriculture?

One of the Kentucky boys was sure it was some hobgoblin, come to rob his state of its Burley tobacco market.

Others felt it would somehow create a giant economic block to discriminate against the American farmer, while others were of the opinion that it might be just an economic cover-up for another world power to compete militarily with the so-called "big two".

Stated simply, the European Economic Community—(sometimes called the Common Market) is an alliance of six countries - France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxemburg and the Netherlands - allowing eventual free flow of commerce between the nations much as it now flows between the states of the USA.

Most of the six countries in the EEC have suffered tremendous losses in human lives and in economic resources. Each of the countries had been defeated and occupied, and some were bitter enemies.

Does this have an effect on the American farmer?

The agriculture of most of the countries in the EEC is, in general, less efficient than U.S. Agriculture. To protect these less efficient farms from outside competition, the Common Market proposes to impose import levies, fixed tariffs and, in some instances, quantity controls.

Last year, the United States shipped over \$5 billion worth of goods to these countries. Of this total about 1.1 billion was for farm production.

Since this represents approximately 22 per cent of our total agricultural exports, the situation could become quite serious. Exports to Common Market countries in 1961 accounted for 42 per cent of the United States Poultry sold abroad, 37 per cent of the feed grains and 34 per cent of the soybeans.

Many of the commodities we now sell to the countries of the EEC are expected to prosper as the Common Market continues economic growth, but some of the commodities we now export are probably in for some rough sledding.

In the arena of global horse trading, we are going to have to offer some tariff reductions on the products the Common Market countries want to sell us. Tariff reductions are about the only bargaining point we have to offer in the market place.

Congress should know how you, as a farmer feel about this important question.

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



Legislative Horse Trading

If you think horse trading is a lost art, you have not been in Washington D. C., recently.

This week the National Farm Editors Association met with the house ag-

riculture committee, and we were fortunate enough to be on hand.

It was rather amazing and somewhat amusing to see two representatives from different sides of the aisle tear at each other's throat like mortal enemies when discussion of the bill was in progress, but it was even more amazing to see them in the hallway a scant five minutes later chatting like the best of friends.

And perhaps that is the reason they are where they are. A representative who could not present his views on an issue with fire and imagination would be of very little use in legislative halls. On the other hand, a representative who could not listen to the views of the opposing philosophies without holding grudges would soon lose his effectiveness.

In spite of the fact that sentiments expressed on the bill were almost entirely along party lines, we came away feeling that, by and large, the congressmen on the committee were dedicated to the task of hammering out a farm law which would be acceptable to the vast and divergent groups of farmers all across the country.

After listening to some of the arguments proposed on each side, we no longer wonder why legislators do not come up with more laws acceptable to everyone. The wonder is that they ever come up with any laws acceptable to a bare majority.

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



A Spoonful of Milk

The contestant in the Future Farmers Public Speaking contest was describing the efficiency of the American farmer. His description included an enumeration of some of the surplus supplies of farm commodities the United States now has on hand.

One of the contest judges asked the Future Farmer what suggestion he might have for making use of the surpluses.

The answer was, "We should encourage more consumption of food products."

Of course the next logical question was, "How?", and we think the answer given by the young man was significant. "We could advertise it," he said.

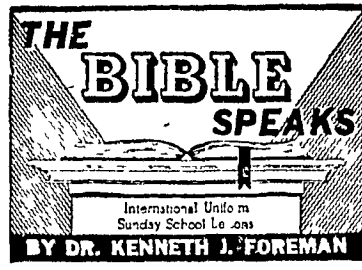
Now we know that the amount of food that can be sold to a man who is already well fed is negligible — "the inelasticity of demand," the economists call it — but even a small amount is sometimes important.

The Future Farmer brought out in his speech that one extra tablespoonful of milk per person per day in the United States would wipe out the entire dairy surplus in the country today.

Just think of the possibilities! If a good, strong advertising campaign could induce every person in the United States to drink only one more glass of milk each week, the dairy farmers of this country would have a hard time meeting the demand.

But even more important would be the benefits to the health and welfare of the nation's people.

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



Bible Material Psalm 138, 2 Peter 3, Jude
Devotional Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Day of the Lord

Lesson for May 20, 1962

THESE lines are typed in faith. There is perhaps no more than an even probability that they will ever be printed. What with all the preparations for total destruction which are being made in Russia and America, and all the ways in which a war (again one of total destruction) can be started by sheer accident, one chilling sentence from 1 Peter seems to fit the situation: The end of all things is at hand.



Dr. Foreman

Yet it is possible that these lines will be printed; and if the world lasts that long, we may be thankful. But if the world continues, fear will continue too, and crisis will follow crisis as far as eye can see. People will be asking, as they are asking now: Is this the end of the world?

No time-tables

We should remember that while an atomic catastrophe (you could not call it war) might well mean the end of the United States, the end of Russia and of Europe, the end of all we know as civilization, and the plunging of the rest of the race back into darkest barbarism,—that is still not the clean sweep to which the Bible looks forward. Second Peter and Jude, for instance, both picture a total destruction not only of the human race in its present form, but of the earth itself. By comparison with that, the disappearance of a civilization is a slight affair.

Now the writers of the New Testament, if you could have said to them, "It looks as if civilization is on its last legs," would have said, "Of course that's true." But they would not have fretted or feared for a moment. When the End came, most people would be terrified; but they did not expect Christians to be afraid. On the other hand, the early Christian apostles and teachers rejoiced in looking forward to the Last Day, a day so all-important that they sometimes called it simply "The Day." However, no New Testament writer tried to set up a time table. They did expect it in their lifetime, at first, but later books (2 Timothy for example) show that they realized the Day would probably not come while they lived. They left the WHEN to God.

What sort of person? We catch glimpses, in various parts of the New Testament of various ways people reacted to the likelihood of an approaching End of All Things. Some screamed for hills to cover them (how modern that sounds!), some gave up all ordinary business and spent their time just talking about the future, some (not the writers of the New Testament but other people) painfully tried to piece together mysterious prophecies from the Old Testament so as to predict the very time. Second Peter warns against too much calculation. The Lord's clocks and calendars are not geared to ours; a thousand years to us may be a day to him, and also vice versa. It may be later than we think, or earlier, we don't know. However, 2 Peter has no hesitation about predicting the End. You might at most think he could see the nuclear cataclysm: "The heavens will pass away with a loud noise and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth, and the works upon it, will be burned up. But now see how he goes on from there. Since these things are so, what sort of persons ought you to be?" The end of all that we know about will not be the end of us. Death is a deceiver even when millions die at one moment.

The Christian way

The writer Jude, who also had some pretty grim things to say about the End, concludes his short letter with a beautiful benediction. In one sentence he sums up the Christian attitude toward destiny. First, it is in God's hands, and we should not forget that. Second, God will keep his people — not necessarily from danger or suffering, but from "falling" into sin or despair. And most of all, Jude wants his readers to keep their minds on God and remember who he is; the only God, who saves us through Christ our Lord, the eternal God, whose kingdom and whose authority will not end when this little planet has vanished. Thinking of ourselves, we may well tremble; thinking of Him, our hearts are strong with hope.

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Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH

To Clip Pasture Land

Good pasture management requires regular mowings starting in the spring when the grasses and weeds start to shoot seed heads. For southeastern Pennsylvania this year it will mean mowing during the latter part of this month of May. This practice not only encourages growth of new forage but prevents seed development and spread of weeds. The excess growth of forage will dry and the livestock will consume most of it along with their daily grazing.

To Cut Forage Crops Early

Research has shown that the quality of most legumes and grasses decline as the crop reaches maturity. For alfalfa it is advised that the first crop be cut in the bud stage, red clover in the early blossom stage and all grasses cut at heading time. If the crops are allowed to mature more than the above the T.D.N. decreases and the fiber content increases. One big essential in making quality hay or silage is to cut at the proper stage.

To Make Wilted Or Low-Moisture Silage

The days of direct cut silage are declining in favor of wilting or low-moisture silage. With the direct cut method there are many problems and most of them are caused by too much moisture in the silo. Better quality and more tons of dry matter will be stored in the forage crop is wilted down to the 60 or 70% range for grass silage and down to the 50% point for 'haylage'. Either of these may be safely stored in the conventional upright silo if it is tight and in good condition. If the mechanical equipment at hand does not favor direct cutting then some feed additive at the rate of 200 to 300 pounds per ton should be added.

To Side-Dress Corn Early

Corn growers who failed to apply sufficient nitrogen fertilizer before plowing or planting, may want to side-dress with 40 to 50 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre. (Continued from Page 4)

As the land-farm institutions observe their 100th anniversary, they number less than four per cent of the nation's colleges. Yet they enroll about 20 per cent of the nation's undergraduate students and grant nearly 10 per cent of all doctoral degrees in every field of study.

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All known plants may be raised from seed although other methods of propagation are often simpler and surer.