

## From Where We Stand . . .

# Needed - A Tractor That Eats Hay

We read the other day that one of the best ways out of the farm surplus "mess" the United States is in to develop a tractor that eats corn.

Now we all know this is pretty far fetched, but the fact remains that surplus grains do cause some distress in certain areas of this country.

While each and every farmer who grows a stalk of corn or barley or oats or wheat or soybeans is adding to the supply, it is hard for us in this grain-deficit area to realize the extent of the problem in other areas.

Especially is it hard for many of us to realize the size of the excess supplies in this year when many farmers in our immediate and surrounding areas are in short supply of feed for livestock.

Last week the local office of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service held a meeting to explain the emergency livestock feed program authorized by the 86th congress and for which Lancaster County is eligible under its designation as a drought stricken county.

We know there are many farmers in this county who will immediately have a certain amount of reluctance toward taking advantage of the program because they feel that any government program is evil.

But let's look at it in this light. The grains are now owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation — a government agency. The taxpayers already own them. No grain will be purchased for the purpose. The grain that is now owned is under storage — in most cases privately owned storage — in facilities on which the government, with our tax dollars, is paying rent.

Any time grains move out of those storage facilities, the rent can go down. It is just good business, we believe, to help reduce the stocks of federally owned grains, if we can do it to an advantage to ourselves.

Stated purpose of the emergency program is "to help farmers preserve and maintain foundation herds of cattle, including producing dairy cattle, sheep, and goats, as well as other eligible livestock."

The program is not for everyone, but for the farmer who does not have on hand sufficient feed for his livestock, and can not obtain such feed from normal suppliers without sustaining a loss, and whose financial condition is such that this loss will interfere with his obtaining necessary finances for his livestock operations in the future.

Any such farmer should certainly investigate the emergency feed grain program more thoroughly by calling the office of the ASCS in Lancaster. We believe it is just good business, no matter what you think of federal agricultural programs.

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

## Chemical Sprays

The belief that man is poisoning himself and his world through the widespread use of his newly-found knowledge in the chemical realm as a weapon

Good labeling helps all consumers, believes Benice Tharp, Penn State extension clothing specialist. Ways shoppers can encourage good labeling include asking for informative tags and labels which indicate fabric performance, following direction on labels faithfully, reading labels carefully and using for future use, and buying from merchants who offer merchandise with informative labels.

### Lancaster Farming

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against his insect enemies is hardly new. It has been voiced off and on almost every year of the last 20 by various persons genuinely alarmed over the effects of poison programs designed to win some particular battle with bugs.

Now the subject is being aired again in a new book suggestively entitled "Silent Spring," by an able writer, Rachel Carson. It puts farmers, who are among the chief protagonists in the chemical war against insects and weeds, immediately on the defensive.

Miss Carson pulls no punches in outlining her case against the powerful chemicals which man has sprayed, dusted and fogged over the landscape in an effort to keep bugs from destroying crops and trees. She brings up case after case in which the poisons used in various campaigns have worked not only to control the unwanted bugs, but also all too well against birds, wild game, fish and numerous other helpful or non-injurious organisms.

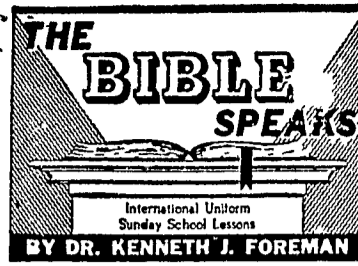
The title of her book, "Silent Spring," is derived from the fear that spraying programs to control the beetle that transmits Dutch Elm disease and other insects doing similar dirty work will eventually kill off most of the songbird population. The long list of similar depredations wrought through well-meaning but destructive poison spray programs is enough to make even the most ardent defender of chemical poisons stop and ponder whether man is, indeed, not using them to spread ruin and destroy the balances of nature on a wholesale scale.

It is to be hoped, of course, that reason will prevail — not only in the discussion and dissension that arises over chemical poisons anew as this book focuses attention on the subject again full force, but in the future use of these poisons in nature. Man will do well to remember that the world of nature in which he lives and works is complete with checks and balances. Thus for every threat there is an antidote. Seemingly, for every destructive insect there is a predator or a parasite which takes its measure. In most cases, these will suffice to hold each other in check.

Occasionally, as farmers know so well, nature goes on a rampage and these checks and balances are upset temporarily. This is the time when man can advantageously use a selective poison to restore good balance and save his crop. This, we believe, is the real place for such poisons.

In contrast, the widespread and indiscriminate use of them in the hope of wiping out every bug or weed that might be harmful — and at the same time destroying the innocent and beautiful in nature — is wrong and cannot be tolerated in a civilized world. Insecticides are poisonous or they wouldn't be effective against insects. They should be used only for the purpose for which the manufacturer released them, and only in the manner and in the amounts prescribed in the directions on the container. The importance of following the instructions on the label cannot be overemphasized.

The Livestock Reporter,  
East St. Louis, Ill.



Bible Material: Acts 9 10-25, 13 1-3; 16 25-34, Romans 5 1-11, 10 4-13, I John 1.5-10, II Corinthians 11 24-28  
Devotional Reading: Psalm 51

## "Yes" to God

Lesson for November 25, 1962

IF WE weren't so used to the Christian religion, we should be all the time astonished by it. Here for example is a church full of people who have come together to worship God. The man who leads the worship reads to them



Dr. Foreman

out of an ancient book, centuries old in fact, the holy book of all these people. And what is the minister reading about this morning? Somewhere in the 318,000 churches of America, it is a safe guess that every single week some congregation listens to a story about something that happened in a jail. That jailer has been to church (or his story has been read in church) oftener than many a respectable citizen.

### Unlikely Case

We know for a fact that many more respectable people than this jailer became Christians during the first years of the Christian religion. Then why is space given to the tale of this miserable man? Besides, why is this story of the jailer told and re-told so often? One reason is, this is the story that shows how simple a thing it is to be a Christian. If it was possible for that jailer, it is possible for anybody.

Can you imagine that jailer coming to your church and asking to join it? What would people say? They would say he was too stupid to know what Christianity means. They would say he couldn't find congenial friends in your church. (How many jailers are on your church roll, by the way? How many prison guards?) People would even say he was too old a man to change; that he beats his prisoners, he doesn't even provide them with meals, he doesn't let them lie down at night. A brutal, cruel, ignorant, low-grade character, this particular city jailer.

## "Yes" to Jesus

Like a good many others, this man didn't set out to be a Christian. The question he asked, in excitement and terror, "What must I do to be saved?" was not a religious question for him. Under the law, he was responsible for his prisoners, and he was sure they must have all escaped. This meant losing his job, it would certainly mean that he would be beaten, and probably mean that he would be sentenced to death. He had seen too many men tortured and killed to want to be a victim himself. So he cries out, "What must I do to be saved? Paul knew, Paul had been saved. He had heard God's call out under the sky. Now this jailer was going to hear God's call in a dark jail smelling of rats and human blood. Paul knew the man needed to be saved from something worse than loss of a job, something worse than being executed. He needed to be saved from his sins, saved from himself. So he tells him a real piece of news. It was something that had to be explained; and Paul went on to explain it. But the thing was simple: "Believe in the Lord Jesus." As we can put it in other words, that meant saying "Yes" to what Jesus was and did. It would mean more and more as life would go on. But the jailer could begin where all Christians begin: by saying YES to Jesus.

## "Yes" to God

Paul's own Christian life had begun with two questions, and we may suspect that he led that jailer to ask them too. "Who art Thou?" and "What wilt Thou have me to do?" Saying Yes to Jesus means accepting him as the very grace of God in person,—the love of God walking on two feet. Saying Yes to Jesus is accepting him as the One who gave himself for us all, and that includes jailers and jailed, it includes the worst of men and the best of men. Saying Yes does not mean doing this or that to attract God's notice and to get him over on our side. It means just taking hold of the hand of God, it means accepting, not forcing, not buying, just accepting as a free and marvelous Gift, the mercy of the eternal God.

But how much of this could be explained to the jailer in less than an hour? How can we be so sure he became a Christian? The writer of Acts never does actually say that the jailer was saved. But he certainly was. Let the reader study the story in Acts 16, once again: why can we be sure?

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U S A. Released by Community Press Service.)

## Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH

### To Spray For Chickweed

Many areas are infested with chickweed that will continue to grow during the winter months. In lawns it is suggested that the area be sprayed with 2,4-D T propionic acid (known as silvex). In pastures or in alfalfa or clover fields the materials are DiNitro sprays in warm weather and Chloro IPC when temperatures are below 50 degrees F. The important thing is to spray during November or December when the plants are young and tender.

### To Inspect For Fire Hazards

One of the best ways to fight fire is to prevent it in the first place. All building owners are urged to inspect the premises for fire hazards and correct them. Heating equipment including pipes and chimneys should be carefully inspected. Insulation on all electric cords and wiring should be checked, flammable liquids should be stored away from buildings. See that fire extinguishers are working and members of the family know how to operate them.

### To Check Growth of Dairy Heifers

Large, growthy dairy replacements should be the goal of every dairyman, one way to evaluate the success of growing heifers is to check their growth and development. Special measuring tapes are available from feed dealers and breed charts are available from breed associations or our Extension office. Above normal height, gut heart, gutthence

### To Utilize Corn Fodder

Corn stalks make very good livestock bedding if weather permits them to dry; some growers use stalk beaters on the picked corn field, then take into windrow when dry, and bale for both dairy and cattle feeding litter. The shredded corn fodder absorbs large amounts of water and is very useful when regular straw is scarce and expensive.