

From Where We Stand . . .

What Will 1963 Bring For Farmers?

The time of year is drawing nigh when the pundits will begin to gaze into their chrystal balls and come up with the agricultural outlooks for next year.

These outlooks will range all the way from total financial calamity for all the farmers, through all shades of depression and profit to glowing reports of "brightest outlook in more than a decade."

Depending on who is doing the predicting and upon whose figures he is using, the predictions of professional prognosticators (many of them never having lived on a farm or come in contact with farmers) will range all the way from the ridiculous through the sublime and back to the ridiculous.

Figures available from agriculture census reports indicate that grains of all kinds (except soy beans) are in lighter carry-over supply than for several years, and forecasters will look at this as an indication that the market will be ready to absorb greater supplies of grains and therefore willing to pay higher prices.

On the other hand, the numbers of livestock on farms, while not as large as was thought earlier, are above the normal carry-over needed. Dairy cattle numbers, too, are at a high point and production per cow continues to increase.

Many of those who predict the future of farming will fail to take into account the local situations which influence the agriculture of any particular area, and there will be those who will look at the local situation only and fail to see the total national picture which colors any local market.

And when it is all said and done, and the smoke of the burned up market reports has faded into the upper atmosphere, it is still the farmer who has to make the decisions on what he will grow and how much.

It is of little consequence to a farmer that a forecast says the world is crying for safflower oil, if he just has no access to the market for safflower seed. All the forecasts in the world can not make a dollar for the farmer. They can only help him to make those management decisions which will lead to either profit or loss.

This is not to say that forecasts and market reports are of no value. To the

contrary — we believe a farmer must continually keep himself informed on the latest market information, and then base his decisions on that information.

But after the management decisions are made, the farmer has no one to blame but himself. He can fuss and fume all he wants about how he was misled by the predictions of doom or rosy bloom, but by then the prophets have folded their tents and slipped into limbo, and the farmer has to make the best of his plans.

But this, after all, is what makes farming a challenge, and challenge is what makes life worth while.

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



Machines And Food

Soviet Premier Khrushchev is reported to have said, "One can not demand high productivity of labor — and hack corn with an axe."

We believe this statement pinpoints one of the major reasons for the poor showing of Soviet agriculture in the past three years.

Farmers in Russia just do not have enough tractors, combines, plows, harrows, forage harvesters, and trucks to handle the work of modern farming.

Even on the large state farms with an average of 22,000 sown acres and the collective farms with about 6,800 acres, the machinery is not available. Furthermore, the managers of these large farms have a hard time getting replacement parts for the machinery they now have.

Of course this is only one of the obvious signs of a deeper problem. The communist policy itself is much to blame for the current food shortages.

Without the freedom to decide what machines are needed and when they should be replaced, the farmer in the Soviet Union does not create the market which will cause the machinery to be produced.

Demand creates the market and the market creates greater demand. We must not forget our agriculture is based on the freedom to create a market as well as produce for one.

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



Letters To The Editor Fund Chairman Writes Thanks

Gentlemen
The presentation of the facts about the United Campaign, its aims and objectives, to the people of Lancaster County would be impossible without the help of our newspapers.
You have been most generous to our campaign again this year.
I hope you will find satisfaction in the knowledge that your help will mean that your fellow citizens of Lancaster County will know better health and personal happiness in 1963 through the services of United Campaign agencies.
Our sincere thanks
Sincerely,
C. E. Burnett
General Campaign Chairman
United Campaign

Farm Women Name Delegates

Plans to send delegates to the state convention in Harrisburg on January 7 and 8 were discussed at the Tuesday meeting of the executive board of the Lancaster County Farm Women Societies. The meeting was held in the Colemanville Methodist Church.

It was announced that Society 10 will sponsor a bus to the convention. It will leave Monday, Jan 7, from the CTC garage.

In the absence of Mrs. Kenneth Eshelman president, who was convalescing at the General Hospital, Mrs. Landis Myer county vice president, presided.

Entertainment was provided by Mrs. William Gring and members of Society 9, while Mrs. Paul Witman, second vice president, had charge of devotions. The roll call was

answered by introducing new presidents for the coming year.

The next session is scheduled for Sunday, Feb 21, at the Child Development Center.

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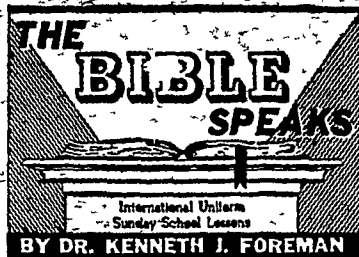
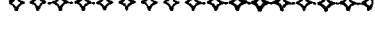
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International Uniform Sunday School Lessons
BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Bible Material: John 14:1-3; 17:1-3; Romans 6:4-23; 1 Corinthians 15:3-28; 1 Peter 1:3-9; 1 John 5:11-13.
Devotional Reading: Revelation 21:1-3.

Eternal Life Lesson for December 9, 1962

DO YOU have an ambition to live forever? That depends, doesn't it? It depends on what kind of "forever" you are thinking about. There are some forevers you wouldn't want a minute of.



There may be other forevers so perfect that a single instant would more than atone for all the sorrows and agonies of this sad world. Merely to survive is no wise person's ambition. There is a famous French play, "No Exit," in which three characters, all strangers to one another, meet in a hotel room. There is nothing there to hurt them, they are just there—only they can never get out. They get worse than bored, they become desperate, they try to kill one another. But they can't . . . because they are dead and they are all in hell. That's what it would be, sheer hell, merely to live on and on and on . . .

To Know

Christian hope has never (when it was truly Christian) been for simple immortality. If heaven is just more of the same we have known here, most human beings would say No thank you. Once is good, but once is enough. But Christian hope has always been centered around a different quality of life, not a different length of life. To be sure, Christians hope for a continuance of life, but that prospect is not even bearable unless it is a continuance of a better kind of life than is possible without God. Eternal life, as the New Testament shows it to us, is not something you get after you die. You have it now, or you don't have it now, no possible length of post-mortem existence is going to be anything but misery.

What quality, then, is the life which we should want to go on through death, forever? We can put all that—Christians believe about it in three profound ideas drawn from the New Testament. First, Jesus himself said, "This is eternal life, that they know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent." (John 17:3.) To know Christ—not know about him, still less to echo what somebody else knows—this is life eternal, this is what makes the vital difference in life.

To have

John also says that he who "has the Son" [meaning Christ] has eternal life. Some Christians think this is an expression too bold for them, they are afraid of it. But there it stands. What is it to have Christ and is it the same thing as knowing him? We might illustrate from the pupils of some famed musician. If he has been a truly great teacher, when we hear his former pupils in a concert, we say to ourselves at once—Why, that sounds like the old maestro.—I could shut my eyes and imagine it was the old genius himself.

To share

The inspired writers of the New Testament were not much given to drawing pictures of a future heaven. The center of their teaching was life here and now, life this side of death. Suppose a boy in his teens finds the question bobbing up in his mind: How shall I ever be a good father? Now that is a good question, but the best way to answer it is not to spend time thinking about it. The best way to prepare for fatherhood—at the age, say of fifteen, is just to be the best boy possible. If you aren't a real boy you don't have much chance of being a real man. Paul, for example, in a famous chapter which works up to the great thought of eternal life, does not spend that chapter (Romans 4) describing heaven. He speaks of it in what may seem a strange way: that is, sharing the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The main idea is that the Christian shares the sacrifice of Christ, and also shares his victory. Victories, we might better say; for as Christ was undefeated by sin or by death, so the Christian's life shares this victorious quality. He hints at something he suggests more than once: namely that the Christian should begin, now and here, to live the life of heaven. Then "heaven, with love abrim, will not seem strange to him."

(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



MAX M. SMITH

To Provide Good Ventilation

All types of livestock and poultry operations may need some special ventilation attention, many dairy and steer feeding barns are too tight and the inside air becomes loaded with moisture, odors, and too warm. Condensation on walls, ceilings, and windows are danger signs of improper ventilation. Animal comfort is essential to high production or gains, most ventilation installations soon pay for themselves.

To Check The Inside of Bulk Tank

Too many tanks are inspected only by visual means and may be carrying a protein film; producers are urged to thoroughly clean a small area of the tank with all

abrasive powder or washing compound to discover if a film is present, if this small area looks different than the rest of the tank, then the film is present and an acid cleaner followed by an alkaline cleaner should be used to clean the entire tank.

To Check Manure Spreader

The manure spreader has the farm's most undesirable duty yet in most cases, gets the least amount of attention. Moisture and daily use are the enemies of all types of machinery causing wear and tear. The spreader should be lubricated often, gear boxes, chains, and sprockets cleaned and oiled monthly during the winter, and the entire spreader cleaned and painted annually. Dry storage at all times is good management.

To Buy A Natural Christmas Tree

For the holiday season many home-owners may consider the purchase of an artificial Christmas Tree in place of the real evergreen tree. We raise the questions — Why do farmers and other rural people go for the manufactured article when their own product is competing for home consumption?