

From Where We Stand . . . Egg Month—Time For More Production

With the superabundance of "special" days, weeks, and months, some people may say, "So what" when you tell them that March is National Egg Month.

But even with all the special days set aside for celebrations of one kind or another, we believe National Egg Month deserves some recognition by all farmers whether they produce eggs or not.

Egg production is one of the biggest money producing enterprises on Lancaster County farms, and when any large segment of the farming economy either flourishes or gets into trouble, all the rest of the farming community, is effected.

Egg producers have gone through some revolutionary changes in the past few years, and it appears that more are to come. Egg production in the Northeastern United States has not kept pace in growth with some other areas of the country — this despite the fact that more eggs are being consumed in this area than are being produced. To make up the difference, processors in the county are forced to go to southern producers to get eggs to supply the demand.

We have heard a lot recently about the drop in per capita consumption of eggs, but we believe this talk is not as significant as we are led to believe. Recent surveys indicate that the housewife believes eggs are an important, if not essential, part of a nourishing breakfast. Most housewives will agree that breakfasts should include eggs even though they do not always serve them to their families. This, we believe, points up the fact that housewives would feed more eggs to their families if they were always sure of getting an excellent product.

We believe there is still plenty of room in this area for producers of high quality eggs. We believe the production of high quality eggs is the only answer to inducing the consumer to eat more eggs. We further believe that the answer to a high quality pack is to sell the eggs in the area where they are produced. No matter how carefully eggs are handled, shipping long distances does lower quality.

We are sitting right in the middle of a 50,000,000 consumer concentration. There is no reason why we should not have our share of the egg market in this area. The market is here. What remains is for us to produce a good enough product to hold it.

March — National Egg Month — is a good time to tell the consumer the value of more eggs in the diet, but it is also a good time for producers to begin thinking of the best way to satisfy the growing market.

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

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Common Market

More and more every day we are hearing news of the European Economic Community, or as it is called, the European Common Market.

Many farmers are trying to understand the significance of the program and its possible effect on the agricultural exports of this country.

In essence, the six countries of West Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, are working toward complete free trade among

themselves much as trade now flows between the states of the United States. Since all six countries are sovereign states, this union will not be complete overnight, but tremendous strides have been made in the four years since its inception with the Treaty of Rome in 1958.

Many of the trade barriers and tariffs have been broken down, and trade is beginning to flow more freely than ever before.

What does this mean to American agriculture?

It is possible that the improved standard of living which is coming about in the countries and the increased buying power which will follow, will open up new markets for American agricultural products, but there is also the possibility that more of the buying will be done in another of the countries in the community.

This has already happened with poultry. Our export of poultry to Germany has decreased because that country is now getting more of its supply from Belgium and Holland.

We believe that it should be a matter of concern to all farmers that any tariff laws considered in this country include agricultural products. We now sell \$1 2 billion worth of produce to the EEC. We should certainly take every precaution to see that we do not lose this important market.

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

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Farm Numbers Decrease — The number of farms and the total acreage in farms in the U.S. continue to shrink. Latest USDA figures estimate the 1962 number of farms at slightly more than 3,688,000 with an acreage of 1,635,355,000. That's almost 123,000 fewer farms than there were in 1961, and 4 million fewer acres.

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Farmers are Businessmen — Bankers regard the American farmer as "another businessman," says T. P. Axton, chairman, agricultural committee, American Bankers Association. He said 92 percent of all banks hold agricultural loans and a substantial number of small banks have as much as 20 percent of their assets in agricultural loans.

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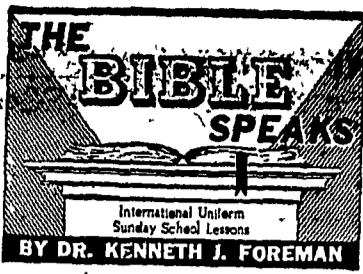
More eggs on less "juice"

Poultrymen have long known that hens will lay more eggs when winter daylight hours are extended by artificial lighting. However, contrary to widespread belief, New York Experiment Station research shows light from 60-watt incandescent bulbs is as effective as that from 100-watt bulbs commonly used.

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No argument on lazy cows

Virginia extension dairy specialist, W. S. Griffith, emphasizes that high production is not just desirable — it is a necessity for economic survival in the highly competitive dairy business. In perfect agreement, Henry D. Hershberger, Lynnhaven, Va., says: "I can't afford to keep lazy cows." If a cow's production is below 8,000 pounds of milk or 400 pounds of butterfat, he culls her.



Service Is A Life

Lesson for March 10, 1963

Bible Material: Mark 10
Devotional Reading: Philipplans 4:4-9.

Service must be a tired word. It is worn thin by being overused on less than first-rate occasions. For example, a hotel advertises "Service with a Smile." What they mean is that the bell boys will do just what you want done and ask no questions. Service there means that your whims will be attended to. Again, "service" is used by manufacturers and salesmen all over the place, meaning simply that when the thing you bought breaks down they'll send help to get it started again; they will make right what should have been right in the first place.

Service can be heroic

One of the more astonishing facts about Jesus was that He could take an old word and give it a new meaning which it has never entirely lost. One of these is this word "Service." For one thing, He made it a term of honor. He told His friends that the way to greatness is the way of service. He who be greatest of all, let Him be servant of all. He Himself consciously fulfilled the prophecies of the "servant songs" in the latter half of our book of Isaiah, in which the "Servant of the Lord" is described in moving and tragic words. He told His disciples in one of their last hours together: "I am among you as he that serveth."

Service, as Jesus saw it and performed it, was no trifle, no humdrum job. It became a mark of honor. Not only that, it rose at times to the heroic. When James and John came asking to sit on thrones beside His (for it was long before they got it through their heads that Jesus was not aiming for the traditional crown-and-scepter business) — Jesus asked them first if they could be baptized with His baptism. They said yes very easily; but only because

they did not realize what He meant. It was baptism in blood. He was talking about the aim of His life. He had already said: "not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life." Service and sacrifice, service and heroism, service and honor: Jesus linked these together once and for all.

Serving the whole man

Some people spend their lives (and make money) by looking after sick cats and dogs. Others spend their working hours sweeping and mopping; and some people are garbage tippers. Now there is no work so humble that it cannot be undertaken in a spirit of Christ-like service. But there is something in this world more important than cats or floors or garbage: namely people. Jesus was a carpenter for many years; but the time came when He could leave benches and ox-yokes to others. He would go out to mend something more fragile than ox-yokes, more enduring than benches: human beings. Any one who is capable of "servicing" human beings, in the way Jesus did, is wasting his talent on any lesser material. What would we think of a Savior of men who ran a cat shop? Jesus put men together as He formerly put wood together. He treated men as whole men, or if they were not, He set out to make them so. Jesus was healer, teacher and preacher.

When the higher serves the lower

In the ordinary use of the word "Service," people think of the one who serves as on a lower level, a lower grade than the one who gives the orders. Jesus' idea of it was quite different from that. To Jesus' mind (and who is ever nearer the truth than He?) it is the mark of the superior person to be a servant. His very superiority lays an obligation on Him to help others. There was once a brilliant scholar who was also an able doctor, and a great musician on top of that. This man "buried himself" in the forests of Africa to be a missionary doctor to the backward people in a backwash of the world. His friends tried to keep him from going. You are a superior man, they argued. Stay where you will have recognition and honors! But the young doctor went on out to his jungle; and today the world honors him, Albert Schweitzer, far more than they would have, if he had not devoted his superiority, in Christ's name, for those who were in need of all things.

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Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH

To Consider Standby Power Units

Electricity is now used to operate the farm business to such an extent that a power failure may cause a crisis. Standby electric power units can provide a valuable source of emergency power. Generator can be either engine or tractor driven. Consult with power company official before locating or installing a standby unit.

To Feed Grain To Dairy Calves

With some hay supplies of doubtful quality it is very important to feed grain to young dairy calves. Several pounds per day of a 16 percent ration will furnish needed nutrients and supplement hay. Free-choice quality hay is recommended at all times. After several months of age grain should be fed according to flesh and to forage quality.



MAX M. SMITH

To Dock And Castrate Lambs

All sheep producers are urged to dock all lambs when 3 to 10 days of age and castrate male lambs from 10 to 20 days of age. The operation is quite simple on young lambs and less of a shock. These practices will increase the sale value of market lambs, especially if they are to be kept into the summer months.

To Plan For Top-Dressing Wheat

An early spring application of 25 to 40 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre on winter wheat will likely pay dividends; this is more likely to be true on lighter, sandy, or shale soils, or where the fertility level is a bit low. On heavy, fertile soils this practice is questionable and may increase lodging trouble.

● Cattle Feeders

(continued from page 1)

March 13 with an "outlook" discussion

Thomas King of the livestock extension staff at PSU will discuss Recent Research Findings, and Dr. William Adams, PSU veterinarian will talk about "Cattle Health and Parasite Problems"

All cattle feeders are urged to attend.

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