

From Where We Stand . . .

Why Not Try Raising Hogs

Why don't Lancaster County farmers raise more pigs?

According to the latest census figures available, the county produced approximately 70,000 hogs for slaughter in one year. Three county slaughter houses took more than 50,000 head last year and had to go out of county and out of state to fill their needs.

All three of the packers contacted told us they would buy local hogs at prices of \$1 per CWT over the midwest price if they could get them, but the fact is, local hogs are just not available in enough quantity to supply the demand.

The local butchers have to compete against the national and large regional packers for the supply of local hogs, and they just won't go around.

A spokesman for the Lancaster Livestock Exchange said this week that the Lancaster stockyards had sales for three times as many slaughter hogs as they had on hand on Monday. Packers were in the alleys practically begging commission men to, "save some for me."

Some people have said that local hogs will not compete with shipped hogs from the midwest, but local slaughtermen indicate that this is not so. In fact, they indicate that they prefer local hogs whenever they can get them, and right now, it appears that the packers are not nearly so interested in grade as they are in numbers. This is not to say that grade is not important, but there is a market for most grades at this time of year.

Pennsylvania farmers, and Lancaster County farmers in particular, are in a favorable position during the summer months. Mortality on shipped hogs during hot weather is so high that many packers are willing to pay a premium for local stock. For this reason, it is doubly important to aim marketing at the summer months. Doubly important since summer is normally a time of light marketings and greater demand.

We realize that the hog situation can change rapidly, and we remember all too well the disastrous \$12 hog market of a few years back, (We were hurt in that along with a lot of others) but right now hog prices are relatively good, demand is very strong and local farrowings are not high.

Lancaster County stands to lose some of its market to outside suppliers if the demand is not met with local hogs. If butchers learn they can get a steady supply of good quality hogs locally, and get in the habit of buying locally, the market stands to get better.

In our opinion, Lancaster County farmers ought to raise more hogs.

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

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Expensive Privilege

We are willing to pay for some privileges, but when the privilege benefits no one and costs everyone, we begin to object.

We refer to the privilege some farmers demand of letting their topsoil gush down the waterways and into the streams.

We are all for freedom for the

farmer to do with his farm as he sees fit, but when he refuses to use proven practices to keep his topsoil where it belongs, we begin to lose patience.

Both township and state highway officials have said time and time again their job is more than cut in half where good soil conservation practices are used, but still some farmers continue to plow up whole hillsides and run the rows up and down the slopes.

This week and last a crew of five men with heavy equipment from the state highways department labored to clear soil out of a stream in northwestern Lancaster County.

The cost to the farmers upstream can not be figured in dollars and cents, since there is no way to measure accurately how much production potential was lost through soil runoff, but the cost in tax dollars came to nearly four thousand for this one job alone.

To us, this seems like a pretty expensive privilege — especially since no one benefits.

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

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Water Safety

From toddler to four score and ten, people have more fun with water than almost anything else.

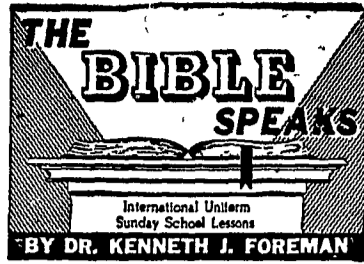
Summer is upon us and as hot weather settles on the land millions of Americans will be rediscovering the pleasures of water. It is the time for swimming, boating, water skiing, and all the rest. But tragedy can strike with appalling swiftness when basic safety rules which should be observed on or around the water are forgotten in the excitement and confusion that often accompanies having a good time.

If you are a swimmer for example, don't swim at unfamiliar or untended beaches where tides and currents may cause dangerous undertow, don't swim alone, don't try spur-of-the moment swimming stunts and endurance trials that are beyond your skills.

If you're a water skier don't forget to wear some approved flotation equipment. Every member of a group of people around the water will not be a swimmer, but every swimmer should know the basic techniques of rescue and artificial respiration.

With millions of pleasure boats now on the nation's waterways, and more coming every year, there are essential requirements which their "captains" must meet. Unless every operator of a pleasure boat assumes the responsibility that is his for the safety of his passengers and proper handling of his boat, it is inevitable that there will be severe restrictions and regulations which will take much of the fun and relaxation out of a most rewarding sport. Proper equipment, including fire extinguishers, life preserver for each passenger, lights, horn or whistle, anchor and line, bilge pump and so forth, are the beginning of safety afloat.

Just a reminder — water safety boils down to common sense. Let's use it and be around for another summer of fun in and on the water.



Praise The Lord

Lesson for June 30, 1963

Bible Material: I Chronicles 16; Psalms 146; 147; 150.
Devotional Reading: Psalm 148:1-6a.

THERE used to be a children's game, that went like this: the first child would say, "I love my love with an A because she's Attractive," and the next would say, "I love my love with a B because she's Beautiful" . . . and so on



down the alphabet. Grown people can play at the same game. But it becomes serious when you are grown up. There's a curious thing about love, though; at the moment you feel most enthusiastic and grateful about one you love, you aren't thinking up reasons. If you are really in love, you don't need reasons. Yet there are reasons, or ought to be. To love without thinking of reasons is good: to love against all reason and common sense, is bad.

Praise the Lord, because . . .

It is so in religion. When you are in the mood to praise God, you are not figuring out reasons for doing so. You just praise Him out of a full and overflowing heart. But there are the best of reasons for praising the God we love. The unknown poet who wrote the 146th Psalm does not put in the word "because" anywhere. He begins the psalm with "Praise the Lord!" and he ends it in the same words. ["Hallelujah" means literally "Praise the Lord."] Between these two shouts of praise, however, he says a number of things about God, and they all add up to reasons why we ought to do this. We should never praise him from a feeling of duty. That would be like a man who would kiss his wife every morning at 7:30 sharp because his memorandum book had in it the line: 7:30 P.M. Kiss Wife. But praise is not senseless, it is emotional but emotion-with-a-reason. In the high moments of worship we are not doting out reasons why; but in quiet mo-

ments when we have time to think, we can think of reasons in plenty, and we know we were not carried away by mere sheer emotion when we sang our Hallelujahs.

The source of all good

God is the source of all good: this is the belief of all Christians and Jews, and certainly is the teaching of the Bible. (Why this is so, the reader may figure out for himself.) This means that God does not simply discover good,—that is, goodness, beauty and truth in any of their manifold forms—God does not "latch on" to what He discovers and claim the credit Himself. He is the Originator, the Planner, the Creator, the Rewarder, of what is good. Consider the matters for which the Psalmist wishes God to be remembered and thanked. First of all is Creation itself; then he mentions God's faithfulness, and His justice, and His providential care for the "forgotten man," the hungry and the oppressed. When a prisoner is set free; when the blind are enabled to see; when the mourner is comforted; when a man becomes a righteous character; when the helpless are cared for (widows, orphans and traveling strangers were the most forlorn people in the world of that day); when a wicked man like Hitler for example is brought to ruin; this calls for praise to the Lord who reigns forever.

Two questions

The skeptic has a question to ask at this point,—two in fact. One is this: Hasn't the Psalmist let his imagination run away with him? If he knew what kind of world this is, he would realize that widows and orphans are not always helped, justice is not always done, most blind people stay blind. And as for the world, the skies, earth and seas "and all that is in them," are we to believe that God created disease germs and parasites, are we obliged to believe that God personally makes volcanoes kill thousands of helpless people? If God is the source of all good, must He not also take the blame for all the evil?

These questions can be answered together, though this calls for much discussion. To be sure, the Christian will say, as his Jewish brother will: to be sure, it is seldom—some would say never, that God directly does these things. In virtually all cases He works through persons. And that is the answer to the first question; if good is not done, it is not that God has forgotten. It is we who have failed. Let Him work through us for good.

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Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX M. SMITH

To Mulch Gardens and Shrubbery

Strong wind in hot weather causes rapid evaporation of any moisture near the surface of the ground. This loss of moisture may be reduced by applying from 2 to 4 inches of mulch around shrubbery and between the rows and plants in the garden. Various materials such as peat moss, sawdust, ground corn cobs, or lawn clippings may be used. Mulching is the best way to conserve moisture in the ground and around plant roots.

To Permit Alfalfa To Mature

One of the later cuttings of alfalfa should be allowed to reach the 75% to 80% blossom stage if the stand is to hold up for a number of years; this may be either the second, third, or fourth cutting. The other cuttings may be made in the bud to early blossom stage.

To Plow Down Nitrogen

When a short season corn crop is to follow a hay or small grain harvest it is important to plow down either a complete fertilizer such as 10-10-10, or plow down from 75 to 100 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre. This will help decompose the sod crop and furnish available nitrogen to grow the crop quickly. When plowing during the hot, summer months it is advised to roll or cultipack the field immediately in order to conserve all possible moisture.

To Irrigate Crops

Farmers who have the water supply and equipment to irrigate their crops are urged to apply the water in time to help make the crop, rather than wait until it is urgent to irrigate in an effort to try and save the crop. From one to two inches of water should be applied every 10 days when soaking rains do not fall. A special circular on irrigation is available.

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Animals Need Shade

Farm animals enjoy getting out of the hot sun, too, says Thomas King, extension livestock specialist at Penn State. He suggests artificial shade if no natural shade is available in the pastures. It's simple: set four poles in the ground, use a framework of light poles for the roof and cover with straw or corn stover held in place by ropes, wire, etc.