

From Where We Stand . . .

Keep Lancaster County Green

Lancaster County has less woodland than the city of Philadelphia.

If this statement seems hard to believe, consider this fact. Several of the county's townships have no woodland area at all.

Lancaster County has never been known as a timber producing area among the counties of "Penn's Woods". Lancaster County has made her reputation as the Garden Spot of the World on the strength of her agricultural production, but we believe trees are a much more important item to the county than census figures would indicate.

It has been said that the woodlot is the most neglected part of the farm, and this may well be so. In spite of the fact that much of the county's woodland remains unharvested long after most of the timber is mature, the last census showed that 181 farms in 1959 cut or sold trees to the extent of 1,120 cords of firewood, 352 cords of pulpwood, 6,805 fence posts, and 558,000 board feet of lumber. Sales of wood products during the year brought county farmers \$73,913 in cash in addition to the products used at home.

While this figure is not large in comparison to many of the other farm products sold in Lancaster County, it shows that some farmers are making their woodlots pay their way. It shows that woodlots can return a profit if they are managed properly, and that some farmers might turn a "break-even" year into a profitable one if they would harvest a mature wood crop.

But we believe trees deserve consideration for another reason in Lancaster County. The Garden Spot is fast becoming a residential area with less and less open space. Fewer and fewer acres of woodland remain each year and more and more people are looking for a retreat from city living.

We believe that woodlands will become more and more important to the recreation and aesthetic value of the county, and that recreation and rural beauty will become more and more important commodities every year as our population continues to grow.

There is very little timber in the county on land level enough to crop successfully, and there are many slopes, now in cropland, that would be better replanted to some kind of trees.

We believe that trees should be considered as a crop in Lancaster County, and that they should be harvested when ripe, protected from pests when necessary, and replanted if need be.

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

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High Yields

We get taken to task occasionally for things that appear in the columns of this paper.

We appreciate this — especially when we feel we can justify the statements that are being criticized.

Why? we were asked recently, do you always make such a big thing about high production records when there is such a surplus of so many commodities already?

It is true that yields have been

going up and that outstanding yields do get a lot of publicity, but should we praise everyone who has a crop failure? Just because we happen to have a temporary oversupply of some food items, should we encourage farmers to do less than their best?

We can see no excuse for any farmer to intentionally produce a poor yield. We can see no reason for anyone to do less than his best.

If a farmer needs a hundred bushels of corn and he can produce that amount on one acre, we can see no justification for him to plant three acres and limit the yield on each acre to thirty-three and a third bushels.

Of course we are producing more corn and potatoes, more hay and wheat, more meat and milk per acre than we have ever produced before. This is one of the reasons that America is the best fed and best clothed nation in the world, and this is the reason that the American consumer spends a smaller portion of his pay check for food than he has ever spent before.

We have an obligation to ourselves and to the starving peoples all over the world to put every acre to its best and most profitable use.

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

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Use Your Seatbelts — The American Medical Association says that it is a well-established fact that seat belts in your automobile can save lives and prevent or lessen injuries. An immense amount of scientific research, including actual collisions under controlled conditions, proves that the seatbelt is the single most effective item of protective equipment now available to reduce the toll of traffic injuries and deaths. The AMA report adds that the belts should even be used for short trips, as to school or the neighborhood grocery.

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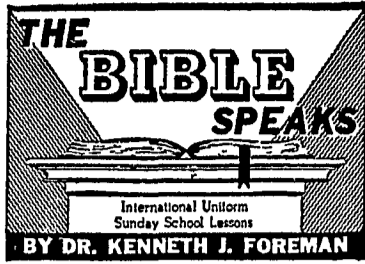
Averages Can Be Confusing — The Midlothian, Ill., Messenger notes: "The use of averages can be confusing. As a prominent economist put it recently: 'If a man stands with his right foot on a hot stove and his left foot in a freezer, some statisticians would say that, on the average, he's comfortable.'"

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Rural Life the Best — William S. Vaughn, president of Eastman Kodak Co., explains his love for rural living this way: "My father asserted that there was no better place to bring up a family than in a rural environment, and to this day I think it was one of the wisest things he ever said and put into practice . . . There's something about getting up at 5 a.m., feeding the stock and chickens, and milking a couple of cows before breakfast that gives you a life-long respect for the price of butter and eggs."

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Taxing Address — The Junction City, Ore., Times takes this dim view of our income tax: "Two score and ten years ago our fathers brought forth upon this nation a new tax . . . Now we are engaged in a great mass of calculations, testing whether that taxpayer or any taxpayer so confused and so impoverish-ed can long, long endure."



Why Should I Care?

Lesson for July 28, 1963

Bible Material: Genesis 3 through 11, Devotional Reading: I John 3:11-12; 4:7-8, 20-21.

ONE Story can have many points. It can be used to illustrate more truths than one. The story of Cain and Abel is a case in point. A thoughtful reader can see in this story how sin gathers weight like an avalanche, moving slowly at first, just a little snowslide, but finally picking up boulders and entire houses, crushing everything in its path. Sin that begins with something attractive and pleasant (like eating fruit) before long becomes violent, ugly, repulsive, like murder. The reader can also see in the story of Cain and Abel that sin needs very little excuse to break out. Not long ago a young man in Virginia murdered three people on one afternoon, all because one of them (the three were one family) had "nagged him" about his work. The brutal young man made criticism an excuse for murder.



Dr. Foreman God's two questions But we shall not be speaking of those and other aspects of this sad story; only of one part of it. The first question which God asks, in the Bible story, is "Where are you?" The next question is "Who told you—?" Shortly afterward, "What is this that you have done?" Then in the story of Cain and Abel, again God opens with a question: "Where is Abel your brother?" Where are you? Who told you the lie you have believed? What have you done? Adam and Eve had not expected those questions. Neither was Cain looking for the question he got. Cain thought he had finished with Abel. That chapter was closed. The account was balanced. He drew a bloody finger across the page. But God faced him with a question. If Cain expected God to take any interest or to make any comment on what Cain considered to be his own affair, it would be an

attack, an accusation. But all God does is ask a simple question. It is the most important question there is, next to "Where are you?"

attacker? Or brother?

Perhaps Cain thought that a God who would ask questions instead of coming down at once with a curse, must be a weak God. At any rate he makes no defense. His reply is another question, an insolent one: "Am I my brother's keeper?" That was not the point, as Dr. James W. Clarke of Richmond has said. No, Cain was not Abel's keeper, of course not. "Who wants a keeper?" Nobody wants a keeper. But everybody needs a brother. Abel needed a brother, and Cain had not been one.

But the sin of murder does not begin, usually, all at once. This crime of Cain's began with a refusal: a refusal to be a keeper, when after all a keeper was not called for. He was responsible for Abel; that was something that perhaps had never occurred to him. And if it had, he shrugged it off. If he could forget that Abel was a brother, then what happened to Abel, even what he himself did to Abel, didn't matter, — so he thought.

Responsibility: to God, for our brother.

What is the root of the troubles in today's world? A great deal of it (though of course not all, for the roots of evil are many!) is just this indifference to what happens to other people. We don't want to be responsible, and when we do start to help some one else, we want to be keeper, not brother. We are willing to tell other people where to get off, we may like to run their affairs, to think and plan for them; but this is not brotherhood. To be responsible for others is not to live their lives for them. It is treating them like brothers. Once you get to the point of indifference where you don't really care what happens to another person, you are close to not caring even if he is murdered . . . And that, in the eyes of God is not far from doing the murder yourself. How many juvenile delinquents have gone down into worse ways because no man would be an older brother to one of them? How many marriages have gone on the rocks because their friends, who could see it coming, did nothing to stave off the tragedy? How many young people have taken the road to alcoholism because their parents didn't feel responsible for setting an example of temperance and self-denial? How many lives have been wasted because there was no one who really cared?

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Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



To Construct Trench Silo

Some livestock and dairy producers may find their supply of forage greater than their upright silo capacity. In this case the farmer might consider some type of horizontal silo—as a temporary storage unit. Trenches may be dug into a slope or bunker-type silos may be constructed on level land. Proper construction and careful management will increase the storage of good quality silage. Additional information and literature is available.

To Accept Complete Soil Testing

Only the minority of Lancaster County farmers are making use of the Penn State Soil Testing Service. This is one practice that should pay dividends to every land owner; this is one phase of scientific research that can reach and benefit every farmer. In preparing for summer seedings of legumes and for fall grains, it is strongly recommended that a complete soil test be the guiding lime and fertilizer application measure.

To Flush Ewe Flock

On advance of the breeding season the ewe flock should be treated for worms and then put on good, nutritious pasture. If the pasture is not available, then some good legume hay plus one to two pounds of grain per head daily should be fed. It is preferred that the pasture contain larger amounts of the grasses such as timothy, bluegrass, bromegrass, or orchard grass and only small amounts of ladino, clover, or

birdsfoot trefoil. The object is to get the ewes in a gaining condition at breeding time. Expected results — quicker conception and more multiple births.

To Store Chemicals Carefully

This thought is worthy of repeating many times each season. With the various fertilizers and chemicals being used these days, the opportunity for children or livestock to get to them is quite great. Any type

County FFA

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nated a plaque for the grand and reserve champion. A plaque will be presented to the school with the highest number of points in the entire show. Ribbons will be awarded to sixth place.

The show and sale will be managed by Lewis Avers, teacher of vocational agriculture at Ephrata High School. Assisting Avers will be Larry Loose, partner and operator of the Green Dragon Sales Company.

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