

From Where We Stand . . . The Price Still Comes Down

Can broilers be raised for half as much as they could nine years ago?

If they can't, someone is getting a good break, or someone else is coming off pretty good.

This week the Lancaster Poultry Center issued a summary and comparison of broiler selling prices for June and July since 1955. In June of that year broilers averaged 27.6 cents a pound and a month later they were 28.75. For June and July of the current year the average prices were 15.7 and 16.42 respectively.

Why are live broiler prices only a little more than half of what they were in 1955?

Feed, per ton, costs more now than it did then. Labor prices have consistently gone up, and the cost of equipment has gone way up above the prices at that time. While the cost of broiler chicks has dropped nearly 30 per cent, this in itself certainly does not account for the difference in price of the finished bird.

Of course better chicks are being bred than ever before. They can make better use of feed than could their ancestors, but this is a relatively small item.

Feed manufacture has improved vastly in the past nine years. Feed formulas are so much better now than they were a few years ago that it takes only about two thirds as long to grow a bird to marketable weight. Furthermore, with the improved feeds, one pound will put on about as much weight as a pound and a half would a few years ago.

But better chicks and improved feed do not account for all the difference in price between now and 1955. In fact the price of live broilers is lower now than it was in the depths of the depression. What else has happened to bring about this revolution in the hen house?

It used to take the farmer a good portion of the morning to carry feed and water to a few hundred chickens. Now all that is done by machinery and a time clock feeds many thousands of birds in a fraction of the time it took to feed the few hundred, and it does it all while the farmer is engaged in other activity. Manure removal, one of the big jobs of a few years ago, has become a relatively simple matter with automatic cleaning equipment or pens that can be cleaned with a tractor and scoop.

Labor, one of the major items of expense in any farming operation has been cut to a minimum, and other efficiencies of production have cut costs so much that the broiler business is more like a manufacturing process than a farming enterprise as we have been accustomed to thinking of farming. It has been estimated conservatively that over 90 per cent of all the broilers grown in this country are reared in large commercial operations financed partially or wholly by feed mills or other commercial businesses.

But this aside, the American consumer today buys chicken meat in greater quantities than ever before, (up from two pounds per person annually in 1940 to more than 27 pounds per person annually this year) and the consumer buys

it for a smaller percentage of his total income than ever before.

This is just one more example of how the efficiency of the American Farmer is making life better and easier for all Americans, everywhere.

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

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Well Done, 4-H'ers

Congratulations are in order for members of the Kirkwood community club exhibiting pigs in the county roundup.

Members of the Kirkwood club won three breed champions and had the champion pen of ten.

Only two members of the Kirkwood club enrolled in the pig project failed to finish in the money. We believe this is a tribute to the ability and interest of the adult local leaders as well as the youthful club members.

Again we say congratulations to the Kirkwood club and to all the other winners. It was a job well done.

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

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A Long Hike

Roads and streets in the U. S. totaled nearly 3.6 million miles in 1961, says the U.S. Department of Commerce. Rural roads comprised slightly over 3.1 million miles, or 88 per-cent of all roads under the jurisdiction of local or federal government.

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Fats in the Pan

American consumers may not be aware that they are eating more fats today than ever — an average of more than 117 pounds per person per year compared with 108 pounds in 1935-39, says the New York State Extension Service. There's no change in saturated fats — drop in butter and lard use is offset by heavier consumption of other saturated fat foods, mostly beef. Use of unsaturated fats has jumped about 15 per cent.

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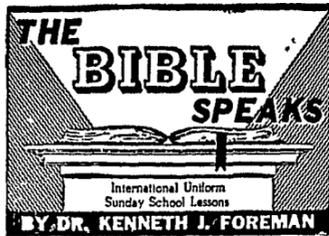
Surplus in Europe Too

With milk production rising and fluid consumption leveling off, Europe's common market nations are looking forward to an estimated annual butter surplus of 300,000 metric tons by the end of the decade. Besides eyeing foreign markets, the leading suggestion for disposing of the butter surplus calls for its compulsory admixture in oleomargarine. It also is proposed by France and Belgium to tax vegetable oils to pay for a butter subsidy. (Good idea.)

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Urge Dairy Research

The USDA's Dairy Research and Marketing Advisory Committee urges deeper research into how dairy products affect health. In stressing the need for a multi-nutrient "sales" approach to milk and milk products, the committee urged a concentrated study to determine the role of dairy products in the diet of people of all ages. Also urged was an appraisal of new dairy products, consumer use and preference, and merchandising and promotion.



Conversion

Lesson for August 25, 1963

Bible Material: Genesis 26 through 28
Devotional Reading: Psalm 121.

IF GOD does not speak to people in dreams today, one reason may be that few people in our time would accept a dream as a message from God. But there was a time when not every dream but special dreams were taken to be revelations from God. Certainly, the least we can say about such a story as this one about Jacob at Bethel is that this man believed that God had actually spoken to him and



Dr. Foreman made him a magnificent promise; and he names the place "Beth (house) El (of God)" the place, or a place, where God lived. We can learn something about religion from the way Jacob reacted to what he understood to be a vision of God. One question will bring this story right down to ourselves: Was Jacob converted by this experience, or not?

Jacob needed conversion

Conversion is an important word. It means a turning around, a 180-degree turn; it means turning from evil to good, from disobeying God to obeying God, from hating or denying God to loving Him with all the heart. Now if you had asked any of Jacob's neighbors at that time, before he started his journey back east to see his relatives in the Euphrates Valley,—if you had asked them what they thought of Jacob, they could have said little good of him. Indeed, his own family were against him. He had tricked his brother into giving him his birthright, and then he had stolen the blessing their father intended for Esau. In revenge, Esau had sworn to kill his younger twin Jacob; and Jacob had had to leave home to seek safety far away. We know his father had plenty of animals he could have offered Jacob to ride; but he didn't offer one. Jacob had to walk, and we may

guess he made a hiking record. The point is, in Billy Sunday's famous words, Jacob at this time was so low down he had to reach up to touch bottom, and so crooked he could hide behind a cork screw. "The world's my orange and I intend to squeeze it" might have been his motto; for he had never been known to do an unselfish thing in all his life. If ever a man need to be converted, it was Jacob.

Discovery of God

Conversion always begins with a meeting between God and a man. The meeting may take place in many ways; but none stranger than this dream at Bethel. One thing Jacob learned that night which he had not realized before. It was a lesson even Abraham had a hard time learning: God is everywhere. Jacob thought he had turned his back on God. He believed in Him of course; he never had been an atheist. But somehow he thought God must be confined to one district, as human beings are. If you run far enough and fast enough, you can escape from most people. If you shut the door and draw the bolts, you can keep many people out. But there is no door yet made which can keep God out. He is on both sides of all doors, He is everywhere. He is the God of the traveler and of those who stay at home. This is a great discovery, and Jacob was awed by it.

Promise with an If

Jacob sounds pious enough. He promises to pay tithes, and that was good. So it is sometimes said that this experience at Bethel was Jacob's great turning point, his conversion. On the other hand, there is some reason to doubt that anything radical happened to him. True, he discovered something very important about God; but knowing about God is not yet conversion. ("The devils believe, and tremble.") When you look at it closely, you find that this vow of Jacob's to give God a tenth was a promise with an If. IF God will arrange everything right for me, and IF He will do for me what I want done (he says in effect), THEN He will be my God and I will give Him ten per cent of all profits. Furthermore, Jacob is so far from offering himself to God that in the years just ahead he is going to cheat his own flesh and blood relatives, just as he did before. He is going to be out for Jacob first. He is changed very little by this dream, and till he is changed we can hardly call it conversion.

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Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX M. SMITH

To Allow Tobacco Leaves To Mature

Growers that are using MH-30 to stop suckers should keep in mind that it is strongly advised to allow about three days after topping before the chemical is applied. This will permit the top leaves to mature to a greater degree and not sufficient time for much sucker growth. In addition it is best to wait until about 75% of the plants in the field show one or two open blossoms before topping.

To Clip Sudan Grass and Sudax Hybrids

After livestock have had a chance to graze down these temporary summer forage crops, they should be clipped at three to four inches high, and then permitted to grow back to the

desired height before further grazing. For the sudan grass this would be 16 to 18 inches and for the sudax hybrids it should be at least 24 inches. Eating of these crops before this size could be toxic to some animals.

To Fertilize Redcoat Wheat To Permit Alfalfa To Bloom

Since Redcoat wheat is hessian fly resistant, it may be planted during August and September and used as a temporary pasture crop; if the wheat is to be grazed this fall, it should be more heavily fertilized (400 to 500 of a 10-10-10 fertilizer) and drilled at the rate of 2 1/2 to 3 bushels per acre. In the spring it should be top-dressed with 50 to 60 pounds of nitrogen per acre and may be grazed until it develops into the jointing stage.

Late August is a critical time with the alfalfa plant, so we have been informed by our research stations, this is the period when the plant is developing new rhizomes for next year's growth and should not be cut unless it is in the 75% to 100% blossom stage. Do not cut alfalfa during late August in the bud or early bloom stage, providing the fields to remain in hay another season.

Tomatoes Like It Cool, Too

Tomatoes ripen best in temperatures from 55 to 65 degrees, reports J. O. Dutt, Penn State extension vegetable crops specialist. That may explain why that red color takes so long coming after the green fruit is full grown on hot summer days. Watering to cool tomato plants during hot periods may hurry ripening of the

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