From Where We Stand . . .

Is Type Judging Obsolete?

Have you seen any of the livestock shows in the county this summer and

We have been particularly pleased with the high quality animals exhibited by Lancaster County youth, livestock men and dairymen. We believe the animals on exhibit have more type and breed characteristics than any group of exhibits we have seen in many years.

But is type a good indicator of productive ability - the only true worth of farm livestock?

We believe it is.

We know that farm livestock is much more efficient than it was a few years ago. Cows produce more milk; hens lay more eggs; steers put on weight faster and on less feed, and hogs reach market sooner and leaner with more of the red meat wanted by the consumer.

What accounts for this tremendous gain in efficiency? The feed manufacturers say it is better nutrition. The equipment manufacturers say it is better housing and care. The farm management experts say it is a change in farming practices. The pharmaceutical companies say it is better animal health, and the breeders say it is greater inherited abilities.

To an extent, they are all correct. Feed is better; housing and management are better; drugs bring about better health; and the animals do have more inherited ability than did their ancestors. But we believe that all these would be of little value if the type of our livestock had not changed along with the other advances.

Not long ago a writer for one of the dairy breed association magazines wrote an article charging (in effect) that the classification program is a hoax. He maintained that dairymen should forget type and breed for production — only.

We do not agree with this philosophy. Let's take a couple of examples.

Look at the pictures of the "Excellent" cows of a few decades ago. Many of them had pendulous udders. Many had weak legs or crooked backs, but they were the best of that generation. They probably had good production records for that day, too, but we know now that pendulous udders and weak legs tend to put a cow out of the milking string much too soon.

Or suppose you took an old Texas Longhorn and fed and cared for him in the most modern fashion. Maybe he would produce meat faster than anything else in the pen, but where could you sell all that bone and gristle and horn?

We believe improvement in type has had as much as anything else to do with improved efficiency of farm livestock, but this point is hard to prove. We have yardsticks with which to test rate of gain, rate of milk production and per cent of butterfat, eggs per hen per year, and units of production per unit of feed, but we have never had a reliable measure of type.

Unfortunately, type is somewhat subject to the whims of the consuming public and the individual show judges, but just because type is not an infailable guide to efficiency, we should not pitch the baby out with the bath. We have added newer and more accurate measurements to this nebulous thing called type, and with every innovation, the evaluations become more valuable. We are not for less emphasis on type, but more. Of course we must continue to use production as a guide in breeding 1 better livestock, but we must not relegate stock shows to limbo just because they are not perfect measurements of ability.

At least that's how it looks from ance. It is compared to taking a where we stand.

Farm Leaders

What's a farm leader worth? Community leaders often don't realize what a vo-ag instructor, county agent or some other agricultural leader may be contributing to the local economy.

John Zwiebel, adult vo-ag instructor at Owatonna, Minn., has some in- lar at midnight, without a light, teresting figures on this. His adult pro- looking for a black cat that isn't gram serves about 200 families annual-there. ly and he does a complete record analy- Faith's uncertainties sis on about 50 farms. Zwiebel recently summarized accounts of 14 families that have been in the program the last 14 he knows very well that the man years. Their average gross income in- who tells you he believes only creased from \$13,398 to \$24,002. Each what he can test with his own five year that Zwiebel worked with these senses does not really mean it, families they increased their purchases in the community by better than \$2,000 per farm. When you consider that each dollar spent by a farmer may be turned over three to five times in the local eco- label on the cereal box says it has nomy, these 14 farmers added \$112,000 riboflavin and vitamin B and a lot per year to local business. If the 50 families with which Zwiebel works intensively do as well, he generates \$1 million to local business in three to four lieve it. You go to the hospital for years.

John Strohm in HIGH DOLLAR FARMING

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Get-Up-And-Go-Power — Milk was recommended to athletes for more "get- life. up-and-go power" as a result of recent briefly before us in these past few physical efficiency studies. Reporting on tests held at the University of Connecticut, Dr. Hollis F. Fait said there is also no reason to exclude milk from the pregame meals of athletes. Tests revealed that milk does not cause stomach upset, sluggishness, loss agility, lack of endurance, or decreased speed of movement, Dr. Fait reported. Also ruled out were supposed effects of laziness or "cotton mouth" - a dryness and discomfort found to arise from the individual's emotional state.

Not the Bite But Fear — Snakes bite about 1,500 people a year, says the American Medical Association, of whom only about 20 die. One authority maintains that of those who die, intense fear probably is responsible for more fatalities than actual poison.

★ ★ ★ ★ Must Be So, Then — Khrushchev says Soviet farmers are using 7 times as much labor to produce grain as in the U.S., 5 times more to grow potatoes, 6 times more to grow beets, 14 times as much to raise cattle, over 16 times as much to raise pigs.

Farmers Urged

(Continued from Page 1) Fred G. Seldomridge, Chairman, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation County Committee, has been informed Lancaster County's Own Farm that the meeting is one of 13 the Secretary will hold this fall with farmers and others in rural America in nearly every major agricultural area in the Nation. The meetings Offices: will be geared toward "dirt farmer", participation, with plenty of time provided for a Phone - Lancaster question - and - answer period Express 4-3047 or and farmers advice and se Commendations encontaged.

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Life of Faith

Lesson for September 29, 1963

Bible Material: Genesis; Psalm 105; -24; Galatians 3; Hebrews 11:1-22. Devotional Rending: Psalm 105:1-11.

ee FAITH" is despised by people who don't have it and don't understand it. Faith is caricatured as an attitude of ignorchance or going on an errrand that is bound to fail. Faith is said

(by people who have none) to be like a man buying medicines and swallowing them with outlooking at the labels or reading the directions. Faith has been compared to a blind man going

Dr. Foreman down into the cel-

Nobody who has long lived the life of faith is bothered by such misunderstandings. For one thing, because if you believe only what you can personally test, you will have an unhappy time of it. Suppose you try eating breakfast without faith some morning. The of other things. Do you know that none of these is poisonous? Do you know they're all there? You know nothing of the sort; you bean operation; do you know the surgeon's hand won't slip? No, but you trust yourself to him all the same. There can't be any more certainty than the certainty of faith, in most circumstances of

The men whose lives have been weeks, Abraham, Jacob and Joseph, knew what the uncertainties of faith can be. Abraham went "not knowing whither he went." Jacob had no assurance that his God would prosper him. He hoped so, to be sure; but to the end of his days there were question

marks future. So with Jo. seph; for long years, though the word is not written large in the stories of him, the fact of his faith is there? if Joseph had yielded to the tyranny of the obvious, he would have stayed a slave. He lived by what he did not see.

The certainties of faith Did you ever fly, as a passenger, in a little plane just big enough for two? Just for a joke, while you were fastening, your seat belt, you may have sung a verse or two of "Dig my grave with a silver spade." But you buckled that belt and up you rose into the scary sky. Now you believed in a lot of things. You believed the engine would not "conk out," you believed the wings were fastened with something stronger than glue, you believed the tail assembly would hang together, that the direction-finder and the altimeter and the dozen or so other gadgets on the instrument board were accurate, you believed in all the radio control towers and beacons you overflew; but when you come right down to it, what you really put faith in was not a what, it was a who. You trusted the pilot. You (not being a pilot, and not used to flying perhaps) could not predict what he would do next. If you never studied aerodynamics, the chances are that you didn't even know exactly how the plane stays aloft.

God is the pilot You see there are a lot of things to trust in even a small airplane. But you don't really trust the things, but the pilot, a person. You trust him (among other things) to check everything about the plane, you put your faith in his knowledge and in his skills. If you couldn't trust him, you

You certainly could not read the

inside of the pilot's mind. But

you trusted him all the same.

couldn't very well trust the plane. The life of faith in God is like that. There are many things we have to believe in, on our flight through this life. But essentially, religious faith is faith in a person, our Father in heaven. We can't see what He is doing, we can't understand all He does even when we see Him do it, we don't know why this or that happens. There's a great deal more that we don't know than we do know. But we trust Him. The great difference between God and any airline pilot is that even the boldest and most skilful pilots know there are kinds of clouds they dare not enter, weather conditions they cannot control. The best of them can be grounded. But the true God is never grounded, for no cloud is too dark and storm-swept for 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

To Ensile Frosted Forage Crops With fields of sudan grass or the sudax hybrids that have considerable growth when frosted, it is suggested that the crop be put into the silo When grazed or ted green there is danger of prussic acid poisoning after a killing trost, however, by putting it into the silo and allow it to ferment for at least three weeks the danger will be eliminated. Some grass silage preservative or feed additive should be put with the mixture in order to have higher quality silage. To Keep Cattle From Acorns

MAX SMITH

Cows that are in milk production should not be allowed to eat acorns. Many oak trees will start dropping the acorns early in the

fall; many cows will fill up on the acorns if they get started to eat them. A few acorns each day will reduce milk flow but not make the animal sick; larger quantities will put the animal off feed and dry up the milk flow; once the flow is lost from acorns it may not return to normal until the following lactation. Reserve the acorns for the squirrels - not the cows.

To Soil Test This Fall

Land owners who do their soil testing this fall before the ground freezes will be one Lancaster, Penna. 1955. Published every Satur- plan their lime and fertilizer

allows time for the lime to sweeten the soil.

To Beware Of Lead Poisoning

Many animals are lost each jump ahead for next spring's year due to lead poisoning; in distablished November, 4, work; they will have time to many cases the trouble is traced to freshly painted buildday by Lancaster-Farming, Lit- needs and avoid any delay ings or fences, or to empty, next spring. In the case of discarded paint cans. Some wheat ground that is to be spray materials include areenseeded down to legumes next ates that may drift or be Entered as 2nd class matter spring or summer, and is in washed into streams or litto at Lititz Pa. under Act of Mar. need of lime, it is better to grazing areas. All painters and put it on the fall and work livestock owners are urgetto THE WAY COLDS it into the ground before the be extremely careful with