

# From Where We Stand . . . Why Worry About Conservation?

Why worry about conserving the soil? We'll soon all be eating synthetic food anyhow

This idea seems to be in the thoughts of many people, but there are three major flaws in this philosophy

First, while there are already a few synthetic food items on the grocery shelves, they are not yet perfected, are high in price, and are a long, long way from becoming widespread in their use. It will be many years before synthetic foods are commonplace

Secondly, of the synthetic foods available, nearly all are made from other agricultural products. While synthetic beef may not be manufactured by animals eating grass and grain, the soil must produce the soybeans or other crops which form the raw material for the artificial food products

We will have to depend on soil for many years yet to produce the food for an ever growing population

But if tomorrow, by some miracle, we would no longer need agriculture to produce food, there would still be a good reason to conserve the soil

While the earth's surface is about three quarters covered with water, most of it is not fit for consumption. Man has learned to remove the salt from sea water, and the impurities from sewage, but the processes are still costly and time consuming

We must learn, and very soon, to use properly and wisely the pure water which falls on our land surface. We must devise methods to keep contaminants out of streams, wells and reservoirs. We must learn to keep the soil on the hillsides instead of letting it run down the rivers to divert channels, kill fish, cause floods, contaminate domestic and industrial water supplies and fill water reservoirs

We all know that man can not live for very long without food, but he can live even a shorter time without water. While there is no immediate shortage of water for drinking in this area, we have seen the total supply cut sharply in recent years because of greater demands for many purposes. Food continues to be in more than

ample supply in this nation, but water is becoming critically short in some areas. Water can be conserved, and its conservation goes hand-in-hand with the wise use of the soil.

Even if we did not need to conserve the soil for food protection, we believe the protection of our water supply would justify the small expense involved in keeping the soil on the land.

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

## ★ ★ ★ ★ Synthetic Meats

Have you ever eaten meat that isn't?

But, like the week that was, it is. If it sounds confusing that's because synthetic beef and chicken are on the market now. . . made from protein in soybeans. And a Philadelphia firm is making synthetic ham loaf and experimenting with meatless hot dogs.

In addition to the meatless meats, the soybean protein products have been used to make foods that resemble potato chips, dried fruits, nut kernels and some fruits and vegetables.

Much of the work has been done by a mid-Western grain company that isolated the proteins in soybeans and processed it into fine filaments. These filaments are used to duplicate the fibrous muscle structure of many foods. At the present time, the retail price for synthetic meat products ranges from \$1.00 to \$1.30 a pound.

Julius F. Bauermann, extension food technologist at The Pennsylvania State University, points out that these products will be useful in special medical diets, or will appeal to people whose religious beliefs affect eating habits.

Development of these edible protein foods will have particular significance for world areas where population increases are outstripping the food supply. Bauermann said in Pennsylvania, agricultural leaders are interested in whether these foods may replace present animal protein foods and, if so, to what extent. Time will tell.

Market Horizons  
Pa. Dept. of Agri.

## Letters To The Editor

### Reader Doubts Need For Farms

Editor, Lancaster Farming  
Dear Sir:

Lately several articles have appeared in various publications including the Lancaster Farming, either the Malthusian theory or the population explosion or the necessity of birth control and most seem to believe it will be the American farmer who will rise to the occasion and feed the tremendous increase in humanity. If I may take the liberty, I should like to voice my own personal "theories" on these matters.

First, I have no doubt Mr. Malthus believed unequivocally in what he theorized and if the world's population had exploded during his lifetime, his predictions may have come true. Fortunately, for us, in 1798 he could not foresee nor be aware of the unbelievable technological advances soon to take place. Of course, certain factors such as medical knowledge have given support to his theory but wars and the threat of a nuclear holocaust reflect another side of the problem.

Second being a farmer in mind and spirit and an American I am justly and sincerely proud of agricultural advance-

ments and production. The American farmer certainly met the tests of war and peace which were placed before him — and I'm certain can continue to meet them but will he have to? This is a question to which I'd like an answer. I wonder if in decades to come the world (our own country included) will have to rely solely on the farmer for his food? For the sake of those of us who wish to preserve the institution of farming, I hope I get jumped on for my observations and current beliefs. I hope reliable sources can disprove my contention that the starving world will be eating synthetic meats and vegetables rather than naturally grown foodstuffs, that future generations of Americans may be educated to do the same. Most

of us who are used to sinking our teeth into real food are not apt to be easily swayed to an imitation pork chop, steak, or turkey but, perhaps our grand-children may. Those synthetic foods are already on the market, admittedly at a substantial price per pound which may be a deterrent to the general public until the condition is corrected.

While this matter of synthetic foods may be frightening to an agriculturist already in an economic bind, I cannot help but feel this is the right answer to an exploding population in an already undernourished world. The other alternatives seem to be nuclear annihilation or compulsory birth control. With neither of these can I be in agreement. The solution by war is obviously ridiculous, that of birth control is more a matter of personal con-

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### Lancaster Farming

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## Steps to Faith Lesson for March 8, 1964

Background Scripture: John 9:1-41.  
Devotional Reading: I John 1:5 to 2:6.

NOBODY KNOWS how many miracles Jesus performed during the few years between His baptism and His crucifixion. The writer of the Fourth Gospel says that the world could not contain the books that would have to be



written if anyone tried to write up all that Jesus did. John himself makes no effort to tell the whole story. The first three Gospels tell of many miracles; but the Fourth Gospel tells of Dr. Foreman only seven or eight. John's way of telling the stories is different, also. The first three Gospels just tell what happened and let the reader make his own comments. John makes every miracle a kind of text for a sermon or meditation on the meaning of Jesus, or the meaning of life.

### A Man named Jesus

So, we are not going off on the wrong foot, but following the evangelist's example, if we take one of the simpler of these stories and see in it a picture of the way faith grows. In itself the story is indeed simple. The man whom Jesus cured must have been a well-known beggar, for the disciples knew he had been born blind. Jesus made "clay" out of spittle and dust, put it on the man's eyes, told him to go to a certain pool and wash. The man washed as directed, and "came seeing." Just like that. The story of the miracle is told. But now begins the part (one of many aspects of this story) that brings us meanings, not simple facts. The particular meaning here now for us is the way this man advanced in faith. What did he think of Jesus? is the question. The ex-beggar's first thought about Jesus was just this: "The

man called Jesus." Just a man with a name. But the point was: the man called Jesus had cured his blindness. That much the man knew. You may not think this was a very lofty faith, indeed you might argue that it was not faith at all. But it was. He knew Jesus had cured him.

### A prophet

A little later, the ex-beggar told the Pharisees (it really was none of their business, they only wanted to "get" Jesus somehow) that in his opinion Jesus was a prophet. This did not mean a soothsayer, a fortune-teller; it meant one who speaks God's truth, a Revealer. A prophet was like a window into the mind of God. Prophets were not supermen, they were quite ordinary men in fact. But they were self-emptying men, they let the Spirit of God have his way with them, they were sensitized to the will of God. Many have come only this far on the way to a full faith. But who shall call them unbelievers? Jesus did not denounce this man for coming short of the belief which the disciples of Jesus had towards him. He did not condemn him at all. So we should be slow about denying the name "Christian" or "believer" to men and women of our own time who think of Jesus simply as a teacher, first among teachers or even as one of many teachers. The Lord took this man where he was and helped him to a still higher faith.

### The one Lord

Jesus asked the man, finally, if he believed in the "Son of Man." You and I might not understand that question, but this man did. "Son of Man" was one of the common expressions meaning "Messiah" or "Christ," both of which words were never in the plural. There was to be only one Son of Man, in a class alone by himself. This was more than Prophet, for prophets were many. At its height, faith looks at Jesus not as a mere man, not even as one among other revealers of God, not even as the First Saint; but as God's "only begotten Son," God focussed in a single man, the meeting point of the human and the divine. So the man who had been blind, in more ways than one, has his eyes opened at last to what Jesus said he himself was: the Light of the World. And so he did what no man has a right to do to another man: he worshipped Jesus. His heart had found its home at last, in God.

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## Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH

### To Check Growth of Dairy Heifers

When dairy heifers are from 6 months to one year of age, it's a good practice to measure them and tape them to determine if they are developing fast enough for their age. If for some reason they are under-size, then it will still be time to do something about it before they reach breeding age (15 to 18 months). Standards for heart girth measurements and weights at certain ages are available with which to compare the heifers of each breed. Large growthy heifers for their age should make more desirable herd replacements.



MAX SMITH

### To Spray For Wild Garlic

Dairymen are urged to make a special

effort to eliminate wild garlic from their pasture fields. This weed will not support your quality milk efforts and should be controlled. During mid to late March there should be some growth of the garlic and a good time to spray the area with 1 1/2 pounds per acre of the ester form of 2,4-D. The garlic will be easier to kill down when young and before the clovers get much growth. It may take early spring spraying for several years to get control.

### To Use Caution with Forage Sprays

Alfalfa and red clover growers who sprayed their fields last October with either Dieldrin or Heptachlor should not be concerned about any spring spraying for alfalfa weevils or spittlebugs. These sprays should give good control. However, growers who did not spray last fall may get control this spring by using Guthion at least 21 days before harvest or Malathion at least 7 days prior to harvest. Do not use Dieldrin or Heptachlor this spring.

### To Use Nitrogen on Corn Stalk Ground

Corn ground that is going back into corn should be treated liberally with nitrogen fertilizer. The amount will depend upon organic matter content, use of manure or cover crops, and fertility level; the rotting corn stalks will tie up some nitrogen from the plants. Many fields should get from 100 to 150 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre. A complete soil test will furnish the answer. Then plow down the fertilizer.