

# From Where We Stand . . . Trouble For The Cattleman

The cattle industry is in trouble.

It must be, if the conversations we have had with cattle feeders recently are any indication.

It seems to us that farmers are prone to complain whether they are hurting or not, but this time we believe they have a legitimate reason to cry the blues.

Whether they are laying the blame at the right doorstep, we are not too sure.

Whenever anyone — farmers, business men, or professional people — begins to feel an economic pinch, the first thought is to fix the blame for the situation.

Whenever certain farm commodities began to be in trouble in years past, the cattlemen pointed with pride to their own industry and said, "We have no such trouble." Usually this was followed by the phrase "because we are relatively free from Government interference."

Cattle feeding, as well as the calf producing business, has enjoyed a relatively stable and comfortable position for many years. Of course some years have been better or worse than others, but most of the time, cattle were in better shape than most other farm products.

Now the situation begins to change.

For many years, population growth, increased earning coupled with better eating habits, and increased consumption per capita, took all the beef American farmers could produce — and they took it at a good price.

Cattle feeding operations made money. As so often happens in farming, money draws money, and too many farmers went into the business. Quality of cattle — and consequently quality of beef — went up.

Fewer low quality beef cattle reached the market. Couple this with a few situations in dairy herds and the situation becomes more acute. Dairy herds were culled harder and cows went to the market younger and in better health. Some of the better cuts from these cows found their way into the dressed beef trade. Fewer bulls are needed for breeding since artificial insemination has become popular, and the bull calves are castrated and fattened or fed out as veal which competes with high grade beef.

But this situation has had an opposite effect on the processed meat business. Fewer old, poor quality beef and dairy cow culls reach the market. With fewer bulls past breeding age to be replaced, another large source of processing meat vanished, and higher quality beef herds produce fewer of the lower grades of steers and heifers.

Processors turned to a more dependable source for meat of this type. They found it could be bought at an attractive price and in good quantity from over seas. Imports increased because low

quality beef found a ready market.

Many economists will tell you that most of the beef imported has little effect on the quality market in this country, but beef cattlemen feel that importation of any kind of meat will ultimately be felt in the price of domestic meat.

This may be so. We are inclined to believe it is so, but still, the plain, unvarnished fact is this — there will soon be just too much beef for the market.

Beef farmers are in for more trouble before the situation gets much better. We wonder just how much they will have to hurt before they raise up and demand that the Government come and bail them out. We hope the industry will police itself before it reaches that point.

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

★ ★ ★ ★  
**Snob Appeal for Milk** — "Lift, tear, bend and squeeze" are the instructions on the cartons of American milk sold at Fauchon, an exclusive French food store. And the phrase has become a password to those in the know, says a New York Times dispatch. "American milk is a rare find in Paris and to buy it at Fauchon has become one of the super-snob refinements of the season."

★ ★ ★ ★  
**Soviet Prices Higher** — Farm prices in Russia top those here, but profits are less. Soviet farmers get about 44 cents a pound for cattle, double what growers here receive, hogs 54 cents, about triple the U.S. price, eggs 88 cents, triple the U.S. price. But farmers in Russia are so inefficient their profit is far below what farmers get here.

★ ★ ★ ★  
**Dairy Bulls Fast Gainers** — Dairy bulls reach heavy weight in shorter time than steers and at the cost of less feed, a recent test showed. The bulls reached 800-pound weights at 10 months while the steers required 11 months. Bulls also required an average of 414 pounds less feed to reach slaughter weight.

★ ★ ★ ★  
**A Switch to Wheat?** — More rice eaters eventually will switch to wheat, in light of North America's emergence as the world's breadbasket, the USDA predicts. World-food problems are no thing new, but rapid growth of population, especially in countries least able to feed their citizens, has greatly changed the magnitude of the problems.

★ ★ ★ ★  
**The Awkward Age** — An adolescent is one who when not treated like an adult, acts like an infant.

★ ★ ★ ★  
**Could Be** — From the Waltham, Mass., News Tribune: "We wonder if the idea packaged food came from the lowly hen."

## ● Swine Producers

(Continued from Page 1)  
pounds of pork, nearness to market will make up the difference of about 25 to 35 cents a bushel in the price of corn.

He said the average Midwestern producer feeds about 450 pounds of corn for each hundredweight of pork produced. With \$1.15 a bushel corn, that's \$5.00.

With \$1.50 a bushel corn in Pennsylvania, Younkman said, it would cost a state producer \$10.21 to produce a similar amount of pork.

"But, if Pennsylvania could increase its efficiency to 375 pounds of corn for each 100 pounds of pork," he stated, "we could lower our cost to \$8.63."

With a \$1.00 to \$1.50 advantage in market prices, he

said, Pennsylvania swine producers can successfully compete with the Midwest.

Commenting on the corn price against efficiency, Younkman said for each 25 pounds of feed saved for each 100 lbs

of pork produced, a farmer can reduce the output cost 72 cents.

Conversely, for each 10-cent increase in the price of corn, the cost for each hundredweight of pork rises 67 cents.

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**Lancaster Farming**  
Jack Owen, Editor

**Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly**  
Robert G. Campbell, Advertising Director

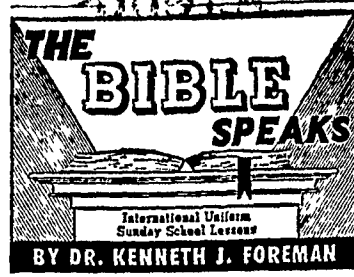
P O Box 1524  
Lancaster, Penna.

P O Box 266 - Lititz, Pa.

Established November 4, 1955. Published every Saturday by Lancaster-Farming, Lititz, Pa.

Entered as 2nd class matter at Lititz, Pa under Act of March 8, 1879.

Offices:  
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Lititz, Pa.  
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## Pilate Judged

Lesson for March 15, 1964

Background Scripture: Matthew 27:11-26; John 18:28 through 19:22; 18:1-17, 34-36. Devotional Reading: John 19:12-22.

**THIS WAS ONE** of the momentous meetings in history. As so often is true, what you could have seen with the naked eye or with a camera, was not what you could have seen with the eyes of the spirit. To the outward eye, everything was rigged in favor of Pilate. He had the authority; Jesus had never been so much as a village head-man, while Pilate was the colonial governor representing the Roman Empire.



**Dr. Foreman** Pilate had large numbers of soldiers to carry out his will, Jesus not so much as a single servant-boy. Pilate was officially the judge, and Jesus the prisoner; but now we know (would we have guessed it then?) that Pilate was being judged, not Jesus. Jesus walked out from that hall of "justice" a condemned man; but the verdict of the ages is that it was Pilate who was the guilty one.

**What Pilate thought**  
It is not mere guessing to suggest what Pilate was thinking, in that early morning court room scene. We know what he said, how he acted, and so we can venture to say what he was thinking.

"I have the power here," he must have thought. Of course. Did not Rome always have the power? What can a young and friendless barbarian (for so Pilate must have regarded his strange prisoner) do against my orders? The Governor could not know that this very prisoner would exert a power through the next twenty centuries far greater than any government has ever been able to impose. There now are societies that honor Jesus all over the globe; but where are the Pilate-societies? With Pilate's

death his power came to an end. With Jesus' death His power would begin anew. "This man has done no wrong, but . . ." Pilate acted unjustly and he knew it. One trouble with that man was that he really cared for something else more than justice, "I have my own career to think of," he thought.

**What Jesus thought**  
The prisoner looked on the judge with something between pity and contempt. He knew that Pilate knew nothing whatever about the case. He knew that Pilate, like some modern envoys, did not probably bother to learn the language of the people to whom he was assigned as governor—and that he had to depend on the chief priests and other religious leaders of Judea to guide him in his decisions. Pilate listened for the voice of power; and those who made the power-structure in that country all said Guilty: Crucify this man. Pilate like all men in authority had to keep his ear to the ground, he had to know what people were saying. There was no difficulty in hearing them. The streets were full of screams. Luke says sadly that "their voices prevailed."

**Two kingdoms**  
Yet if Jesus ever had contempt for any man—and he did—he must have felt contempt for Pilate. The governor had one idea of what the real world is; the prisoner had quite another. Pilate believed in what he could see and handle and manage. Jesus believed in a Kingdom of Truth. He was not carried away by the word "King." When Pilate asked him, "You are a king, then?" Jesus said in effect, "King is your word. I was born to bear witness to Truth." This Pilate could not understand at all. A kingdom of armies, fortresses, wealth, yes; but a kingdom of truth—what is truth? Jesus had not groveled before Pilate, nor asked him a single favor. But he had offered him his one chance, his last one. If Pilate had shown the least heart-interest in Truth, Jesus would have talked with him. He had talked with rich and poor, great and small before; he would have not refused to speak to the heart of the judge. But it was now too late. The judge had been judged. Is it not so always, when a man faces Jesus, and must choose?

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## Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

**To Inspect That Silo**  
As the silo is being emptied, it is a good time to inspect the interior surface to determine the need of any maintenance treatment. After a period of years, most silos will be in need of a new coating of mortar to fill in the pitted places where the acidity from the silage has worked. Metal and wooden silos may need an interior coating in order to preserve the smooth finish. An airtight silo with smooth interior walls is very important in the preserving of high quality silage. Proper maintenance is important.

**To Select Forage Crops**  
Livestock producers should plan in relation to the forage crops needed this summer and for next winter's supplies. It may

be necessary to plant some temporary summer pasture crops during hot, dry weather. Some producers have surplus forage crops at one period of the year, and shortages at a later date. Planning is needed to have quality forages to feed at all times. Seeds for temporary summer forage crops should be ordered at once. The supplies may not meet the demand.

**To Creep-feed Spring Lambs**  
Sheep producers who are interested in marketing spring lambs should feed extra grain in order to get their lambs to market weights as early as possible. The Easter season is approaching rapidly and there will be little time to push the lambs before Easter, however, records show that lamb prices decline as summer approaches, therefore, earlier marketings should give greater returns.

**To Vaccinate Heifer Calves**  
The importance of vaccinating heifer calves against bang's disease continues to be important. The program is designed to build up a resistance against the disease in replacement cattle. The idea of not vaccinating because the number of infected cattle has been reduced, is a dangerous one and could lead to harmful outbreaks. Dairymen are urged to continue to vaccinate.