

## From Where We Stand . . . Bulls Vs Steers For Beef

We think it is ridiculous to run the risk of castrating bull calves.

Let us show what we mean. On Monday prime steers at Lancaster topped at 23.50, but choice and prime sold down to 22 cents a pound. Standard to low choice steers brought 19 to 22.50 cents a pound. This is just four and a half cents a pound difference between standard and top prime steers.

But what is even more significant, on the same market bulls topped at 22.50 with very few kinds going below 21 cents. While the roughest kinds of fed steers went as low as 17 cents, southern bulls and light cutter bulls reached bottom at 18.50.

But when you look at the feeder sales, the picture comes into even sharper focus. Feeder steers showing any quality at all brought from 20 cents up to 22.50 while desirable type beef bulls sold from 19.50 to 21.50. On the plainer steers, prices dropped as low as 17 cents, but this kind certainly would never bring top dollar as finished beef.

It is an estimated fact that bulls will gain faster than steers of comparable grade. True, they can not be pushed to the high finish that the steers will take, but the late gains are the most expensive to put on, and the market does not warrant the high cost of putting on high finishes.

Of course bulls are somewhat harder to fence and they must be kept separate from heifers, but with the barnlot feeding of Lancaster County, this should not pose any serious problem.

Now we know the market is not always so close on steers and bulls, but the spread is very often close enough to make one wonder why we go to the trouble and stand the risk of castrating bull calves at all.

If, as the meat packers say, Mrs. America wants more bull and cow beef, and the prices appear to bear this out, why can't we give it to her without having to import it from other countries.

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

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### THREE STEPS TO PLENTY

It is unlikely that any other nation in the history of the world, large or small, has ever enjoyed a level of abundance such as now exists in the United States. Leading in this abundance is the major item of food. Since biblical times man has had to scratch the earth for sustenance. If he foraged and grew enough to meet his own needs, he was fortunate. When he failed, which was often, there was famine. In spite of this, populations grew and as they grew the demands on agriculture were proportionately increased.

It has been said that agriculture has developed through three ages. First, the blood, sweat and tears period — centuries of grinding toil. Second was the mechanical age, beginning with the invention of the reaper by Cyrus McCormick. Farm productivity shot up. One hundred years ago one food producer could support five people — by 1940 one farm-

er could produce enough for 11 people. Now comes the chemical age with widespread use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Already farm productivity has reached new heights. Today one farmer can produce enough food and fiber for himself and 25 other people.

Each age in the agricultural evolutionary process arrived just in the nick of time to stave off disaster. The mechanical age was one answer to the population explosion. With population growth and the migratory movement of people all over the world came a frightening upsurge in the ravages of insects and other pests. Again, human ingenuity found an answer. This time in the research laboratories. Agricultural chemicals have not only proved their value on the farm and in public health programs, they have proved themselves for the vast majority of doctors, consumers and the U. S. Congress. Today they are becoming accepted for what they really are — modern effective tools that control hostile pests.

### ★ ★ ★ ★ The Onion Snow

After the middle of March we couldn't blame the weather on the groundhog, but winter continued.

When we had a small snow a friend said, "Just the onion snow," and we hoped he was right.

It began snowing again and another friend said, "Onion snow," but when we began to shovel the 14 inches off our walks next morning we began to wonder.

Well, this week it began to snow again, and again we heard the phrase.

If the self styled weather prognosticators know anything about what they are trying to tell us, this should be a vintage year for onions.

Oh well, that's one way to keep America strong.

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

### ★ ★ ★ ★ Unpleasant Thought

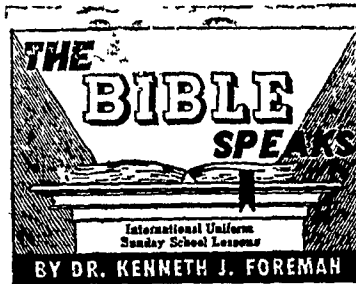
A water specialist reports that we are in the age of secondhand water. "When the Ohio River flows less than 13 thousand cubic feet per second past Cincinnati — as it often does — one cup of water out of every twenty drawn from a faucet has already been through a sewer. When the river is in pool stage, one quart out of every gallon of water in the river has been put to some previous use by people."

### ★ ★ ★ ★ Belgium Looks To U. S. For Meat

A shortage of hogs in Belgium and high domestic prices has impelled Belgian firms to import pork from the U. S. Last year's severe winter caused serious losses in Belgium's pig crop so that the number of hogs now offered on the Belgian market covers only 65-70 percent of demand.

### ★ ★ ★ ★ Time Study

Though there is seldom time enough to do a job right, it seems there is always enough time to do it over.



### God's Universe Lesson for April 5, 1964

Background Scripture: Job 28:1-11; Isaiah 40:12-26; 42:1-12.  
Devotional Reading: Psalm 104:1-9.

**THERE IS** a distinctively Christian way of life, and of looking at life. The very world in which the Christian lives, though it may look on the surface like the world of the non-Christian, seen in depth turns out to be quite different.



First of all, the Christian faces the world about him with opened eyes. He sees literally more than meets the eye. Much of what he sees and knows is not peculiar to the Christian view, but he shares it with Jews also, just as we share with them our Bible. If it had not been for the Jews, most of the Bible would not have been written, but that's another story. The study for this week is taken from the Old Testament because there we find some of the most striking expressions of the truth: The universe around us does not own itself, it is not ours; it is God's.

#### God's world is planned

What does it involve to say, God is Creator? That is more than a title, though title it is. We mean more than that God is creative, we mean that God created all that exists, known to us or unknown. No space traveler ever will discover some region in unimaginable remoteness from this earth, so far away that God is not there. God is not only now everywhere in his universe, God is not only infinitely more than his universe, but there never would have been a spark of life, of existence, of anything whatever, visible or not, knowable or not, if God had not thought of it, intended it and planned it. The universe is not an accident, the universe has not ex-

isted through all eternities. It is here because God said, Let it be. How did God create the universe? When did he create it? Did it look as it now does when it was new? Did he have any help? What was his reason for making it? How is it all going to end? To only one of those questions is there any clear answer; the reader is invited to think which question it is. Perhaps true answers to such questions could not be understood because they could not be answered in human language. One thing stands clear: God is not surprised by the universe he has made, he is not frightened by it, and he will not be beaten down by it. It is his universe; it is marked, so to speak, by his fingerprints.

#### It is incomplete

A great American Christian thinker, Dr. Cosby Bell, once pointed out that although we can read the handwriting of the Almighty on the universe, and while it shows God's infinitely wise planning, it does not yet appear in its fullness as he plans that it shall. This earth at all events is an unfinished earth. This alone is not, however, the whole story. The universe, or the corner of it in which we live, the part of it we can do something about—this we are invited by God to help him bring toward completeness. Think, if you will, of the innumerable products—dyes, paints, foods, fabrics—made from coal tar. The Creator left it to man to bring these into existence.

#### God's mirror

From the way the Bible writers present God as Creator, we can know something about God from the things he has made. Consider how the prophet Isaiah speaks to the discouraged exiles. He bids them remember the Creator. They thought God had forgotten them; but no, God the Creator does not create only to forget. A child making mud pies might do that; but certainly not God. The people thought that God was unable to help them. Isaiah the prophet reminds them that nothing is too great for God's power to achieve. The people thought that blind and cruel fate, or chance had torn them from their homes and thrown them out into the cruelties of Babylon. The prophet assures them that the Creator is not one who works without plans. God who planned this universe has a place in that plan for every man—for you.

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## Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH

### To Fertilize Grassland

Soil moisture seems to be in excellent condition for the present time; if favorable moisture conditions continue, forage producers should be sure that plenty of plant food is in the soil for maximum yields. Inventories of hay and silage are very low on most farms, good fertility condition along with the moisture should produce bumper yields. Don't neglect liberal amounts of fertilizer on sod crops — both hay and pasture.

### To Provide Hog Pasture

Swine producers are reminded that the breeding herd can still utilize good pasture for the summer months; growing gilts and



MAX SMITH

brood sows during the gestation period make good use of quality pasture and need the outdoor exercise. Any good mixture of grass and legumes that is suitable for livestock grazing may be used for the breeding herd.

### To Be Careful With Milking Herd

The pasture season is rapidly approaching; some dairymen with winter rye or ryegrass that has been topdressed with nitrogen will soon be turning out for the first time. The herd should be allowed to graze only 15 to 20 minutes for the first few days and gradually extend the time. Feeding of hay and silage before grazing is recommended. The milking herd should not be allowed to graze on succulent pasture for at least four hours prior to the milking hour. The barn should be well ventilated at all times.

### To Protect Barnyard Manure

Manure is still a valuable by-product of any livestock enterprise providing it is properly handled. With most modern dairy herds the manure is hauled daily to the fields; with this method there is very little chance for the leaching of the fertilizer elements. However, manure that is piled out in the open weather for several months or longer, may lose most of the fertilizer value. If manure has to be stored, it should be under cover and be enclosed in a tight pit to prevent loss of the liquids. The use of super phosphate with the manure is strongly recommended to strengthen the phosphate condition of the soil.

### ● Tobacco

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The growers pointed out that the costs of imports remained lower even when account is taken of the fact that non-Cuban and non-Philippine imports pay a duty of 35 cents a pound higher than the pre-embargo imports from Cuba.

The brief said there is "every reason to believe that the anticipated gradual increase in production of cigars can be easily accomplished by increased imports at present tariff levels"

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