

From Where We Stand . . .

Who Pays Subsidies To Who?

If farmers used the same methods to produce farm products today that they used in 1940, consumers would pay an additional \$13 million for the food they eat each year.

Each family would pay an average of \$260 more for farm products than they do now.

Mrs. America has about 8,000 products to choose from at the grocery store. New products, new twists on old products and specialties that grandmother wouldn't have dreamed of are right at her finger tips

Research and applied technology have resulted in higher farm output and lower consumer prices. As an example, average meat consumption 30 years ago was 131 pounds per person and cost 5.7 per cent of the disposable income. Today 4.7 per cent of the average income buys 163.7 pounds of beef, veal, pork and lamb for each member of the family.

Some of the changes have come about with better transportation, storage, decreased waste, less spoilage, and better processing and packaging. Many other changes have occurred on the farm where the farmer is producing higher quality meat products with less work and cost.

On the farm, tests have been found to spot animals with a higher percentage of preferred cuts, and feeding methods have been developed to produce more desirable carcasses. The emphasis in livestock raising has been to develop high-meat, low-fat animals, but this wasn't always the case.

Many years ago when the price of lard was three-fourths the price of ham, buyers didn't mind fat hogs. The current price of lard is about one-fourth that of ham, reflecting less use of lard, and buyers reject animals not giving them a high percentage of desirable cuts.

But all the changes have not come easy. It takes time and money to develop a strain of livestock with the desired characteristics. It is costly and time consuming to establish a new crop or a new method.

For the most part it is the farmer who has adapted methods and developed

Our Good Neighbors

We do not normally take space in this column to mention books or other writings, but we can't help mentioning one which came to us recently

"Ada and The Wild Duck" is a delightful story about a little Mennonite girl from Lancaster County and the pet wild duck she raised and learned to love.

Edith Brecht, a former Lancaster Countian and the daughter of one of the county's best known educators, has written a heartwarming and true to life story about Ada, her family and good Mennonite neighbors.

We believe all the seven to twelve year olds in your family will enjoy reading it, and perhaps the adults will find it interesting as well.

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

DISCARDED FOOD

Seven to 10 per cent of the calories in household food are thrown away, fed to animals, or used for nonfood purposes. This is one finding from a survey that U S Department of Agriculture food economists did in cooperation with three State Experiment Stations. The data, from two urban areas and one rural community, indicate that the discarded food totals about 200 calories per day for each person.

materials to meet the consumer's demands at lower and lower prices, (percentage wise) and of better quality.

We have little patience with those who cry loud and long about government subsidies to farmers — those who look at the budget of the federal Department of Agriculture and believe all that money is going to the farmer. We hope they soon realize that a very large percentage of the USDA funds goes for consumer protection and benefit.

The farmer has been subsidizing the consumer for years and it appears that the end is not yet in sight.

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

★ ★ ★ ★ Back At The Ranch

There has been excitement in the cattle country over the importation of manufacturing-type beef — the kind of beef primarily used to make hot dogs and hamburgers.

As one importer put it, in addressing an agricultural marketing clinic at Michigan State University, U. S. cattlemen have "abandoned the hot dog and hamburger market." He buttressed that with compelling figures. "Ten years ago," he said, "the U. S. cattle industry provided 13.4 pounds of a total of 15.1 pounds of processing meat per capita to supply this very important part of the meat business. The supply has diminished to 6.5 pounds . . ." So imports have been absolutely essential to fill the gap if these products, which are in vast demand, are to be supplied in sufficient quantity.

Two other points need stressing. Trade is a two way street and if we shut off the imports from other countries retaliation will be inevitable. And the cattle industry, which sells big quantities of hides, tallow and other by-products abroad would be a major loser.

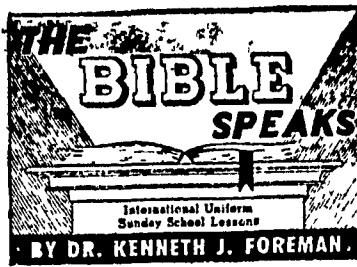
Secondly, it is difficult to see how the Administration's "war on poverty" can be advanced by drastically limiting the supply of the less expensive meats.

Former Secretary of State Christian Herter, who is now our Special Representative for Trade Negotiations, says "The most difficult and complex of the problems that face us is that of trade in agricultural products. . . . Agriculture and industry are interwoven at every point in our economy. Farmers buy a great many of your products, and farmers are more dependent upon export markets than any other major segment of the American producers. The crops on one out of every five acres cultivated here are shipped abroad. Farmers derive 15 per cent of their income from exports — whereas the United States as a whole exports only 3.8 per cent of its gross national product. Moreover, total farm exports, running at \$5.6 billion a year, amount to 27 per cent of our exports as a whole."

There is more to this beef import question than meets the eye. It is well to look farther than the surface to see if the farmer's interests are being ignored in the trade negotiations.

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

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Doing Nothing Lesson for May 10, 1964

Back and Scripture: Matthew 6:33; Mark 4:30-32; 1 Corinthians 6:12-14, 19; 20; Philippians 4:8.
Devotional Reading: Psalm 150.

SYLVIA PORTER says that a newborn baby today has a "worklife expectancy" of 41.4 years; less than if he had been born 14 years ago. This baby's leisure-expectancy that is the length of time he will not be



working at any real job for money, is 25.2 years, on the average. But even if he doesn't have so long a time out of work, his job—whatever it is—includes a good deal of leisure.

Dr. Foreman Vacations, coffee breaks, holidays—nobody wants a job with no leisure possible! Now leisure used to be described as a state of doing nothing at all. But everybody who has tried it knows that doing nothing is the most wearisome of all occupations. So the question becomes: What do you do in the time when you have nothing in particular to do?

First the kingdom

Does the Bible cast any light on this? Indeed it does, and a good thing too, for with every generation the problem of what to do with our leisure time becomes more acute. First of all, in work or rest or play, in the activities for which we expect and get no pay, there is one great principle which the Christian must always keep in sight: the principle that may be called "The Kingdom first." (Matthew 6:33.) This commandment of "Jesus is like the Ten Commandments in that it is good every day in the week. There are no holidays for the Ten Commandments; there is no holiday for the Kingdom-first principle. Now what does this mean? The Kingdom of God means a state of things where God's will is done "on earth as it is in heaven"; where the will of

the God who is Love comes to pass. The Kingdom of God, as Paul says (Romans 14:17) is "righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." Let us nail this down to our problem of leisure. The Christian principle of "Kingdom-first" means, among other things, this: The test of how you spend your leisure hours or days is whether you have used the time in such ways as harmonize with God's love—with righteousness and peace and joy.

Don't make yourself worse

One very simple and commonsense use of leisure is suggested in Mark 6:30-32, where Jesus urges his disciples to get away by themselves to rest. Here we have the hint that a vacation from even the most important work a man can do may do the man good so that he will return to the work with brighter eye and stronger hand. Resting can be doing nothing; but it can be doing nothing for a good reason. The Bible encourages resting, it has no good words for loafing. Resting is quitting when you need a rest, loafing is resting when you don't need a rest. This brings up another point. The Bible warns not once only (as in I Cor. 6:12-14) but from first to last, against self-indulgence, pandering to your own appetites. (There is spiritual self-indulgence just as there is physical, but that is another story.)

Mental bill of fare

When you go into a restaurant, in most progressive states, you can see on the wall a framed A, if the place deserves it; and you are not afraid to eat there, even if you are a stranger. Food for the mind, however, is not always labeled; which is too bad, for your mental bill of fare is just as important, indeed far more so, than food for the stomach. St. Paul gives us what is much better than a censor's blacklist, or whitelist either. He tells us what kind of things to think about. Leisure is the time for conversation, for reading, for seeing TV and the movies, for playing games. Nobody says these things are all wrong, period. But a Christian can see that it is just as possible to poison your mind with low-grade mental fare as it is to poison your body with spoiled or unwholesome food at mealtime. Mental poisons are lying around everywhere. Be sure your mind gets only Grade A stuff to digest!

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Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH

To Change Dairy Rations

Flush spring pasture is a time when both the dairyman and the cows enjoy being a part of the business, it means lower feed costs for the dairyman and a very palatable forage for the cows. With pastures including legumes such as clover or trefoil, the protein content of the dairy ration may be decreased several percent, also the amount of grain fed may also be decreased in order to realize full value of the pasture. However, it is strongly recommended that the cow herd continue to get hay or some other dry matter daily.

To Recognize Spray Timing

Many crops will be sprayed for the control of insects and diseases in the coming months. If used according to instructions, these materials should perform their intended use without causing any residue or danger to the feed or food crop. Spray operators are urged to follow the spraying instructions. At this time of the year, the use of insecticides on alfalfa or clover crops will depend upon the insect and the time of cutting. Be sure and allow enough time from spraying until harvest



MAX SMITH

To Learn Proper Stage of Maturity

One of the most important factors in harvesting top quality forage crops is cutting at the proper stage of maturity. Many producers allow their crops to become too ripe for maximum feed value. All the grasses should be cut at heading time (timothy, orchard, brome); alfalfa and clover in the bud to early bloom stage, small grains in the flowering to milk stage, except winter rye—at heading time. Don't cut forage crops according to the calendar. Observe the stage of ma-

turity and make every effort to cut promptly.

To Make Wilted Grass Silage

Livestock producers who are planning to make some grass silage, should make an effort to wilt their forage before ensiling. The extra moisture put in the silo with the direct-cut method is unwanted and has been responsible for many tons of poor quality grass silage. Wilted may be done in varying degrees (from 70% down to 50%) with good results. Better feed will be obtained if this extra moisture is left in the field.

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