

From Where We Stand . . .

Plan(t) Now For Farm Vacationer Harvest

Farm vacations across the U. S. are getting to be big business. The farm vacation business in Lancaster County hasn't reached a fraction of its potential. Over the winter is the time to be thinking about how a tourist crop might profitably be grown on your farm.

A booklet titled "How to Harvest Vacationers" published by a company that puts out a national vacation guide may help give you an idea on whether you, your family, your farm, and your area provide a suitable climate in which to grow this crop. (Copies of this booklet may be obtained free by writing to Farm Vacations, 36 East 57th Street, New York, N. Y. 10022).

For example; what do vacationers want to do on a farm? Some of them (believe it or not will pay you to let them help with the farm chores. Some like to live at the farm and spend their time traveling around the countryside. Others may want to just sit in the shade and relax.

Who are these farm vacationers? Families mostly, or children going on vacations without their parents, or retired people. They're from towns, cities, suburbs — even from foreign lands.

They may want to stay a week (that's average), or just overnight, or for several months. Most prefer to stay within 200 miles of home, but many will travel great distances.

For the most part they come with very large appetites. They want home-grown, home-cooked food, and plenty of it! They expect clean, comfortable quarters. There should be some provision for rainy-day activities for the children — perhaps a rumpus room fixed up in an unused part of the barn.

How much will farm vacationers pay? For accommodations and meals most adults will pay \$40-\$75 or so a week, and will expect to pay about \$25-\$30 per week for their children.

Whether or not the tourist crop holds any interest for you, personally, the "Pennsylvania Dutch" flavor of Lancaster County is known far and wide, and has a tremendous drawing power which will bring farm vacationers right to your backyard.

The recreation boom is not a get-rich-quick crop. But if you enjoy meeting interesting people and having company, and if you have the right physical set-up, hosting farm vacationers may be just the cash crop you've been looking for.

We have been collecting material from many sources on this subject, and in the next several weeks plan to do a feature story on the recreation business



● AFBF

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point of view, and in the long term to the best interest of farmers and ranchers, the Board should submit a specific proposal for implementing and activating a proposed acquisition to the voting delegates"

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Money In Manure?

Poultry farming in the county is big business. By the most recent count we have about 2.8 million layers in Lancaster County — nearly one-fifth of all the layers in the state. The main product, of course, is eggs. Next we hope to get a little salvage value from the sale of the fowl. But there's a by-product to the poultry business that has been too long overlooked.

It would seem that a lot of money is being thrown out on the manure pile. If a farmer grows crops he spreads the poultry manure on his fields. Or perhaps he sells it for practically nothing, or gives it to a neighbor for the hauling.

With the increase in size of the modern laying operations that are becoming commonplace in the county, manure is increasingly regarded as a real headache rather than a source of income. Why wouldn't it be practical to process this hen manure and sell it to home-owners, just as cow and sheep manures are sold?

This is certainly not a new idea. The University of Delaware did some pioneer work on dehydrating poultry manure a few years ago. There is at least one company in California that has been merchandising a dried product for several years. A company in central New Jersey has been marketing it since 1959.

With the ideal concentration of producers and consumers of such a product that we have here in southeastern Pennsylvania the idea should be thoroughly examined.

Most of the products being marketed presently handle only manure from birds kept on litter in floor operations. In our area it is the cage operator particularly who has the most critical manure disposal problem. Cage manure is concentrated and is very high in moisture content. This makes it heavier to handle and more costly to dehydrate. But in the end it should be a higher quality product than manure from floor pens because it is concentrated. It would probably have to be diluted with sand or litter before it could be sold.

The analysis of the hen manure-litter combination is about 3-3-1. This could be varied to suit by the addition of chemicals. A dehydrating plant would be costly and undoubtedly objectionable to neighbors. But if it could be centrally located and yet away from any heavily populated area, and if an economical process could be developed, and if a good market could be cultivated this outlet for a "surplus" by-product could be profitable for the poultryman.

A lot of "ifs", but the pathway to progress has always been strewn with plenty of those

What Do YOU Think?

● Penna.

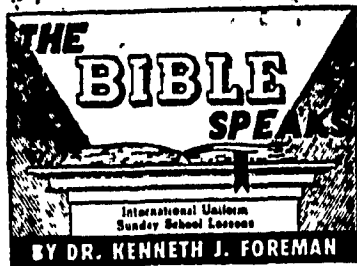
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sylvania Farm Bureau organizations

Following the vote by PFB locals, the cooperative's regional board of directors will vote on the proposal to merge PFBCA with Agway PFBCA is owned by its local associations, any of which could vote to continue operating on their own, or to join the Agway firm

The Farm Bureau Cooperative system was formed in 1934. It now includes 90 distribution points in the state. Combined membership in the local associations is about 54,000, with about 4,300 of these being members of the Lancaster County Farm Bureau Co-Op

One good thing about silence is that it can be repeated.



Three Friends

Lesson for December 13, 1964

Background Scripture: Philemon.
Devotional Reading: Galatians 3:23-29.

WHO KNOWS how to find the book of Philemon in the Bible? It is one of the shortest "books," less than a page long. Who can name two Bible books that are shorter? Without looking it up, who knows who wrote it, and what it's all about? Well, it's about three men and their strange friendship.



Strange because as most people would look at it, they didn't have much in common. One was a Dr. Foreman slave, one a prisoner (on false charges; the prison was real enough), and one a free man. What was it these three men had in common?

The Thief and the Victim

One of these three was a man of property. He was at least rich enough to own a slave. The rich man was named Philemon, the slave Onesimus. The name was a kind of joke, perhaps, for the word Onesimus in Greek means useful or beneficial. Perhaps Philemon hoped Onesimus lived up to his name. Perhaps he thought — like a modern man who has gone to the wrong used-car dealer — that he had been gypped in the used-slave deal and been stuck with a slave who would never in the world be of any real use. Anyhow, this Onesimus had decided to go to Rome. Naturally he did not consult his master about this. Rome was a long way from Colossae where he lived, so he borrowed the money (again without mentioning it to Philemon). So he became a wanted man; wanted as a runaway slave, wanted as a runaway thief. Somehow or other he got into jail at Rome, probably because he had committed some other illegal act. But in jail, besides all the usual jail-birds, he met a most unusual man named Paul, who "by chance" knew Philemon and per-

haps had seen Onesimus looking about the house. Now the strange thing here is that Paul and the thief Onesimus actually became friends. No less than Paul tried to bring together and reconcile the thief and his victim. What was it that made Paul think he could possibly persuade the two men to live together as brothers? Above the law?

Take another look at those three men. One of them, to judge from Paul's attitude to him, lived well within the law. You would have been surprised to hear of Philemon in jail. Onesimus was another sort of bird. Finding him in jail was a shock to nobody. He lived outside the law. Neither Philemon nor Onesimus, when you come to think of it, paid much attention to the law. Philemon didn't because he didn't need to. He was already a better man than the law required.

Christ is the answer

At the risk of insulting the readers' intelligence, let us suggest the answer — it is all the same one — to the questions that have been asked. What did these three men have in common? At first, perhaps little. In the end, Christ. They were all three slaves (as Paul would put it) of Christ, they were Christ's men. He is the answer to the question: how can we get over the barriers between man and man, class and class? Again, what made Paul think he could reconcile a thief and his victim? The answer is, Christ had come into the life of Onesimus. He intended to live up to his name. Christ had made a new man of him. Or again: what law is higher than the highest human court of justice? It is the law of Christ, which means the law of love. In this short letter Paul mentions Onesimus about four times, but Christ eleven times. Our human problems would not be wiped out, but we would be on the way to solving them, if Christ were invited into every tense and angry situation.

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Go To Church Sunday

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

To Keep Farm Accounts

There is little doubt that an accurate set of farm records is essential to successful farm management. In this last month of the year we urge farmers to spend some time analyzing their accounts in order to determine the enterprises most profitable and also, try to locate the practices and ventures that lost money. Several hours of "pencil pushing" between crop seasons will usually pay big dividends. Also, we urge farmers to be getting their 1965 account books ready for the new year.

To Study Income Tax Reports

We are informed of a number of changes in the farm income tax situation and in the methods of reporting. Many of these could be to the advantage of the farmer. We urge folks to become familiar with the new forms. Income Tax Guides are available at our office; in addition, on December 29th in York County there will be a district meeting for income tax reporting for farmers.

To Keep Water Pipes From Freezing

Cold weather is at hand and frozen pipes on a zero morning are not very pleasant. We suggest the pipes be buried into the ground at least two feet deep, or wrapped with electric heating cable. In this connection we caution amateur electricians of the danger of cutting the cables or permitting the wires to overlap or cross each other. These conditions could present a fire hazard. Be sure to consult your local electrician or

power company official to be safe

To Sort Tobacco Carefully

There is some controversy about the merits of doing a real good job in handling the tobacco crop as it is stripped. Some buying methods do not encourage very thorough, careful sorting and grading. However, we do feel that it is worthwhile to do a better job of grading and sorting the leaves in many instances. Since very few growers know,

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