

## From Where We Stand . . .

### Negligence!

That single word can cost you a lot of trouble and money in the days ahead.

Many words have been written of the dangers to life and limb that exist on farms. But each Spring another optimistic editor adds his words in the hope that someone may listen and profit thereby.

Many farmers maintain what is legally referred to as an "attractive nuisance". For example, a child trespassing on your farm might be attracted to your farm pond, fall in and drown. You may be involved in a legal suit if it can be proved that negligence was involved on your part. The court could decide that your negligence in not properly fencing the pond contributed to the child's death.

Farmers can also be held liable for accidents to their employees. Suppose, for example, you had permitted an employee who, was an unskilled driver to haul laborers to and from work. If one of them were injured because of the driver's lack of skill or knowledge, you might be legally held at fault.

How can a farmer protect himself from such unforeseen loss? First thing he must do is take a good close look at his farm, and clean up or remove any existing "booby traps" that could be hazardous to him, his family, friends, or even to strangers.

For example, we heard of a very

costly accident in the county last weekend. A farmer lost ten cows by electrification. We don't know the final details, but first information seemed to point directly to faulty wiring of a barn cleaner. This is a serious loss; it could have been much worse — it could easily have been one or more human lives tragically destroyed.

In addition to farm ponds and wiring there are other common causes of farm accidents, such as weak construction of ladders and stairs; poor lighting at dangerous points; pieces of wire or broken glass that could cause falls or worse. On some farms the list could be extended endlessly.

Since it is impossible to anticipate every eventuality, the next thing he may want to do is transfer some of the remaining risk to an insurance company. Such "liability" insurance is not too expensive, and it could be the means of averting a financial disaster for some farmers. There are fellow countians with ingrained convictions against any form of insurance; that is certainly their privilege. But in our "lawsuit-minded" society there are few of us who can afford to assume the entire risk.

Before Spring really breaks and floods the farms with its seasonal work schedule, take time to go over your farm with a fine-toothed comb and eliminate these traditional farm hazards. This after all is really your best, and cheapest, insurance.

### Ammon Martin

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This practice helps keep down the incidence of disease, Martin feels. He makes a swing around his supply area twice a week, and buys enough calves to keep his starting pens full. Most of these are Holsteins, but he will also buy a few crossbreds — Charolais, Angus, and Swiss all generally crossed with Holsteins. He likes to buy calves in the 90-110 pound weight range, but will take crossbreds a little lighter because their conformation is usually better and they finish out earlier than Holsteins. He buys either heifer or bull calves, but prefers the latter.

Calves are weighed into the starting pens and are weighed again when they are sent to market. Then the over-all individual feed conversion is computed. In the starting pens, where the calves stay for about ten days, there is supplemental heat furnished by hot air and by individual heat lamps. The stalls are the same as in the finishing pens — 22 inches wide, 4½ feet long and 4½ feet high. The floors of the pens are composed of a panel of flattened, galvanized, expanded metal which should last for five years or so. The pen floors are raised about one foot above the sloped concrete floor of the building. The calves

are secured to the front of their respective pens with a chain, and they only move twice while on the Martin farm — once to the finishing pens, and finally, to market. Each pen cost about \$15 to construct according to Martin, and there are 32 units in the starting room and 84 in the finishing area.

There are no windows in the starting pens. Temperatures are controlled by a combination of fans and hot air heat. In the finishing pens there are windows as well as fans, but no supplemental heat. A unique ventilating system that brings the air in and exhausts it at ceiling level to prevent floor drafts has been designed with the help of Dr. Porter.

According to Ammon Martin, it takes him and his son and daughter about three man-hours morning and evening to feed the 116-calf operation. Washing down, which is done once a day, takes about ½ hour. Under pure research conditions, the calves would be fed four times a day, but every effort has been made on this farm to keep the operation as practical as possible. For example, Martin has designed a batch mixer which can put out about 1000 pounds of requefied milk in about four minutes — not counting the time required to fill the tank with the required amount of water. The tank itself is a stainless steel pasturizer with a recirculating pump attached. Martin has ingeniously used an old one-half inch dull motor to power a home-made beater which keeps the mix agitated and perfectly blended as it is drawn off into individual buckets for feeding. The high fat milk replacer is used in three different concentrations depending upon the age and weight of the calves being fed. When on full feed, each calf receives about 14 pounds of liquid (about 2½ pounds dry matter) twice a day. The amount of milk is adjusted twice a week to meet individual needs.

The calves are fed to about

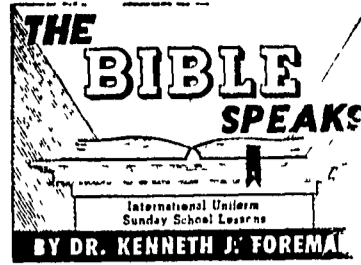
225-250 pounds body weight. As each calf is judged "finished," it goes to market. The operation has been marketing 10-12 calves per week. Martin and Dr. Porter estimated that 1.4-1.5 pounds of feed are required per average pound of gain. The most efficient gains are made up to 200 pounds body weight; after that the gain becomes more costly. Calves marketed since the operation began have graded about 75 percent Choice. Fed and managed in this way they are presently bringing about 10 cents per pound more than conventional veal calves on a carcass weight basis, according to Dr. Porter.

What is the difference between the meat quality of these calves and those raised conventionally, we asked? "The idea," Dr. Porter said, "is to produce 'anemic' meat. That is, meat with no discoloration." The only way to do this, he told us, is to keep the calves away from any feed but milk, don't bed them; don't permit them access to any source of rust; don't permit them to run about, and above all, handle them carefully all the way along the line.

The marketing cycle for these calves averages around 60 days. Although the select market that buys the total output of this farm prefers calves in the 225-250 pound weight class, they are even more interested in the degree of finish. The production goal of the Martin veal program is to turn four calves per year through the pens. It is felt that this is a conservative and reasonable expectation and that under these conditions the expectation of a fair return on the investment is good.

The keynote on this farm is management, and the secret of management is sanitation. Careful selection of stock is the first step in the sanitation program. Disinfecting and cleanliness is the second. The droppings and urine are flushed into a septic tank daily, and this reporter can

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### Yes But . . .

Lesson for March 14, 1965

Background Scripture: Matthew 21 and 22.

Devotional Reading: Matthew 7:13-20

NOBODY in his right mind would go deliberately against the will of God. Yet people do go against God every day. You have seen it done; you have done it yourself. How can this be? Are we all out of our



minds? The reason why so many people do go against God's will and commands shows (unless indeed they are "off their rock-er") one of two things about the man: Either he does not believe in God really, or else he has some common but fatal wrong notions about him.

#### Commanded to serve

Anyhow, Jesus told two parables that have to do with the disregard of God on the part of man. These are the parables of the Two Sons and of the Wedding Feast, with the difficult little postscript parable of the Wedding Garment. These bring out still another reason why people disregard God's wish and will. They deceive themselves into supposing that to acknowledge God's commands is enough. They have no intention of disobedience, they just aren't quite ready to obey. They have an attitude which might be given the name "Yes, but . . ." Yes, but not now.

The first of these parables is one of the simplest and plainest Jesus ever spoke. A father has two sons; he gives them both the same order. One son says, "Yes sir," but did not go. The other son said, "I will not," but he changed his mind and went. Jesus asks a very simple question: Which of the two did what his father wished? The answer,

was so obvious that even the stupidest Pharisee had to say it right: "The one who DID his father's will." The first boy acknowledged his father's authority, he said, "Yes sir" politely enough; but he let his "yes" take the place of obedience. How often that happens in real life!

#### Invited to enjoy

The second parable, about the king's wedding feast, is rather more astonishing. Here there is no work to be done, there is only a party and a dinner to enjoy. There is no command, just an invitation. Yet the king for some strange reason is snubbed by his own people, his guests that never were. Some were wicked murderers, but some were just busy and preoccupied people. They had no intention of rebelling against the king. Their trouble was simply that they had other fish to fry, they couldn't be bothered, they regretted . . . and so forth. But whether for a good reason, or none at all, they didn't come. This seems strange behavior for invited guests at a palace; yet it happens every day. The lazy son left work undone; the I-don't-care guests simply cut themselves out of a good time.

#### Expected to appreciate

That little story of the man without a wedding garment has puzzled many. Here is one meaning that has been found in it: The guest's lack of proper clothes was his own fault, for the custom was for the host to give every one present a special robe for the occasion. But instead of appreciating the royal gift, this sorry individual tosses it into a corner and comes in his old clothes. We are like that man when we take some wonderful gift from our God and hardly thank him for it at all.

So: whether God is ordering us to do, or inviting us to enjoy, or expecting us to appreciate, how often we just ignore him!

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### ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE ON SUNDAY

## Now Is The Time . . .

**To Topdress Winter Wheat**  
Growers of winter wheat that have not seeded then crop down to either alfalfa or red clover, may want to apply from 30 to 50 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre during this month. On soil from which nitrogen leaches easily (sand, shale, or gravel) the wheat will surely respond to nitrogen. Crops that have been seeded to a legume should not receive more than 25 pounds of nitrogen in order to prevent shading and lodging. Early spring when growth starts is the time for this nitrogen application.

**To Consider Linear Programming**  
Our Penn State Extension Service is now introducing the use of electronic computers to provide farmers and agricultural businesses more accurate answers to their planning and management problems. This is intended for larger operations and will be used in a limited manner this year. There will be a cost for this service to the farmer. Interested persons may contact our Extension Office.

#### To Support Farm & Home Center

The campaign drive to raise money to erect the Farm and Home Center has been carried to all parts of the county and city. The intended goal of \$375,000 has reached the halfway mark, we again call your attention to the merits and the need of this Center. Many pledge cards have not been completed and returned to the campaign office. We suggest reconsideration and a contribution to this worthwhile project.

#### To Inspect New Alfalfa Stands

Many summer seedings of alfalfa did not get much of a start before winter set in last fall. These small plants may have been winter-killed or the freezing and thawing of open ground may have heaved the roots out of the ground. We are aware of many poor stands that are questionable to depend on a good crop. In many cases it might be more profitable to disc the area and make a new seeding this spring. Late March or early April seedings should give several hay crops this year with normal rainfall. Seeding without any nurse crop, then spraying for weed control, is giving good results.



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