

From Where We Stand . . .

Out Of Sight, Out Of Mind

While this trite old expression may be suitable for many things, it definitely should not apply to pollution of our underground water supplies.

According to Dr. Grover H. Emrich, Pennsylvania Department of Health, this is the unfortunate attitude that seems to prevail. "It is normally more difficult to pollute these underground sources than surface water, but once polluted ground water may remain contaminated for 50-100 years," he warns. "Surface water, on the other hand, can recover rapidly once the source of pollution is eliminated."

Dr. Emrich claims that certain areas, such as those over limestone layers — as Lancaster County — are especially susceptible to ground water pollution due to improper waste disposal. About 50 percent of the county is underlain by limestone, and about one-fourth of the ground water in that area is believed to be polluted, according to Dr. Emrich. These areas of pollution are naturally in the more densely populated parts of the county in and around the larger cities.

Emrich has observed that individuals, communities and industries are inclined to be quite lax in their attitudes about pollution of this important source of water as indicated by their careless disposal of wastes. "People have been dumping their wastes into the ground for years," Emrich says. "Since it goes out of sight, they have little further concern about it."

The State Sanitary Water Board has approved deep disposal wells in five

areas of the state for safe disposal of industrial wastes. This was done only after careful study to be sure that drinkable ground water will not be polluted in the process.

As our county continues to suffer the pains of expanding population pressures this problem will become increasingly pertinent. It is one to which our communities must pay increasing attention.

What Do You Think?



Cattle Cycle

All indications are that the cattle cycle is at a turning point. The "experts" seem fairly agreed that a decline in cattle numbers is in the offing for this year, in spite of the two-percent increase in cattle inventory on January 1, 1965. That increase was less than for either of the two preceding years.

The last downswing in cattle numbers was in 1955, and that lasted only three years. Since 1958 the industry has been on an upswing. In the past year the rate of slaughter has been well above 1963 — 13 percent, and so far this year it is continuing near 1964 levels.

Will this mean higher prices for cattle feeders? To a great extent that would appear to depend on the weather. If the wide-spread drought were to continue this year it would force higher movements of cow herds to slaughter. Lacking that, it is predicted that prices for the balance of the year will remain near year-ago levels. But the overall price trend appears favorable.

Free-Stall

(Continued from Page 1)

free of hay and straw, and breaking the frozen chunks too large for the liquid spreader. He has had no trouble with the spreader emptying the pit when the manure was completely mixed.

The 775-gallon spreader uses a vacuum to pull the liquid manure through a four-inch hose from the pit in the field. The process is reversed. The manure is sprayed over a 20 ft. wide area by using about five pounds of pressure on the tank.

The cows are milked in the 17 stalls in the original cow stable.

Jacob finds these definite advantages to the free-stall system: 1) Cows are cleaner — no currying needed; 2) less trouble with trampled teats to detect heat cows; 3) cows are healthier.

Houser is sold on this way of handling cows. "We have small acreage and went to this for year-around stored feeding," he said. "Hired help is also a problem so we needed a one-man operation to handle more cows."

"We are very well pleased," he continued. "But it cost a lot of money. This is not an opinion — it is a fact" — he amusingly concluded.

PART II

by Don Timmons, Editor

"Free-stall housing cut our bedding costs alone from \$15 per day per barn, to about 30 cents per cow for the whole winter," said Sherwood "Pete" Hufford, manager of the Stroud Dairy Farm near Kennett Square.

The Stroud Farm has completed three years with this system of management. For one year prior to putting in stalls they used loose housing alone, and consumed about one-half ton of straw daily to bed the cows in each of two barns. The savings from reduced bedding costs paid for



COWS "TAKING IT EASY" IN FREE-STALLS AT THE STROUD DAIRY The stalls are raised about 8 inches above the concrete walkway, and they contain about 4 inches of packed sawdust over a sand and gravel fill. The stalls measure 4 feet by 8 feet and cost \$16.40 to build, including materials, labor, and concrete walkway.

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the stalls the first year, Hufford calculates.

According to Hufford it cost \$16.40 to construct each stall, including labor, materials, and an 8-foot wide concrete walkway between the rows of stalls. There are 54 stalls in one barn, and 66 in the other. The buildings are tussled, pole barns with the south sides open. Hufford estimated building costs at \$1 per square foot.

Although the wood stalls are 4 feet by 8 feet, Hufford felt that a length of 7½ feet would be preferable since more of the manure would be dropped outside the stall. Four inches of sawdust is used for bedding, and the stalls are completely cleaned about three or four times each year. No time is spent currying the cows and yet they appeared remarkably clean. The only daily cleaning maintenance consists of scraping the manure from the end of the

stall onto the walkway. From there the operation is mechanized. A tractor with a rear scraper attachment pulls the manure from the walks into the concreted exercise yard. From there it is pushed into (Continued on Page 12)

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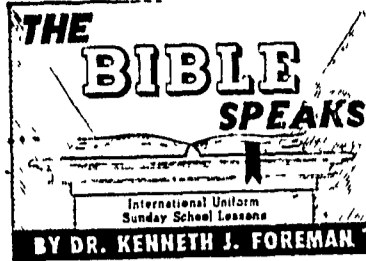
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Are You Ready?

Lesson for March 28, 1965

Background Scripture: Matthew 25
Devotional Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

AFTER a person has died, obituaries are written. People who knew the dead man (or woman) will recall the circumstances and achievements, if any, of the man who is now gone. His life and character will be



judged by many, if he is a prominent person known all over the nation; or by few if his life was obscure. But judged he will be, more than Dr. Foreman ever in his lifetime, for good or ill. The story is closed, the evidence is all in . . . But no, it is not all in. There is much about every human being which others can never know. Only God has all the evidence, only God knows what the man was really like, inside. So God and only God can be the final judge. Only he can say "Well done!" at last.

The door can be shut

Our Lord told a number of parables about the last judgment. It is true that many of his judgments do not wait for some Last Day; injustice and other sins are often punished almost soon as committed.

One of these parables is the familiar one about the ten maidens, five wise and five foolish. There are three points that most people would say are very clear here. One is that there is going to be a closed door, and not everybody will be on the same side. As has been said by a famous man, we should not feel too sure about the furnishings of heaven nor the temperature of hell; but we can't shut our eyes to that closed door. There comes a time when it is no

longer possible to hope. There comes a time when choice is no longer possible, a time when the very One who invited you must say to you, "I never knew you." It is not true (though we may wish it were) that every soul on earth is heavenward bound. Some sin themselves—or sleep themselves!—into the outer darkness.

What you don't do

Those foolish virgins who found themselves shut out from the wedding feast could say truthfully that they had done nothing wrong. Maybe not; the trouble with them was not what they did but what they forgot to do. They were not malicious nor selfish; they had simply not been thinking, they were not ready for a simple emergency such as the bridegroom's coming late. It is pretty easy to think of the bad things we never did; and take credit to ourselves for not doing them. It is easy to take credit for the good things we have done. It's a sorry sort of person who has never done something good! But these foolish girls were not shut out because of anything they had done; it was what they didn't do.

Fatal as sin

There is no parable of Five Wicked Virgins. Only of Five Foolish Virgins. You can't just hear them saying, "I didn't think . . ." Not thinking was silly. But foolishness can be as fatal as sin. How often we hear the story, how often we have taken a part in it ourselves! "I might have known that remark would hurt her, but I didn't think . . ." "It never occurred to me how badly I had been treating Negroes . . ." "I had a chance at an education, but I was only a high school kid, and I didn't think . . ." "I wish I had let her know while she was living how much I appreciated her, but I never thought . . ." "The stuff had been in the refrigerator quite a while, but I didn't think . . ."

So it goes, and it will go, to the end of time perhaps. But it is not Judgment Day yet. Your list of "I didn't think" may be a long one; but you can stop adding to it today. Think! Are you ready?

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Now Is The Time . . .

To Spray Wild Garlic

Dairymen who have the problem of wild garlic in their pasture are reminded that early spring is one of the best times to spray the area, the use of 2,4-D in the ester form at the rate of one to one and-a-half pounds per acre each spring will go far toward the elimination of this weed. By spraying very early in the spring the wild garlic plants are easier to kill and less damage is done to legumes in the pasture mixture.

To Study Soil Test Report

As many farmers have learned, the complete soil test report has been changed in the past two years, most of the fertilizer recommendations are in pounds of plant food per acre rather than pounds of a certain grade of fertilizer. This requires some evaluation and planning in order to provide the needed soil elements. We suggest that farmers follow the recommendations and with the use of the Agronomy Guide, figure the cheapest form of fertilizer needed to provide the requested amounts.

To Add Phosphate to Manure

Barnyard manure continues to be an important source of plant food to local farmers. With the very heavy livestock and poultry population in this area, the proper care and handling of manure is essential. If it is to be stored and held, it should be under roof where weather elements will not have a chance to leach out the plant food. All manures are low in phosphorus and in this area the majority of soils are also low in phosphorus; this means that the adding of super-phosphate to manure will make it more balanced and useful. Phosphat-

ed manure will contain about 5 pounds each of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash per ton; without being phosphated the amount of phosphorus per ton is only 2½ pounds.

To Force Easter Lambs

For many years the peak of the spring lamb prices has been at Easter time; many light-weight lambs will bring the same amount of money at Easter as they will several months later at heavier weights. We suggest a creep feeder for the lambs where they can eat liberal amounts of grain in addition to their mother's milk.



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