

From Where We Stand . . .

Soil Stewardship Week

Soil Stewardship Week, May 23-30, is an annual observance sponsored by the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (NACD). It is a reminder of our regard for life — for our own, that of our fellowmen, of future generations, and of all living things. It is a reminder that a concern for life must also be a concern for the physical resources upon which life depends.

The stewardship concept is one that visualizes every American as a steward of the land. No matter where he lives, each has a vested interest in the land — each is dependent upon it and each is responsible for its care.

In the current issue of Soil Conservation, administrator D A Williams reminds us that conservation is a constant task. It is concerned with keeping the land alive and prosperous.

"The margin of life is thin, indeed, under our feet," Williams says. "Our most productive soil is a shallow layer spread over an inhospitable land mass. When it is gone it can not be replaced. When it has gone, history tells us, nations and entire civilizations have declined and vanished."

Williams quoted some figures from a recent report that showed how far we have yet to go in our constant battle for conservation. Conservation problems are still inadequately treated on 62 percent of the cropland, 73 percent of the non-federal pasture and range, and 55 percent of non-federal forest and woodland, the report shows.

"The immediate need is to conserve," Williams writes. "Prevention is our first responsibility. It by far the least costly of the alternatives."

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Operation REASON

Secretary Freeman has announced a special program to simplify operations of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS). The purpose of this program, he said, is to improve services to farmers while reducing administrative and operating costs. This approach is in accord with Pre-

sident Johnson's long term plan for increased efficiency and economy in government.

The program has been named "Project SIMPLER", which stands for the phrase "Simplify and Improve Methods, Procedures, Layout, Equipment, Reports and Records".

We admire this honest effort toward increased efficiency and economy in government, even though it doesn't really sound very "simple". We feel sure somehow, someone along the way will manage to complicate it horribly before it reaches near completion. But we appreciate the effort!

In line with this type of economy thinking we'd like to suggest a sister project for SIMPLER that might go considerably beyond this early effort. Let's call it "Operation REASON". This could stand for the phrase "Removal of Entrenched Agencies and Services of Obsolete Nature".

If you'd like to exercise your imagination, and play this little word game with us, see what sort of "constructive" phrases you can concoct. If we get a collection of them we'll send them on to the USDA as Lancaster County's contribution to economy thinking.

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Order of the Day — Clean Sheets!

It was reported by David Brinkley one night this week on the televised Huntley-Brinkley Report that the Ku Klux Klan is interested in improving its public "image". It has been discovered that some of the members are showing up at meetings in — of all things — dirty sheets!

Therefore, the order has gone out from the big wheels that all members attending meetings are to be garbed in clean sheets. Now we're certainly in favor of clean sheets, but we happen to believe their place is on beds — not used to mask the identity of cowards who prowl in the dark in packs like jackals.

The KKK could stand to improve its image all right, but it takes more than a clean sheet to cover an evil heart!

Spurling

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Seitz, Chief, Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratories, and Dean Allam assured Lancaster Farming that the poultry diagnostic service at New Bolton would be available as usual. This will be accomplished through the use of present personnel and by the addition of Dr. Dodd, a classical diagnostic pathologist as of July 1st. It was also suggested that an effort is being made to bring in another well known poultry pathologist in the near future.

Dr. Spurling has many friends among the county's poultrymen, and we join them in wishing him well in his new job.

USDA Considers Termination Of Federal Milk Order For Delaware Valley Area — Del., Penna., N.J.

The U S Department of Agriculture announced this week it is considering terminating the Delaware Valley Federal milk marketing order, which sets minimum prices paid to dairy farmers for milk distributed in the Philadelphia, Pa. and Wilmington Del. metropolitan areas, and in most of southern New Jersey. Comments are invited.

Consumer and Marketing Service officials said audits by the market administrator of cooperative association and milk dealer records have revealed widespread practices resulting in undercutting and established minimum order prices.

The termination action is

being considered, the officials said, because there is substantial reason to believe that the present order may no longer carry out the purposes established by Congress in authorizing the Federal milk order program.

Notice of the proposed termination will appear in the Federal Register May 22. Interested persons may submit views and comments up until June 11. These should be sent, in four copies, to the Hearing Clerk, Room 112-A, U S Department of Agriculture, Washington, D C 20250. The Hearing Clerk will make all such submissions available for public inspection.

Crop Reporting Service To Conduct Survey

On-the-spot counts of people, farm animals and crops in 350 agricultural areas, selected at random, will be made in 65 Pennsylvania counties beginning Monday, May 24.

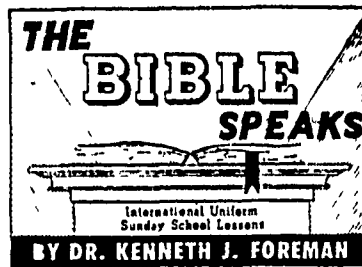
The survey, under the direction of the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service, State Agriculture Department, is to be completed by June 5. It is part of a nationwide study being made by the U S Department of Agriculture.

Thirty-three enumerators, selected from 31 counties, will gather facts during personal

interviews in the designated areas, according to Dewey O. Boster, agricultural statistician in charge of the PCRS. Only Philadelphia and Pike counties are not included in the survey area, he said.

Information obtained by the enumerators will supplement facts obtained in regular agricultural census studies made by mail twice a year. Statistics obtained in these surveys are used to prepare crop and livestock reports that are required in modern agriculture.

A series of training sessions for enumerators was conducted by Donald L. Keating, agricultural statistician of the PCRS.



Nation Under God

Lesson for May 23, 1965

Background Scripture: II Samuel 6 through 8
Devotional Reading: Psalm 122

NEW JERSEY is said to be the most populous state in the nation; that is to say, it has more people per square mile than any other state. Naturally there are all kinds of people in these crowds, and among them some



atheists. Just before these lines were written a few atheists had tried—and failed—to get a grand jury to rule that the U S flag and a banner with the words "One Nation Under God" could not legally be displayed at the same time. Now there once was a small nation, the ancestor of modern Israel, where such a suit in court would have seemed ridiculous. The ancient Israelites had no notion that their country could be anything but God's country and people. One nation under God; that was what they rightly believed God meant them to be.

Visible religion

More has been learned about religion by now than those people knew. But they did know one thing we have never outgrown; they believed that religion ought to be visible. Now it can be visible in either or both of two ways. Religion makes itself visible as morality; that is an important truth but it is another story. Religion also is made visible in institutions and practices called cults; and this is part of what "under God" would have meant to them.

The arts in religion

In ancient Israel the center of visible religion was the Ark, a golden box you could set on a large desk, beautifully made of carved cedar and covered with gold leaf. That Ark, and the Temple afterwards built to house it, suggest another lasting feature of this ancient faith namely that

the arts are or can be a strong and moving element in religion. True, there are sects of Christians who deliberately make their churches and their worship as bare and plain as possible. But the main stream of religion is allied with the great arts. In the time of David, the reader will note in these short chapters something about the dance, about an orchestra, about architecture. David the King was both a poet and a musician, so no wonder he felt that the Ark which symbolized the presence of God ought to have the most beautiful temple over it that a royal treasury could buy.

Sacred and secular

Some people think of "sacred" as meaning something shut off or shut in, something quite different from ordinary occupations and concerns. These ordinary, Monday-to-Saturday businesses and occupations of worktime or leisure, are often called worldly or secular. Sacred and secular are supposed to be opposites. Not so with these ancient people of God. To their minds there was no "secular" in their vocabulary. When we speak of a nation under God, some people are afraid we are confusing nation and church, and think we would be much worse off than we are; if we tried to run the country like a church. This is true. But that is not what God intends nor demands. In a nation under God there is room for all the "secular" aspects of life. The reader will notice that in ancient Israel there was (for example) room and need for a strong international policy (David put his little country on the map!); for an efficient organization (specialized jobs for specially qualified people), and for strong leadership by those who would put the good of their country above all personal gain. David's little group of scribes, secretaries and so on was a long way from the complex and enormous armies of specialists now needed in government, but it does show one thing: there's no conflict between religion and efficiency. Indeed, doesn't each need the other?

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ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE ON SUNDAY

Now Is The Time . . .

To Control Flea Beetles

A small, round, black insect has been bothering young corn and tomato plants, in the near future they may attack the young tobacco plants. The field may be sprayed with 3 pounds of 50% WP Sevin, or with 1 Pint of Parathion, or with 3 pounds of 50% WP Methoxychlor; these are the amounts per acre along with at least 25 gallons of water. Heavy infestations will hinder the proper growth of young plants.

To Plant Soybeans

Farmers who are planning to grow soybeans for hay or silage can figure on the ground being warm enough about two weeks after corn planting time. The beans do best in a slightly acid soil (6.5 to 7.0) and one that has been well prepared as for any other small grain. The seed should be inoculated with the proper bacterial culture and both phosphorus and potash fertilizer added; nitrogen fertilizer is not needed for soybeans. Under average conditions from 60 to 80 pounds per acre of each phosphorus and potash should be applied separate from the seeding operation. The fertilizer should be drilled deeply after plowing and before planting. The fertilizer should not come into contact with the soybean seed

To Protect Strawberry Plants

In case of cooler weather and the danger of frost, we'd like to remind strawberry growers that the crop can be protected with an irrigation system, or any sprinkler system. The system should be started when the air temperature near the ground drops to 33 degrees and continue spraying constantly until the air gets warmer and the ice melts that has formed on the plants. Plants have been saved in temperatures as low

as 26 degrees with constant irrigation.

To Trim Livestock Feet

During the winter's confinement period many dairy cattle and other breeding animals have less chance to exercise and keep their feet worn down. As a result, their toes become long and their weight is shifted back too far on the heel. If this is not corrected, there will be severe strain on the pasterns.

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