

From Where We Stand . . .

Farmers' Goal — Cheap Food?

Has any contemporary political figure ever said "Farmers of America, you are fools! You make it possible for the great American consumer to spend a pittance for food so that she can spend a fortune on luxuries. And you do it at your own expense."

Not that we have ever heard. More likely they give the farmers an offhanded pat on the head for the fine production job they are doing for the politician's constituents back home. And they echo the wrath of their constituents if the retail price of meat, milk, or eggs goes up a few cents.

Why should the farmer take pride in producing food at a price which more often than not does not cover his average cost of production? Why should the farmer invest his capital and labor so that the American consumer can be the best fed in the world and at the lowest cost (19 cents out of each spending dollar)?

As the American Dairy Association points out in its newsletter "Tips", there is frequently a human cost in producing cheap food and fiber that is often overlooked. That human factor is the American farmer.

Most consumers can afford to pay more for food than they are now paying. Economists claim that demand for most food products is "inelastic". That means that for a given change in price, there will be a less than proportional change in demand. For example, people don't suddenly curtail buying eggs when the price goes up 10 or 15 cents. If the price gets extremely out of line with comparable products they may eventually buy less eggs and more of some other food item. "Tips" makes the interesting point that homemakers are not generally aware of actual prices paid for specific foods, they are more likely to have a total food budget within which they try to stay.

As the growing population demands more and more food, and as the number of farms get fewer, but larger, farmers are going to be more business-minded than they are today. And they are going to be considerably less willing to invest their money for such a marginal return.

But that may be a long time coming. Right now the farmer has little control over the retail price of food. There is too much production, and therefore competition dictates the price. The farmers' share of the food dollar has constantly shrunk in recent years, and yet retail prices have increased. The reason for this is that there is more being done to farm products after they leave the farm than was once true. The marketing system provides more services, packaging, labor and processing costs are all up. The so-called "built-in" maid service that is added to a product after it leaves the farm increases almost daily. But the farmer plays no part in this part of the food business, so does not profit from it.

One solution might be for farmers to consider doing a bigger share of the total food-producing job. Grow it, process it, and market it. This can't be done practically by individual farmers, except on a small scale. But it can be done by farmer-owned and controlled companies. The big boys are getting into it, why not the family farmer?

What Do YOU Think?

The Myth Of Everlasting Plenty!

In the early days of America the comparatively small population looked upon the natural resources of this land of milk and honey as endless. Unfortunately, that myth has been perpetuated to this day.

Now we know that there is a measurable limit to many of these resources — oil, coal, land. And now we are gauging the growing numbers of people and the demands of industries against a measurable amount of water — the one resource without which life can not survive.

One very important step has been taken this past week — long overdue action on the chronic water shortage in the northeast. It has now become a matter of national attention. Senator Aiken's water bill has cleared the Senate and is expected to receive quick and positive action in the House. This bill would provide outright government money grants plus ample loans for rural water systems.

In addition, plans for getting started on a practical, large scale program for desalinization of sea water are getting under way. That we have come to this in the few hundred years that this nation has existed is a little frightening. There is no chance that our generation will make a serious dent in the seas, but at the present rate of water consumption we wonder how many more generations it will take to drink up the ocean, for all practical purposes.

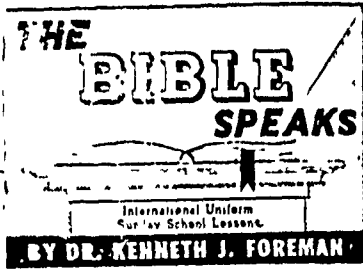
Again, the myth of endlessness is being applied to a natural resource; this time it's the ocean. We should develop a large scale desalinization program, but it should be for emergency use only — that is to balance out the uneven rainfall from year to year. To regard it otherwise puts the country into the position of the little old widow who finds that she can not live on the interest from her investments so she spends a little of her principal each year, hoping that she won't outlive the last of that fund. She can take a calculated risk because she's concerned only with her own life. But as a nation, we have to provide, hopefully, for endless generations to follow. We can not morally spend their principal.

The only long-run answer is education, as it seems to be the answer to so many of our current problems. According to the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, education at the elementary school level in the functions and importance of conservation of natural resources is practically non-existent. They hope to remedy this lack through a massive educational effort. They can use all the help they can get!

This concern over drinking up the sea may seem a bit ridiculous — and if looked at only in the span of one short, human lifetime, it is. In future generations the sea will be needed for its bountiful harvest of food. It is also valuable for transportation — undoubtedly less so in coming years — and for recreation. But food is its greatest treasure.

So let's prepare to drink it in emergencies, but through better conservation measures and education let's limit those emergencies.

What Do YOU Think?



Purity First
Lesson for August 22, 1965

Background Scripture: Galatians 5:13-26.
Devotional Reading: Colossians 3:1-10.

ABOUT THE only place where a man can safely do as he pleases is inside a padded cell. An old-time ruffian, swinging his fists and spoiling for a fight, shouted, "I can swing my fist anywhere I please, they ain't no-



body to stop me, this is a free country, see?" A quiet man there present retorted, "But your freedom to swing your fist stops where my nose begins!" Maybe Dr. Foreman neither man was a Christian, but the story shows that you don't have to be a Christian to see that freedom always has its limits. If a man does exactly what and as he likes, he is pretty sure to do what somebody else doesn't like, and that is where the trouble begins.

A Mistake About Freedom

Many religious people, who maybe have more "religion" than common sense, make the same mistake about freedom. They know two things which are true, but they put them together wrong. They know they have been "called to freedom," which is one of Paul's ways of describing conversion, called from slavery into a free world. They know too that God is a gracious God and has forgiven them their sins. True; but then these people go on to a wrong conclusion. They think that now they have reached that happy land where they can do just as they please, and God won't mind a bit. People in Paul's time made the same mistake. They "mistook liberty for license." They used their freedom as if it were freedom to do wrong. They supposed that freedom meant that a kindly God excused them from all responsibility, that they could break all his laws and not displease

The New Puritanism

It used to be true of run-of-the-mill puritans that they would judge a man by some one particular point. If he made good on that, he was rated a Christian; if not, he was out. For instance, a great and good man arrived in Korea on a preaching mission; but he got off the plane with a cigar in his hand. That killed him for some of the old-style puritans who saw or heard of it. He couldn't be a Christian, he smoked! But the modern puritan turns it upside down. His position is that if only a man is concerned with the race question, and preferably has taken part in demonstrations somewhere, then God will overlook everything else. We can see the absurdity, now, of saying, "He must be a Christian; he doesn't smoke." It is as wrong to say a man has fulfilled his Christian ideal when he has a good personal character, as it is to say he is all a Christian should be if he has a sense of social justice. Personal purity AND social justice, — being a Christian includes both. But personal purity comes first. Doing good in society, real, enduring good, if it comes out of a pure heart, has a stronger base than when it is done by those who have low personal ideals, or none.

The Disinherited

A man who knew God if any one ever did, the apostle Paul, wrote to clear up this matter, for some people he knew in Galatia. He draws up (Gal. 5, our "background Scripture") two lists, one of acts or habits which are in harmony with God ("fruits of the Spirit" he calls them) and also a list of deadly sins. The bad list starts with immorality and impurity. Persons who do such things, he tells us, are disinherited. God will not take them into his kingdom. If you will look at these two lists, you will find that the life described on what I have called the "bad list" is easier by far than living by the good list. To put it better: Living like God is always harder than living like the devil.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Released by Community Press Service.)

ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE ON SUNDAY

Now Is The Time . . .

To Apply For Federal Gas Tax Refund

The four cent per gallon federal tax amounts to a good amount of money on many farms. Claims for this refund must be filed by September 30. Form 2240 Gas Tax Refund can be secured at the local Internal Revenue Office. This covers gasoline purchased between July 1, 1964 and June 30, 1965. Gasoline used in the direct production of farm commodities is eligible for refund.

To Introduce Heifers To Milking Routine

Dairy heifers that will be freshening for the first time this fall should be given some attention prior to their coming into production. We'd suggest that the heifers be introduced into the milking herd several weeks before they are due to freshen, they should be tied into their milking stalls along with the other cows and become accustomed to the milking routine and other procedures. They should be fed each time in order to get them into good condition.

To Use a Good Boar Hog

Many swine producers know the importance of a good boar but are reluctant to pay the price of a performance tested sire. Much has been done in recent years to improve the rate of gain, feed conversion, and carcass quality. These traits can be selected for in a good hog and will help improve the pig crop and increase profits. A herd-improving sire does not cost the owner money, he pays the owner extra dividends.

To Use Adapted Varieties

Winter grain seeding time is approaching when many

farmers should be ordering their needs. We urge growers to select the varieties that will do the best for them and to use good quality seed. The best way to be sure of this is to buy certified seed. If home-grown seed is to be used it should be tested for germination and weed seeds, and be treated with a fungicide for disease control. Pennrod is the leading winter barley variety with Wong and Hudson also acceptable. For winter wheat Redcoat is on everyone's list with Pennoll and Seneca continuing to get some acreage.



MAX SMITH

Lancaster Farming
Lancaster County's Own Farm
Weekly
P. O. Box 266 - Lititz, Pa.
Offices:
22 E. Main St.
Lititz, Pa.
Phone: Lancaster
394-3047 or
Lititz 626-2191
Don Timmons, Editor
Robert G. Campbell, Asst. Editor
Publishing Director
Established November 4, 1955. Published every Saturday by Lancaster Farming, Lititz, Pa.

Weather Forecast

Temperatures for the five-day period, Saturday through Wednesday, are expected to average below normal. It will be cooler at the beginning of the period with little day to day change thereafter. Normal high for this period is 84 degrees; low, 62.

Precipitation will probably total less than 1/2 inch occurring as showers Monday night or Tuesday, with largest amounts near the coast.

● NFU

(Continued from Page 1)

the national office at Denyer, Colo., were Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Graham James McHale, field representative for NFU in western Pennsylvania, also attended with his family.

Blevins was proud to quote the field staff members to the effect that this group seemed to be the brightest and most interested of the groups in the five-state area in which these youth camps have been held.