

From Where We Stand . . .

Agriculture On The Move

For the most part, 1965 has been a pretty fair year for farmers. But all indications are for a much better year in 1966. As the space people say, "All Systems Are GO".

After being at the low end of the economic totem pole for many years, farming is beginning to move. A balance of supply and demand, plus the new emphasis on attacking world hunger problems, have combined to provide the boost needed to put agriculture into a perfect economic orbit around the earth.

Farmers have undoubtedly heard such rosy talk before, and are properly skeptical in their outlook. But look at the facts. Surpluses of food products have been whittled down to their lowest levels in years; the domestic population and economy is expanding rapidly; fewer farmers are still in business to meet this increasing demand; and there's a worldful of hungry people out there screaming for the one commodity we know how to produce better than anyone else — FOOD.

Predictions are that the world's present population of three billion will double by the year 2000, and that's only a shade more than one generation away. Since at least one-third of the world's people are not now eating regularly or adequately, this means that food output will probably have to triple by the turn of the century to fill those empty stomachs.

We said in an editorial, "Food Is A Weapon", published just over one year ago (see Lancaster Farming, Dec. 5, 1964), regarding Secretary Freeman's statement made at a Freedom-From-

Hunger-Week dinner, in which he said that America had the ability and the moral obligation to feed the world, that "... not discounting the humanitarian aspects involved in this philosophy, nor detracting from the fact that this would be the 'good' thing to do, we say in all seriousness, yes, let's do it, but let's use food as a tool, as a weapon to swing the balance of power in our favor for a change. We have been out-propagandized by the Communists at every turn, time and again. Now we have the greatest propaganda weapon in the world, food, and if we're not very careful how we use it we will throw away that advantage too."

We were glad to see the complete change in philosophy which recently removed the Food For Peace program from the control of the Department of Agriculture to the State Department. This meant that instead of being a dumping ground for our surpluses — another give-away program — food would be used as a political and an economic tool to combat hunger and Communism, and to show the underdeveloped nations, first-hand, one of the many advantages of democracy.

A further step taken in this program is even more encouraging. One of the strings attached to giving food will be that the receiving nations must develop their own agricultural resources, with our help, so that they can eventually satisfy their own food needs. This philosophy is much more sound than the strictly limited idea of doling out our excesses on a never-ending basis. Helping others to help themselves is undoubtedly the greatest gift of all.



Letters To The Editor

Dear Sir

Congratulations to Lancaster Farming on its 10th birthday.

As one who helped guide the fortunes of the paper for a time, I am pleased to see that you are still covering the agricultural side of the news in America's best farming community.

Many miles of furrow have rolled off the moldboard and many lines of type have gone into history since Lancaster county farmers and Lancaster Farming put on double harness. Revolutionary changes in agriculture have brought changes in the newspaper, but it is pleasant to note that the wholesome basis of each has not changed.

May your next hundred years be as successful as the past ten have been.

Sincerely,
Jack Owen

University of Maryland

Watershed

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sified cultivation on farms, and increased home building, it becomes evident that the District's efforts to sell prop-

er soil and water management during the past thirty years have been fruitful.

In discussing future needs created by increasing population pressures, Staffer said that the US will require twice its present amount of agricultural production by 1980, and by the year 2000, production of wood from forest resources will have to be doubled. But each year, he told the farmers, this country is taking more than one million acres out of production for highways, housing and other urban needs. In addition to that loss of land, there are half a million acres needlessly lost annually due to erosion and poor land management. He suggested that fighting that annual loss was the primary function of the District and could be done through better management.

County Conservationist Maresch presented some interesting facts and figures to the group illustrated by colored slides.

"Conservation makes dollars and cents facts," he said. He quoted figures from a study in York County showing the costs of cleaning and maintaining road edges and banks. In rural, uncontrolled areas costs ran to \$500 per mile, in the non-rural, controlled areas the costs averaged \$39 per mile. Millions of dollars are spent each year, Maresch said, in cleaning the soil out of our harbors. Soil lost in these ways represents a loss of future production and a loss of income to farmers.

There are between four and twenty tons of soil lost per cultivated acre every year in the US, Maresch said. Over the years, our farms have lost 25 percent of their original topsoil, he told the farmers.

"The Soil Conservation Service was set up to help farmers and land owners combat these erosion problems,"

the conservationist said. He told the group how SCS went about doing this job based on an inventory of soils and conditions on each individual farm, and a consideration of the use the land owner wanted to put the farm. He told the farmers there are 82 different soil types in Lancaster County alone, and that different soils require different treatment.

In discussing water management on farms, Maresch said, "if you manage water properly from the time it enters your farm until it leaves, you don't have to worry about soil. The key to managing soil is managing water."

Farm Calendar

(Continued from Page 1)

John Boon, New Holland Machine Co.

December 15 — 1:30 p.m., Fruit tree pruning demonstration meeting at Robt. P. Balderston's Fairhope Orchards, Tanguay Crossroads at intersection of Routes 926 and 352 (five miles southeast of West Chester), Dr. Carl Bittner, extension pomologist.

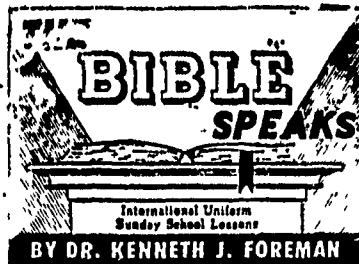
December 16 — 7 p.m., Ephrata Adult Farmer Class, Field Trip.

— 7:20 p.m., Penn Manor Adult Farmer Class at Mar-tic Twp Elementary Sch.; speaker, T. Culton, nutritionist.

— 8 p.m. Dairy Clinic at Solanco H.S., speaker, Don Ace, extension dairymen; subject, Dry and Fresh Cow Management.

December 17 — 12:30 p.m., Garden Spot YFA Farm Mech Class, Field Trip to observe feeder installations. — 8 p.m., Dairy Clinic at Manheim Twp Jr. HS — repeat of Thursday's program at Solanco H.S.

December 18 — 9 a.m., Distribution of Red Rose 4-H Baby Beef Club Angus steers at New Holland Sales Barn.



Law and the Man

Lesson for December 12, 1965

Background Scripture: II Kings 21 through 23
Devotional Reading: Psalm 119:9-16.

LET YOUR imagination run loose a minute. Suppose you were a new American President, a very young one. Suppose that for nearly sixty years before this moment the country had been going from bad to worse. The



nation's leaders were hardly more than clever gangsters, setting examples of murder, immorality of all kinds. Suppose to all intents and purposes the country had not been lawless, but literally without laws. Then suppose in a dirty old neglected church there was found a copy of the constitution, a book of laws for the entire nation. You had your choice: either acknowledge the Constitution and begin to enforce it, or tear it up then and there and see that no word of it got out to the people. Which would you do? That was the choice faced by the boy king Josiah. You can read the details (Background Scripture) for yourself. Here we only make a few comments which the story suggests.

Laws in man

It was said here a few weeks ago that you never see "justice" on the street, or anywhere, all by itself. Justice is in people everywhere. You can almost say the same thing about law, only not quite. Law is in a book of some kind, among civilized people (and the ancient Hebrews were people with a well-developed culture, had as some of them were). But if the only place to find law is in a book or a stack of papers, it doesn't count for much. Law must find living quarters in men's consenting minds, or it might as well be doodles in a sandpile. Law like justice is best seen in the living acts and attitudes of living men.

Laws for man

Every good law is for the good of man. This is brought out in our own constitution in America, with its great Bill of Rights. A study of it will convince any fair-minded reader that the authors of our Constitution had human welfare at heart. It was so with the book of law which Josiah's men discovered in the Temple. The Hebrews had several different codes of law, but the one that played such a large part in his life was most probably the code we know as the Book of Deuteronomy. These laws (as the Bible reader may learn for himself) are not always about man, but they are always for man. Somebody wrote a book entitled "Utopia According to Moses," the theme being that if we abolished most of our modern laws and lived by Deuteronomy for awhile, we would be better off than we are.

Laws above man

The ideal of our systems of law always has been "Government of laws and not of men." What this means you can see by asking yourself a question: Would you rather live in a place ruled by the whim of a dictator, or in a place where even the top man in government bowed to the authority of law even when it went against them? King Josiah was one such man. He even ordered a public confession of sin in which he joined, — the sin of neglecting and forgetting these ancient laws. For he recognized them for what they essentially were. Laws of God. As such they were above him. They possessed an authority which even the King did not wield. In a true sense they represented the will of God. Now this is not saying that every law you can find on some statute book somewhere is necessarily a good law representing God's will for us all. What we can say is that so far as a law is truly for the welfare of man in his life on earth, so far it does speak for God. Or we can go farther and say without apology that unless a human law embodies the same spirit and intent as the laws of the Bible, it lacks the right to be called the will of God.

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ATTEND THE CHURCH

OF YOUR CHOICE SUNDAY

Now Is The Time . . .

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agent

To Check Ventilation

Nearly all animals do best under conditions of cool temperatures and low humidity. Under present housing conditions in many barns the animals are crowded and ventilation becomes a problem. We'd urge that herd owners give some attention to the prevention of condensation, drafts, and the presence of hot, moisture-laden air in the barn. A system of exhaust fans and intake ducts will correct most of the ventilation problems. These are especially adapted to dairy and swine barns.

To Eliminate Rodents

I've had several reports from farmers who have noticed larger numbers of rats and mice about the farm buildings in recent weeks; this can be expected due to the cold weather. Good management dictates that there is no room for rats and mice in or near farm buildings. We urge everyone to first, eliminate their breeding and harboring places, and secondly, put out poison bait stations in order to kill the ones that come and go. Rodents are very destructive and very dangerous both from a fire and a disease-carrying standpoint.



SMITH

To Prevent Snow Mold

In recent years many homeowners have had some trouble with snow mold killing the grass during the winter and early spring. If this fungus is present in the turf, it is advised to spray the area with a turf fungicide such as dyrene in order to prevent the injury, also, during mild days in the middle of the winter it is suggested that the area be given another spray of a lawn fungi-

cide, when the turf is snow free and not frozen.

To Be a Good Manager

Between cropping seasons and as a New Year's resolution, it might be a good idea to give some thought to being a better farm manager this coming year. Good farm management is very essential to success under present conditions. This is the ability to plan ahead, to get things done on time, and to be "on top" of your farming operations at all times.

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