

From Where We Stand . . .

BOOOOOM - - - ZOOOOM!

The boom in agriculture is beginning to zoom. At least that's the consensus of every "authority" whose publications skid across this desk these days. These authorities include a national monthly magazine, the USDA, an independent Washington observer, and just about everyone else.

The feeling of studied optimism which dominated "outlooks" at the end of last year have blossomed into full-blown predictions of one of the biggest boom ever to hit agriculture.

Until recently we've grown too much food for our own needs, and weren't getting very far in exporting it. While our government officials have been busy bragging to the rest of the world that consumers in the U.S. spent a smaller portion of their total income for food than did citizens of any other country in the world, many of our farmers have been busy going out of business because they couldn't make ends meet at those "bargain prices".

This process of attrition has been going on for sometime, but total food output held at a high level because those farmers that remained grew bigger and produced more. So no one paid too much attention, and our officials went on pointing with pride.

Now, however, the farmers' subsidization of the consumers' food bill appears to be coming to an end. Prices for farm products are hitting levels that in many cases are even profitable for a change. And with added national emphasis on feeding a good part of the world, there is reason to believe prices paid to the farmer will remain at a profitable level.

Although we hope that Americans will always be the best fed people in the world, we also sincerely hope that never

again will American consumers spend less than twenty percent of their annual incomes for food products.

★ ★ ★ Hey! It's SPRING!

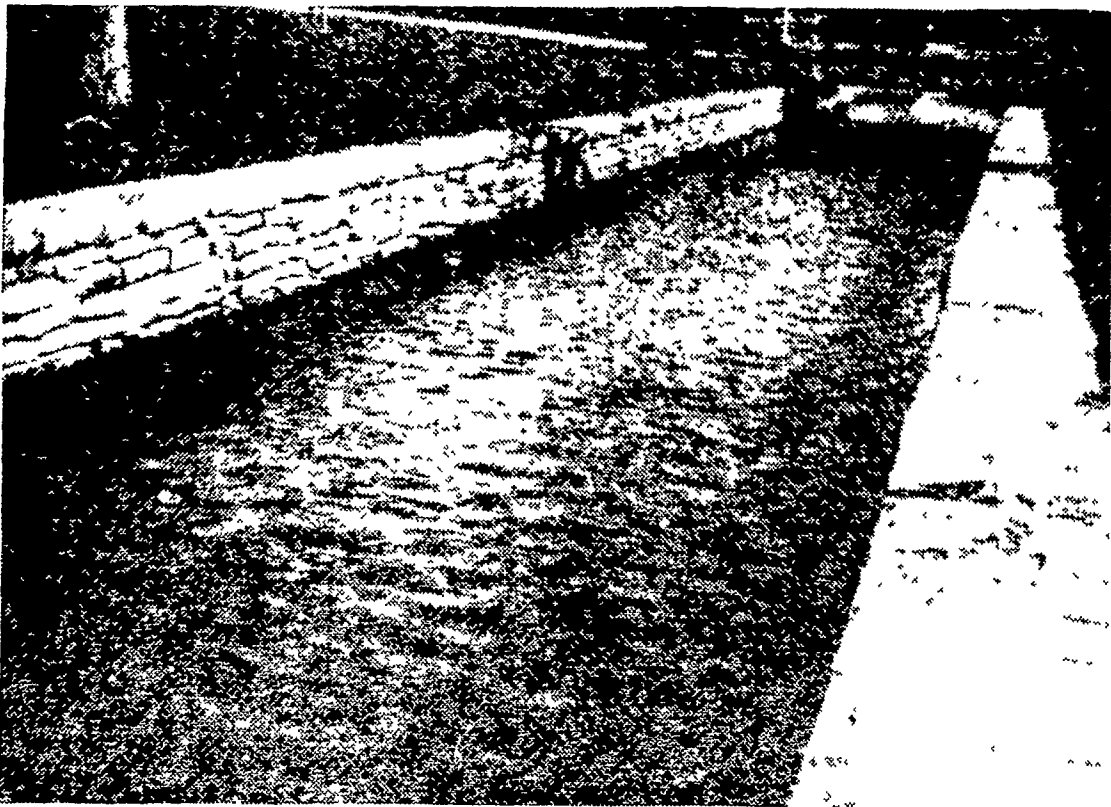
Winter has had its season — and gave a pretty fair account of itself at that — but now it's the robin's round; now it's green-up time. And we're ready! Bet you are too.

Winter is a little like someone beating you over the head with a two-by-four, and Spring is sort of how you feel when they stop — slightly stunned; unbelieving; even unaware of the change at first. Then, gradually, life flows again through your vascular tributaries, and it is as though the world around you had also been suddenly re-born. The mental fatigue of the seemingly endless wintertime is shrugged off, and as the good days come more and more frequently, and that cover crop gets a little greener each day, you wait impatiently for THE DAY when the ground is "fit" and you can bite into the cool earth with spade, trowel, or plow.

Spring isn't a day, probably it isn't even really a season. It's more than that, and it's better than either — it is a state of mind! It is one of the things that makes living through the long winter worthwhile.

So when Spring officially slips in at some mysteriously pre-determined hour on Sunday, bid her welcome. When we say "slips" in, we hope we aren't prophesying the weather. Looking back in Lancaster Farming at March, 1956, we were reminded that year that Spring was born amid one of the worst late winter storms of "recent years".

But not this year, please. The snowflakes have had their innings; now it's "people-time".



AND SPEAKING OF SPRING — all the signs of Spring are not out on the farms. To the folks of Lititz, fresh moving water in the Lititz Springs Creek is getting to be a real sign of Spring since that is about the only season anymore in which such welcome activity occurs.
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● Cattle Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)
cattlemen how they would like to make \$250,000 dollars more this year on the 40,500 thousand head of cattle fed in Lancaster County.

He proceeded to outline several steps they should take to reduce their production costs if they were interested in making this extra dividend. He listed the feeding of vitamin A using stilbesterol hormone, heavy silage feeding, and marketing cattle at desirable weights as factors that can add to profits.

On the subject of silage as a basis of the feeding ration versus all grain, Burdette said the cattlemen could make more beef per acre than with any other feed base, and they

could do it at less cost. Too many cattle feeders hold their animals too long. When they are ready, market them, the livestock specialist advised. He pointed out that the heavier the animals get, the more costly becomes each pound of gain. He suggested that 1100 pounds should absolutely be the upper weight limit. Inefficiency sets in in a big way after that point, he said.

Next Monday, March 21, the second session will be held featuring Dr. Sam Guss, extension veterinarian, and Burdette. They will discuss cattle health and cattle housing, respectively.

The meeting will again be held at the Brecht School, and will begin at 8 p.m.



International Bible Society
Sunday School Lessons
BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Commitment

Lesson for March 20, 1966

Background Scripture Luke 9:23-26, 57-62; Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 2:20-23; Hebrews 12:1-2; Devotional Reading Philippians 2:7-14

A young man in college was in love (as his neighbors were not) with his piccolo. By actual check, he spent about nineteen hours a day on that thing. Now you can't spend nineteen hours a day practicing on the piccolo and



Dr. Foreman playing that piccolo. That's commitment; but not Christian commitment.

Commitment means loyalty, devotion, dedication. But there are two or three vital differences between Christian devotion and the devotion of that piccolo artist. Piccolo-devotion is devotion to a thing and what can be done with it; Christian devotion or commitment is devotion to a person and what can be done for Him. The other difference is that piccolo-devotion shuts out everything else, while Christian devotion is woven with everything else. Piccolo-commitment is an occupation making other occupations impossible. Christian commitment is more a style of life than an occupation. For example: Very few men would find it possible to be at the same time a lawyer and a surgeon; but a man can if he chooses, be a good Christian and a good surgeon at the same time.

No holidays

There's still another important difference between the committed Christian and the committed artist, technician, or professional man. The piccolo player can

and needs to take a vacation from his music now and then; but the Christian ought not to, and need not, take a vacation from his Christianity. A Christian takes holidays, to be sure, the same as everybody else; but never a holiday from being a Christian. Religion is like love, it calls for full-time devotion. No holidays. Part-time, half-hearted commitment is a contradiction in terms: that is, it can't be devotion and also be half-hearted.

Loyal to whom?

The Christian's loyalty is not something he turns on for certain times each day. It is something life-deep, life-long. It comes out, or fails to come out, in every situation. The committed Christian lives Christianly, — that is the whole thing in a nutshell. We take a life's directions from Christ. His word is the last word. But the object of Christian commitment is not a set of ideas. It is loyalty, else, such as devotion to a Person first: of all, studying. So the Jesus made declarations about boy got a note himself which were either true or from the Dean, the utterances of a blasphemous and the next man gone quite mad. He claimed thing we knew, an authority above that of any he was out of one in any power structure of the college — still world. He claimed to know the mind of God and man, the right to show us the heart and intention of the Almighty. He claimed the right to order his followers even unto death. He did not say, "If any man would follow me, let him." He said, "If any man would follow me, let him take up his own cross and follow me." Plainly, what he meant was following me may lead you to your death. It is He, such a man with such a claim, who demands the last full measure of devotion from his followers. There are Christians, still unaware fully of the greatness of the Master, who act timid and ashamed about taking orders from one so far away as Jesus. We need never be ashamed of total commitment to such a Master. He is our Lord, — nearer and greater than we think.

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Now Is The Time . . .

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agent

To Control Weeds In Alfalfa

Farmers who are planning to make a straight seeding of alfalfa this spring without any nurse crop must consider some method of controlling weeds. When spring oats are used as a nurse crop weeds are kept under control to some degree; however, without them the weeds will get ahead of the small alfalfa plants unless some herbicide is used. We advise the use of eplam just prior to seeding (then a grass cannot be seeded) or the use of 2,4-D,B after seeding and when the small weeds are 1 to 2 inches high. The eplam must be worked into the ground within 1/2 hour after application in order to get the benefit.

To Plow Down Corn Nitrogen

Growers who are planning to make applications of nitrogen for corn, or a complete fertilizer in addition to the row application should plan to plow it down rather than to broadcast it on top and work it in later. The amount to be applied will depend upon many factors and a complete soil test is the best way to determine the amount. Corn stalk ground without manure will require the heaviest amounts of nitrogen and may exceed 150 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre.

To Shear Sheep

Many growers delay the shearing of their sheep too long into the spring, there is little to gain by waiting until May or June for this work and in most cases there will be a loss in weight and fleece quality. We suggest that the animals be sheared during late March and April for best wool returns. The animal should be dry when sheared and the wool tied carefully with paper twine. As the animals are sheared, it is a very good time to trim their feet and inspect them for ticks or other external parasites.



SMITH