

From Where We Stand . . .

Could A Pond Help Your Farming Operation?

A farm pond has many uses, although not all of them can be applied to the same pond at the same time.

A recent survey of 200 pond owners in New York State showed that fishing, swimming, fire protection, and waterfowl production are leading uses, although livestock watering was frequently the initial reason for constructing a pond.

Of the 400 to 500 ponds on Lancaster County farms, Soil Conservation Service supplied technical assistance on about 200. How many of these were built with cost-share money under the Agricultural Conservation Program we don't know. The county ASCS office explained that such money is available for farm pond construction for irrigation, livestock watering, and fish production, adding that a request for an irrigation pond requires a definite demonstration of need if assistance is to be granted.

In ponds approved for those three uses, ASCS will pay 50 percent of the costs, with maximum payments of \$500 on irrigation ponds; \$300 for livestock watering, provided no other source of water is available on pasture; and \$100 for fish pond construction. Before any payment can be made under this cost-share program, however, pond construction must be certified as satisfactory by SCS.

Although one of the prime benefits of a farm pond is for fire protection, ASCS has no cost-share plan which includes that use. However, any reasonable-sized pond, regardless of its primary function, can furnish water for fire fighting. In many of our rural areas in the county your farm pond may provide the only water at hand when a

fire breaks out. It would seem that this reassurance should be worth a great deal to a farm family.

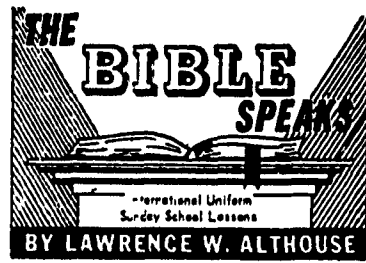
★ ★ ★ ★ Fourth Of July

The traditional Fourth of July our fathers and their fathers knew has largely gone from the land. Fireworks, save for organized, licensed displays, have been widely outlawed on grounds of safety. With them have gone the orations, once commonly held in town squares and fairgrounds in which leaders in government and enterprises paid their tributes to those who founded the nation, and who gave us the powers of mind and spirit which made possible the maintenance of our freedoms and the creation of material abundance.

These orators, needless to say, were often naive and flamboyant. But still, there are a profound merit in what they said and meant no matter how inept the choice of words might have been. They did paint a picture of the American ideal, the American philosophy, the American tradition. And even those who stayed but briefly to hear them felt stirrings of pride in our heritage.

All this is gone or generally so. The Fourth has become just one more holiday, just one more reason for folks to take to the road. And something vital, something that was at the heart of things, has gone out of American life.

It needs to be restored if we are to save this nation from lethargy and cynicism within, as well as from our enemies without. And it can be . . . if on this and every Fourth, we give a quiet moment to reflecting on the values our forebears bought for us with blood and treasure. We must determine to do all we can to defend those values and pass them on, untarnished, to our children and our children's children.



Divine "Therefore"

Lesson for July 3, 1966

Background Scriptures: Exodus 20:1-2; Leviticus 18:1-5; Deuteronomy 24:19-24; Hosea 11:1-4; John 14:8-15; Hebrews 1:1-4; Devotional Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6a, 12-13a.

" . . . Because it's the law. . . . The Bible says so. . . . It is immoral. . . . But society expects . . ."

None of these, we are told, carry much weight any more. There is a rising tide of human demand for the abolition of the "old" morality and the installation of a "new" one.



What will be the basis of this "new" morality? Presumably: that which is "natural." The assumption seems to be, "If it's natural, it's got to be good!"

This was the reasoning of a man who recently wrote a letter-to-the-editor of The New York Times. He proposed an end to all barriers, both legal and moral, prohibiting pre-marital sexual relations. "It is unnatural to ask our youth to wait," he said. "What two people do together in their own privacy should be no one else's affair."

Another recent proposal that appeared in the newspapers came from a prominent municipal official who advocated that habit-forming drugs be sold openly to narcotic addicts, thus ending the illegal traffic in drugs and "eliminating the immoral element." The basis: "If they want to use drugs, that's their business."

CART BEFORE HORSE

Apart from these radical protests against the "old" morality, there are also the ever-present, if considerably less vigorous protests in our own homes, our own neighborhoods, our own communities. One cannot help but conclude that the protests against the old rules are in reality a protest against all rules.

This is hardly a new state of affairs in human history. It is the same dilemma that has faced man down through the centuries. For one thing, we tend to put the cart before the horse. We persist in thinking of law as the master, when in reality it is meant to be the servant.

WHY OF 'THEREFORE'

God did not come to Moses, tapping him on the shoulder and saying:

"Hello there; my name is God and I have here a list of ten rules that I want you and your people to obey."

No, what God did say was, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." Therefore:

"You shall have no other gods before me." Before God ever came with his "Thou shalt's" and "Thou shalt not's," he first acted on Israel's behalf, freeing them from the slavery of the Pharaoh.

Only when he had first done that did he finally say: "Therefore, this is what I require of you . . ."

Therefore, "Thou shalt" relationship is the real basis for laws, rules, and commandments. There are certain expectations that govern the relationship between parent and child, between husband and wife, between citizen and community, between Creator and creature.

THERE IS PURPOSE

How does this change our perspective in regard to moral law? It means that God is not an overbearing tyrant who enjoys making people "toe the mark." His commandments are not the result of a "divine irritability" that just doesn't "like" or "tolerate" certain things. Behind his requests there is, not personal whim or caprice, but purpose.

Though we may not always understand that purpose, we will respond to him as the Father who created us, as the gracious Savior who redeems us, the divine Spirit by whose power we live, and remembering what he has done and is doing and anticipating what he will do, we respond, not out of dull submission, but in loving and grateful obedience. His right to command us with the divine "therefore" is founded upon who he is: our Father.

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ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE SUNDAY

Now Is The Time . . .

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agent



SMITH

To Prepare For August Seeding

Alfalfa growers who are planning an early August seeding should be getting their ground ready at least a month ahead of time. For seeding during hot weather it is very important to have a firm, fine seedbed, rather than one recently plowed and in open, loose condition. A complete soil test will reveal the amount of lime and fertilizer needed and these elements should be worked into the ground ahead of seeding. A well prepared seedbed is very important, the band seeding method is strongly recommended for best results.

To Acclimate Dairy Heifers

First-calf heifers that are to be added to the milking herd should be given some training prior to freshening; we suggest that they be handled along with the milking herd about one month before they freshen; this barn training and getting accustomed to the daily routine will make it possible for the heifer to be more at ease at freshening time and to yield greater amounts of milk.

To Recognize Proper Growth

Growers of sudan grass or any of the sudan-sorghum hybrids are urged to respect the proper stage of growth before grazing or harvesting. With sudan grass delay using until the growth is 16 to 18 inches high, in the case of the sudan-sorghum hybrids the growth should be 30 inches high. These stages of growth are necessary to avoid the danger of prussic acid poisoning in the plant cells; younger and more tender growth of both of these crops have been found to be higher in prussic acid content. Second growth (after-math growth) should also be allowed to reach these heights before using.

CLOISTER CHAPTER

Livestock: Tom Zartman, 8, gold and Earl Hertzog, 20, silver, Dairy Products: Earl Stauffer, 8, silver, Raymond Burkholder, 14, bronze, Lester Weaver, 7, silver, Poultry: Linford Weaver, 1, gold; Farm Mechanics: David Merkey, 11, silver

GRASSLAND CHAPTER

Livestock: Larry High, 33, H.M., Meats Judging: Freeman Stoltzfus, 17, H.M., Land Judging: Leonard Good, 7, gold, Dairy: Eugene Brendle, 22, bronze, Salesmanship: James Musser, 9, silver; Land Judging: Amos Reiff, 4, gold.

PEQUEA VALLEY CHAPTER

Dairy: Jacob Stoltzfus, 13, silver, Livestock: Edwin Rohrer, 35, H.M., Farm Mechanics: Richard Bomberger, 33, H.M.

WARWICK CHAPTER

Dairy: Paul Brubaker, 15, silver, Land Judging: Ronald Klhne, 20, silver, Dairy Products: Howett Seiverling, 5, gold.

ELIZABETHTOWN CHAPTER

Salesmanship: John Kurtz, 5, gold

The Lancaster-York area softball team won the State Championship during FFA Activities Week.

Weather Forecast

Temperatures for the five day period Saturday through Wednesday will average above the normal range of mid 80's to low 90's, and daily lows in the low 60's to low 70's.

It will be warm throughout the period, moderating slightly during the first part of next week. Precipitation may total 1/10 inch, mainly as showers, widely scattered, through early part of next week.

Electricity Important To Modern Agriculture

Electricity is potentially a major source of energy for agriculture, according to E. W. Walpole, extension agricultural engineer at the University of Delaware.

Nationally, irrigation represents the largest single use made of electrical power in agriculture today. However, an increasing number of farmers are taking advantage of electrical energy to replace the dwindling labor supply. In particular, material handling is being electrified on farms with such equipment as silo unloaders, gutter cleaners, feed grinders and electrical automatic feeders.

Heating equipment is another expanding use of electricity on the farm. Heating units, including everything from water bowl heaters to complete home heating systems, are frequently in use on American farms today. The ease of control, the cleanliness and the low installation cost are the main advantages of farm electrical heating systems, he said.

There are many advantages to the use of electrically powered equipment, Walpole points out. Such equipment is easy to start and is easily adapted to automatic controls. A wide range of sizes allows maximum efficiency as does the interchangeability of units. The costs of electricity are competitive with other forms of production energy, and maintenance costs are also low. There is no air pollution problem, and the noise level is low.

Vo-Ag Boys

(Continued from Page 1)
Wenger, James Huber, and Edward Kreider
County judging winners were:

MANHEIM CHAPTER

Land Judging: Delbert Kautz, 9, gold, Meats Judging: Robert Ulrich, 13, bronze, Salesmanship: Russell Adamire, 7, silver.

MANOR CHAPTER

Dairy: Richard Thomas, 1, gold; Livestock: Kenneth Rohrer, 7, gold and John Hess, 15, silver, Poultry: Gary Maitin, 13, silver, Dave Erb, 12, silver, Marlin Groff, 19, silver and Lester Wagner, 24, bronze, Ornamental Horticulture: Bruce Frey, 4, silver

SOLANCO CHAPTER

Forestry: Roger Wimer, 15, silver, Farm Mechanics: Lee Kinsey, 19, silver, Land Judging: Glen Redcay, 13, silver, Robert Haddan, 5, gold, Clayton Harrington, 1, gold and Fred Kreider, 23, bronze Chapter Procedure Team: 1, gold.

GARDEN SPOT CHAPTER

Dairy: Larry Breneman, 10, gold, Farm Mechanics: Thomas Houser, 10, gold

LANCASTER FARMING

Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly

P.O. Box 266 - Lititz, Pa. 17543

Offices: 22 E. Main St. Lititz, Pa. 17543

Phone: Lancaster 394-3017 or Lititz 626-2191

Don Timmons, Editor

Robert G. Campbell, Advertising Director

Subscription price: \$2 per year in Lancaster County, \$1 elsewhere.

Established November 4, 1917

Published every Saturday by Lancaster Farming, Lititz, Pa.

Second Class Postage paid at Lititz, Pa. 17543

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