

From Where We Stand . . .

Now Comes The "Real" Story

After opening up a real bucket of worms earlier this year, when it attempted to pin the tail of blame for high food prices on the farmer, the Administration has done some sudden back-tracking in recent weeks.

The tidal wave of farmer reaction which was launched toward Washington was apparently unexpected. Now, the fact that several important Congressional seats in the farm belt appear in danger of being washed away has caused a turnabout in public talks by both the President and the Secretary of Agriculture.

Johnson made this evident last weekend when he went to the Lone Star State via a stopover in Iowa. There, after demonstrating his skill as a caller of pigs, he reminded farmers that their good prices this year were due to Administration efforts over the past four years. He inferred they should all bow to the East when they cash their high milk and livestock checks, and bear in mind where these goodies came from when they go to the polls in November.

At about the same time, Freeman told a group of farm broadcasters that the record high food prices were a direct result of the consumer's demand for higher quality goods and services.

"In the last ten years," Freeman said, "total marketing costs have increased 43 percent. At the same time farm prices have dropped substantially."

He said the consumer has demanded greater convenience, wider variety, and higher quality foods, and she is paying for the other services which go into retail food prices — transportation, processing, packaging, displaying, advertising, selling, and such super market services as huge parking lots, check-cashing, and even baby-sitting.

Freeman rebutted the original Administration claim that farm prices were inflationary by pointing out that, since 1960, farm prices have risen 4 percent, but are still 25 percent below what they were in the peak year of 1951.

He added that . . . "farmers have actually subsidized the nation's food bill between \$35 and \$40 billion since the parity goal was established by law in the early 1930's."

Quite a different tune than Administration spokesmen were whistling such a short time ago, isn't it?

Freeman pleaded with the broad-

casters to go home and tell the "real" story of farm prices and food prices to their listeners. Mr. Secretary, we've been atellin' 'em, and atellin' 'em, and atellin' 'em again, but y'all down there in Washington just can't seem to get your stories straight!

★ ★ ★
Best Definition Of The Week —
A pessimist is one who builds dungeons in the air.

★ ★ ★
Fewer Cows Equals Less Milk, Equals BOOM

The long term outlook for the dairy business, and for those who remain in it, could hardly be better. Cow numbers have been reduced across the nation to their lowest point in many years. The population has finally outrun the supply of milk, and it may be some time, if ever, before the milk supply approaches the surplus level again. That, at least, is what some informed independent observers are predicting.

Since 1961, Pennsylvania has lost nearly 100,000 milk cows, almost twice as many cows as there are in the state's leading dairy county, Lancaster. Our county has fared slightly better than the state as a whole; we only lost about 7 percent of our cows between 1961 and 1965, and are actually producing more milk than we did in 1961.

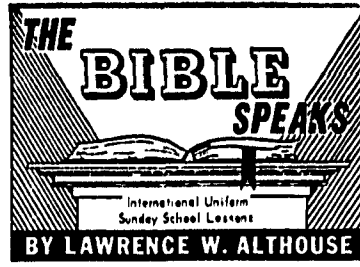
But across the country, farmers by the thousands have reportedly been selling their herds, deserting the dairy business for the better paying livestock market, or leaving the farm for city jobs.

It is estimated that one million milk cows will be lost this year, and that, on top of the million head lost last year, lowers the total by three million head since 1960; six million cows out of the milk line in the past ten years!

Although the long-range per cow production is up, there are no prospects for enough milk to satisfy the growing demand.

The recent raise in government support prices may help somewhat, but it will have to be raised several times over before the trend toward reduced cow numbers will be reversed. Too little, too late, is the way one authority described the government's action.

So, those of you who have hung on this long, continue to have faith in Old Bossey, she's coming into her own at a rapid, and profitable, rate



An End to Limping

Lesson For July 10, 1966

Background Scripture: Exodus 20:2 Deuteronomy 6:4-10 1 Kings 18:1-18 2 Kings 4:43
10 Mark 12:7-8
Devotional Reading: Deuteronomy 6:19

The president of a prominent American university was traveling in some of the more remote areas of northern Canada. It was springtime, the frost was breaking up and the roads were almost impassable. Coming to a lonely crossroads the educator saw a large hand-painted sign:



Rev. Althouse
25 MILES."

"TAKE CARE OF WHICH RUT YOU CHOOSE. YOU WILL BE IN IT FOR THE NEXT 25 MILES."

The choices we make in life are often like that. We choose a road and find that we have also chosen a destination. That's what Harry Emerson Fosdick meant when he said: "He who chooses the beginning of a road chooses the place it leads to." This making of choices is both a privilege and a responsibility, for we cannot complain about the destination at which we have arrived if we are the ones who have chosen the road.

Yet, much as we enjoy the privilege of choosing, we often try to avoid making decisive choices. As the old saying goes, we like to "have our cake and eat it too." We delay as long as we can with important choices in order to avoid commitment.

ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE SUNDAY

HOW LONG WILL YOU GO LIMPING?

The people of ninth century B. C. Israel provide a case-in-point. Officially committed to the worship and service of the God of Abraham, they nevertheless found themselves attracted to the Baal gods of their neighbors. The God of Abraham was a mighty God who had brought them out of Egypt's bondage and established them in the land of Canaan — but he wasn't much fun, something the Baal gods unquestionably were.

So they tried to keep both: the security of the God of Abraham and the pleasure of Baalism. A good idea if they had gotten away with it, but the prophet Elijah, that disturbing man of God, spoiled everything by challenging them to choose once and for all.

"How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him!" (1 Kings 18:21 RSV)

ONE MUST CHOOSE

There is a sarcastic play on words in his challenge. The priests of Baal did a limping kind of dance around the altar. The Israelites, he suggested, looked equally ridiculous as they tried to serve both God and Baal. Stop hopping from one foot to another! Let there be an end to this idiotic limping! You must choose between Baal and God. Walk one way or another, but walk, don't limp.

Jesus himself experienced this inner civil war, particularly during that period of soul-searching in the wilderness. One inner voice kept tempting him to use his new-found power to forcefully build the kingdom of God. "Why not?" the voice taunted. "Didn't God give you that power?" The voices were calling for a divided loyalty, a loyalty to both the God of love and the demon of law power.

There could be but one answer: "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve." Why? Because God requires it and man needs it. A man cannot survive divided within himself. These inner civil wars may cripple a man for life.

If there is a God, then serve him. If there isn't, then serve something or someone else. But let there be an end to this limping!

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Knowledge Gained In Leukosis Research May Aid Cancer Studies

Research on avian leukosis is helping medical scientists trying to solve the riddles of human cancer.

The two diseases are similar, although the poultry disease does not infect humans. There is strong circumstantial evidence, but no clear proof, that a virus causes human cancer. That virus, if it exists, is a near-relative of the viruses that cause avian leukosis.

Scientists thus gain clues that aid in their search for the human cancer virus from knowledge of this poultry disease. When — and if — a cancer virus is discovered, experience gained in trying to control avian leukosis will help in cubing it.

ARS scientists at the Re-

gional Poultry Research Laboratory, East Lansing, Mich., are among the leaders in avian leukosis research. They helped establish the fact that a filterable virus causes avian leukosis, and took part in studies during which the causative viruses were spotted through a high-power electron microscope and followed on their path from cell to cell in infected chickens. Now, the size, shape, structure, habits, weaknesses, ways of travel, and modes of action of avian leukosis viruses are known.

Recently, the ARS workers helped show that one group of viruses involved in the disease lacks the protein coat which all viruses seem to need to infect chicken cells. These "defective" viruses spread by sharing the coats of other viruses that infect chicken cells. Since the coatless viruses by themselves appear non-infective, scientists think that the virus presumably involved in human cancer uses a similar dodge to appear harmless.

There are indications that the pattern of spread of avian leukosis resembles that of cancer. The ARS poultry scientists found that specific types of tumors occurred more often in chickens of specific ages. Certain forms of human cancer similarly are most prevalent among people of certain

ages. Children 3 to 4 years old, for example, most frequently fall victim to the blood cancer, acute leukemia.

Usually only a few chickens in a flock infected with leukosis show disease symptoms. Human cancer also occurs without apparent contact between patients.

The poultry scientists found that a day-old chick can carry billions of leukosis viruses in its body, yet live out a normal lifespan without developing disease symptoms. Cancer researchers suspect that the supposed virus that triggers cancerous growth in humans is present generally in the population — but affects only about 6 people out of 100,000.

Another ARS discovery raises the possibility of vaccination against cancer if a virus is proved to be the cause. The poultry scientists found that hens experimentally injected with leukosis virus produced baby chicks resistant to the disease. Antibodies to leukosis were apparently passed from parent through egg to offspring, even when hens were vaccinated with a dilute preparation of leukosis virus. To date, a vaccine for avian leukosis has not been developed because so many virus strains are involved.

Studies on the role of glands in triggering or preventing leukosis in chickens have led

(Continued on Page 12)

Now Is The Time . . .

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agent



SMITH

To Stretch Alfalfa Season

By planting several varieties of alfalfa, growers can stretch the maturity time so that the crop can be cut at the proper stage; many growers claim their entire acreage comes into the bud stage at the same time making it difficult to get it cut for maximum feed value. For late summer seedings the maturity time of the various varieties should be recognized and aim to have some come early and some later.

To Remove Manure Pack

Cattle feeders and other types of livestock producers are reminded of the heat given off from manure accumulations during hot weather. For maximum comfort this problem should be eliminated by frequent cleaning. In addition manure packs present good places for the reproduction of flies and other insects. Good sanitation is extremely important during the hot summer months.

To Circulate Air For Livestock

The day may come when some livestock will enjoy air conditioning during the summer months. However, for the time being and during extremely hot weather, it will be helpful if large fans can be installed in the barn to keep the air moving, bank barns are about as cool a place as can be found on many farms, circulation of this air over livestock will help keep them more comfortable.

To Respect Water Rights

The demand for water seems to be on the increase, especially for agriculture. Farmers who are able to install irrigation systems are reminded of certain water rights. The legal decision will grant any farmer "his share" of the water in a stream or lake, but this may have many interpretations, so legal counsel is advised in case of any question or dispute.

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