

From Where We Stand . . .

Congratulations To A Master Farmer!

We heartily applaud the recent selection of Amos H. Funk, Millersville R1 vegetable grower, as one of this year's six Pennsylvania Master Farmers. He will receive this honor during Farm Show Week, at Harrisburg.

Amos' unselfish contributions of time and energy in serving statewide, as well as local, agricultural causes are well known. We can think of no more worthy a Lancaster County farmer to receive this recognition.

Amos Funk is one of the new breed of business-minded farmers for which Lancaster County is becoming known. He has applied imagination and hard work in building one of the county's outstanding farm businesses, and has still found time to unceasingly serve his community.

Our congratulations to a Master Farmer and "Master Citizen"!



Tax Land According To Use, Not Location

We hope that 1967 will finally be the year to bring tax equality to Pennsylvania farmers. In the face of continually upward spiraling land values, especially in such counties as Lancaster with its increasing urban sprawl, taxing land according to use — not site — is the only salvation for farming.

This might seem to be an impossible line to sell to the city dweller, but, for a variety of reasons, they're buying it in many neighboring states.

Last year, the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association proposed a constitutional amendment which was introduced in the legislature with bipartisan support. It failed to pass. It was patterned after similar farmland tax relief legislation which has become law in Maryland, New Jersey and Connecticut.

Maryland, which pioneered this idea in the 1950's, assesses farmland according to its value for farming, instead of its subdivision value. That law has helped keep farming an important industry in Maryland. It had one weakness, however, which later New Jersey and Connecticut laws avoided — it neglected to properly define a farm. This led to confusion among tax assessors, and to many needless court cases.

New Jersey's law spells out the definition sharply, only actual acreage under agricultural or horticultural use qualifies, and five acres is the minimum farm size, the land must gross an average of at least \$500 a year, and it must meet these requirements two successive years before applying, finally, a farmer must reapply for farmland assessment every year.

The savings to farmers from such a tax break are readily apparent, but what's in it for the suburban and city folks?

PFA cited five advantages which caused voters in Maryland, New Jersey, and Connecticut to favor such legislation.

1—It would promote rural-urban

balance by keeping some farmland throughout the state.

2—It would guarantee a supply of fresh products by making it possible for local farmers to meet local demands.

3—It would preserve the state's agricultural-agribusiness industry — this is the second largest industry in Pennsylvania.

4—It would preserve the recreational advantages, especially for sportsmen, and

5—Above all, it would conserve open space.

Such preferential tax treatment might appear to put local communities at a financial disadvantage, and unduly burden non-farm tax payers. Neither is the case apparently, according to a recent article in Farm Journal.

In an eight-county area of Maryland, the magazine found, farmland assessment cost each of the area's 2.6 million people about \$1.80. This tax load would have been considerably heavier if farms had been allowed to go into subdivisions.

Most of the farmland assessment laws enable local governments to gain lump sums of property tax income when the land finally sells for development.

How much in actual savings could such a law mean to Lancaster County farmers? The article cites one New Jersey fruit farmer who, prior to the limited valuation law, had part of his land assessed at \$16,000 per acre. The new law puts a farmland value limit of \$480 per acre, and this farmer now pays an average of \$10 per acre in taxes. Some difference, huh?

When this amendment again comes up for consideration — and the climate in Harrisburg seems more favorable in the coming session than in the last — we urge you to lend it your complete support.



More Net Profit For Farmers In '67?

Although it's generally safest to take one year at a time (and even that's risky unless one is talking about the past year), the economic outlook for agriculture in the next few years looks good. Many "experts" expect a continued improvement in farm income, expanding domestic and foreign markets, and a considerable increase in total farm output.

Rising production costs will tend to temper this bright outlook somewhat, resulting in a slightly lower net farm income than the \$16 billion that farmers shared this year.

However, farmers with inadequate size businesses and insufficient capital and management capacity will continue to take employment in off-farm jobs. This will enable farmers with better than average production capabilities to expand their businesses and increase their efficiency. It will also leave fewer farmers to share in the net farm income for 1967. So, although USDA predicts a five percent reduction in that net figure, it may average, nearly the same as in 1966 on a per farm basis.



• Futures Trading

(Continued from Page 1)

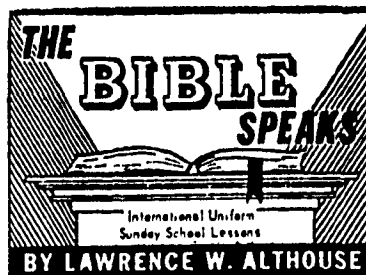
Futures trading was most active in soybeans, corn and wheat. The volume of trading

in corn was at an alltime record of over 10 billion bushels; wheat with trading volume of 7.1 billion bushels was at the highest level since 1937; and soybeans at 16.5 billion bushels was under last year's record total, but was the second highest on record.

Other commodities with record trading volume included soybean meal, with over 46 million tons, and potatoes, with about 575,000 carlots. Soybean oil, at 594,000 tank cars will be about the level of the record trading in 1965. Trading volume in oats and rye was also considerably

higher in 1966 than in 1965. Trading was also well-maintained in wool futures. For the year, trading declines were registered in cotton, eggs, wool tops and cottonseed oil futures.

Alex C. Caldwell, CEA Administrator, said that the large trading volume increases in the major commodities was stimulated by reduced surpluses of farm commodities, increased consumption at home, and a step-up in demand from abroad. "Hedging by the grain trade in carrying and merchandis-



Never Too Late Lesson for January 1, 1967

Background Scripture: Luke 3:1 through 4:15.
Devotional Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5.

Some parents today become alarmed if their children had not chosen their life's vocation before they complete high school. One youth told me that his parents began to "hound" him to make up his mind from the moment he entered tenth grade. "Hurry," they advised, "or it will be too late!"

Thus, it is hard for us to conceive of a man who, at the age of thirty, would give up a good vocation to embark upon the uncertain life of an itinerant preacher. Jesus of Nazareth, a carpenter following in the parental footsteps of Joseph before him, did just that.



Rev. Althouse

Galilean, however, stood fast. He would do only what God wanted him to do, nothing else.

The Acceptable Time

Some people still find their true vocation when they are well past what appears to be the "acceptable time." I recently spoke with a man who in his early forties gave up a good job as an accountant to go to seminary and become a clergyman. This, he decided, was what God really wanted him to do. Another man of my acquaintance has recently left the employment of the church to become a social worker. He too believed that he had at last discovered his true vocation. Both men stopped for a moment, at what is considered to be a rather late stage in their lives, to listen to the voice of God. Obedient to what they heard, they stepped forth in faith to follow that call.

The influences that changed the Galilean's life were the preaching of John, a period of searching, prayer and meditation in quiet seclusion, a knowledge of the scriptures, and an unwavering desire to do what God wanted. Might there not be people in your own life through whom God is speaking of your true vocation? Would you be willing to open the door to your mind and heart through earnest prayer and meditation? And if the answer came to you, that God wanted to send you off into a new direction, would you have the courage to follow?

Out Into Wilderness

One day the carpenter of Nazareth went out into the wilderness that surrounded the Jordan River to hear and see John, the prophetic preacher and baptizer about whom everyone was talking. Receiving baptism at John's hands, the sign of a new beginning in his life, Jesus the carpenter was conscious of being called to a new vocation. Not that the new vocation burst upon him unexpectedly, for we are led to believe that there had been other indications that God was calling him to a special task. This time, however, he responded, determined to go wherever God would lead. God, he was sure, had a mission for him to perform.

What kind of mission was it to be? So that he might discover exactly what God wanted of him, Jesus went off into the wilderness for forty days to fast, meditate, and pray. In the wilderness God spoke to him, but so did someone else. That "someone else" greeted him with attractive counter-offers that could not help but catch any man's eye. The young

What God Wants

As Jesus himself experienced, the temptations are many for those who seek to use their lives purposefully. The temptor is constantly offering us short cuts, unjust means that he insists are justified by righteous ends. How skillful he is in using good intentions to lead us into making the worst decisions.

At the age of thirty Jesus the carpenter began a new vocation. Moses had begun his at eighty. It is never too late for a man to stop and listen to the voice of God to find out what he really intends for us to do with this life he has given us.

(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.)

Now Is The Time . . .

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agent

To Repair Farm Equipment

The winter season is a very good time to repair and service most farm equipment. Many farm equipment dealers and service concerns will welcome the work during the winter and many will give special prices. If the equipment is put in top working condition now, there will be less delay at planting time next spring.

To Attend Farm Show Meetings

The Pennsylvania State Farm Show is noted for many things and is attended by thousands of people, however, there is an educational value that can be easily overlooked due to the great attraction of new machinery, exhibits, hot dogs, and baked potatoes. Most of the state-wide farm and home associations hold annual meetings or banquets; many helpful recommendations and suggestions are presented at these events. Local farmers are urged to obtain a Farm Show Program and attend the event in their particular line of agriculture.

To Be Careful With Salt...
Icy walks or steps around the home or other property



SMITH

ing stocks has been expanding during 1966," he said, "and will continue into 1967, so long as domestic utilization and exports continue to increase."

• Tobacco Show

(Continued from Page 1)

next Thursday, the Tobacco Growers Association will hold its annual meeting in the Bayuk Company building. Association officers will be elected for the coming year.

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