

From Where We Stand . . .

The Solution To Pollution Is Everyone's Concern

Pollution, like conservation, begins at home. Every pollutant has a source, and we all make our contributions — some substantial, some small.

Pollution needs to be separated into two kinds: Air and Water. Although each is important, we're concerned here primarily with foul air. Yes, even in Lancaster County. And the closer you live to the metropolitan area, the more you will agree, we are sure.

On the grounds that air moves freely from state to state and across wide regions of the country, the federal government is probably on the verge of a sweeping control measure. Maybe this will be the ultimate solution to this growing problem. For certain it will unless local and regional communities get on the ball real soon.

A federal law is already putting pressure on the automobile manufacturers requiring new cars to be equipped with air pollution control devices on the exhaust systems. This is one area in which the federal government can act meaningfully, and must.

We've seen very little written about controlling excess exhaust on buses and trucks. With most of these emitting huge clouds of incompletely burned diesel fuel, controlling car exhausts and not truck and bus fumes would be an inadequate measure.

But air pollution is not someone else's problem. It is ours, it is here, and it has no way to get but worse. But we do have a choice — we can wait for Uncle Sam to step in with general solutions for specific cases, or we can make a beginning in each community, and encourage and support efforts at the state level.

If we continue to wait, the decision

will be made for us, and we won't like it!

★ ★ ★ ★ Congratulations, LCFA!

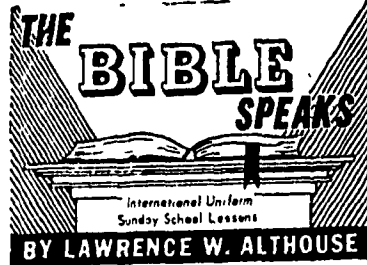
Our congratulations to the Lancaster County Farmers' Association membership committee for scoring another first for Pennsylvania's number one agricultural county.

According to a recent announcement by the state farmers' association, the county group became the first in Pennsylvania to reach the 1000-member level.

This magic figure represents approximately 20 percent of the commercial farms in Lancaster County. It is fitting that so many farm families in the Garden Spot should support this association which believes in freedom of decision for the American farmer.

The independent views of state and county associations of farmers are reflected on the national scene through the American Farm Bureau Federation. Detractors have labeled these views too conservative, and have charged AFBF with being in cahoots with large food chains, processors, and other industry giants, whom it is said will eventually enslave the American farmer.

AFBF and its state and county branches feel, on the contrary, that if any single force seeks to enslave and manipulate our farmers it is the federal government. These organizations figure farmers are better off taking their chances in the market-place than in Washington. They prefer that decisions effecting farmers be made by farmers, not by an entrenched bureaucracy. We heartily applaud that stand, and believe it may be the salvation of the American farmer. In fact, couldn't the whole country use a shot of that independent spirit about now?



Love and Justice Lesson for March 12, 1967

Background Scripture Luke 19:28 through 21:38
Devotional Reading 2 Timothy 4:1-8

A woman was counselling with her pastor and admitted that she was nursing a long-standing grudge against her neighbor. The neighbor had done something which she felt she could not forgive. "But don't you think God has forgiven her?" the clergyman asked.



Rev. Althouse

"Yes," replied the woman, "but then it is much easier for him to forgive!"

Many people seem to share this assumption that forgiveness is an easy task for the Deity. In W. H. Auden's Christmas oratorio, *For The Time Being*, a character remarks "I like committing crimes. God likes forgiving them. Really, the world is admirably arranged." But it is not so: forgiveness is not easy for God or man — not if we take sin seriously.

Another Way

How does one handle the fact of sin? One response to sin is to refuse to forgive it. Another is to give the appearance of forgiving without really forgiving (to "forgive" without "forgetting"). Still another response to sin is to overlook it. The first and second responses take sin too seriously and the third doesn't take it seriously enough.

Surely there must be another way to respond to sin. There is to pay the cost of sin in redemptive love. This response takes sin seriously, but it takes love even more seriously. It acknowledges the terrible power of sin and does not overlook it, but it also recognizes that long-suffering love is even more powerful.

Someone has said, "You can not learn to forgive until you learn to judge." This may sound strange for many of us mis-

takenly understand forgiveness as the act of overlooking sin, of failing to take it seriously. This kind of forgiveness is little more than an indulgent pat on the head and an assurance that "it doesn't matter." It is, however, a worthless forgiveness. If my sin against you "doesn't matter," then your forgiveness is not worth much because it didn't cost you anything to give it. Only when my sin really matters, when it is painful to you, when it costs you something in pain or loss, is your forgiveness to me a precious thing, a gift I do not deserve.

What Justice Demands

So it is with the forgiveness of God. He does not "like forgiving" our sins. They are painful to him. He cannot overlook them. We sin so brazenly, flaunting our will so rebelliously before him, that he cannot fail to know and care. He does not smile indulgently and tell us not to worry. It is judgment he gives us and it is only because he judges us that his forgiveness is precious to us.

We see the pain of our sin reflected in the parable of the vineyard. There is pain in the failure of the tenants to acknowledge the owner of the vineyard. It does not belong to them, yet they act as if it did. ("This is my Father's world," we sing, but we act as if it really belonged to us.) There is pain in their constant refusal to heed his messengers. Even when he gives them every chance to do the right thing, they reject him. There is that greatest of pains in their rejection and fatal violence to his very own son.

Miracle of Forgiveness

God cannot overlook so much pain. He cannot make believe it never happened; his sense of righteousness will not allow him to do that. He must pronounce his judgment: "He will come and destroy those tenants, and give the vineyard to others."

It is at this same point, however, that God performs the greatest of all his miracles: having pronounced the judgment, he takes the price of that judgment upon himself and pays it. The destructive reality of man's sin is staggering; it cannot be denied. But the redemptive reality of God's love is even greater.

God gives us no cheap grace. It is a forgiveness that is precious because its price is great. Because he loves us, he judges us. Because he judges us, his love has the power to save us.

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PANEL OF LOCAL DAIRYMEN at Tuesday's County Dairy Day are from left: Rohrer Witmer, J Mowery Frey, Jr, William Arrowsmith, and Mrs Herbert Royer. All panelists had herds averaging over 500 pounds of fat last year. Standing is Harry Mumma, president of the Lancaster County Guernsey Breeders Assn., who served as toastmaster.

● County Dairy Day

(Continued from Page 1)

said he had a somewhat lower conception rate than that last year, but had since corrected the problem.

All waited between 60-90 days after calving for rebreed-

ing, and allowed an eight-week dry period.

Although panelists reported individual cows might have a "bad quarter" now and then, none felt mastitis was a particular problem in his herd.

HOUSING SYSTEMS

While each dairyman listed some degree of automation in his operation, none was automated to a high degree. One Holstein breeder reported plans to expand herd size and to install extensive labor-saving equipment.

OUTLOOK

In looking to the future of dairy farming in Lancaster County, the group felt strongly that the family farm operations that have been so important to

this area will continue to dominate the dairy scene.

Most thought they would need to increase herd size moderately, and would have to automate somewhat in the future. There was general agreement, however, on the merit of continuing the effort to improve individual cow performance, rather than simply increasing herd size.

HERD HEALTH

Another speaker, Dr Samuel Guss, Penn State University extension veterinarian, told the dairymen that the disease Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis, called IBR, or "Red Nose", is an increasing problem among dairy cattle.

"There is no good treatment," the veterinarian said,

Now Is The Time . . .

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agent

To Plan For Strawberry Plantings

The planting of a new strawberry patch or field includes the very early setting out of the plants, in this area we refer to late March or early April depending upon weather conditions. Early set plants get a better start and develop more runner plants early in the season that are more productive than runners set late in the summer. An extension circular is available on strawberry production.

To Graze Cautiously

Livestock should be introduced to lush spring growth of forage grasses gradually; in the very near future some fields of winter rye or other grasses that come early in the spring will be making some growth. Good management states that the herd or flock should be allowed to graze these areas for not more than a half hour for the first several times and then only after consuming dry matter such as hay or silage. Serious bloat or digestive trouble may be-

adding that "where IBR is concerned, a health certificate is meaningless."

Guss advised any dairymen bringing new animals into their herds should isolate them for 30 days to be certain they weren't carrying IBR.

NEW MILK QUALITY PROGRAM

The veterinarian also told dairymen about a new milk (Continued on Page 6)



SMITH

sult of allowed too much of the new growth early in the season.

To Recognize

The Value Of Nitrogen

It is difficult to say that one fertilizer element is more important than the others, but since nitrogen is responsible for plant cell development and greater plant size, I'd like to point out the importance of proper placement and usage. Plants such as the grasses and corn depend considerably upon the amount of nitrogen available. In most cases nitrogen will not remain in the soil from year to year as other elements do, thus means that supplies should be furnished annually for top yields. Growers are urged to become familiar with the place of sufficient nitrogen for expected yields.

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