

## From Where We Stand . . .

### So What Is The Question?

In this topsy-turvy world we constantly seek answers — be it in farming, politics, or economics. In fact, we often get so wrapped up in our quest for answers that we perhaps lose track of the questions.

The current milk crisis is a case in point. We start with the premise that farmers are not getting a sufficient return on either their investment or their labor, and that they must stay in business to feed a hungry world. From there on, emotions seem to take over, but let's remember there are still at least two schools of thought on this question.

Should farmers be subsidized like some of the public transportation industries? Or, should they stand or fall on the strength of their economic ability to compete in the open market?

That last phrase is the hooker — for the past thirty years there has actually been no open market, as such. The federal government has circumvented free trade of many vital farm products. They have done this, supposedly to help the farmer stay in business by providing a price floor for his products. The only problem was that that floor too often became a ceiling, serving to hold prices at marginal levels. The government was also motivated to support farm prices and stockpile grains so the American people would be guaranteed a food supply.

An ulterior motive to support prices and stockpiling has been shown to be a federal effort to control farm prices by controlling supply. This approach appears to be on the way out, and measures have recently been introduced in Congress to speed its departure.

But back to the basic question — you see how quickly one can lose track of it?

If we reject federal subsidies we may still not reject the idea. If we say the price of milk to farmers must be raised, right across the board, we may be simply saying "let the consumer do the subsidizing."

Even though many farmers continue to go the subsidy route, they may rest assured that industries producing food substitutes will not. If the price of milk, or any product, goes too high, the door opens wide to the ersatz for lunch bunch. And as it has been shown with oleomargarine it doesn't take long for youngsters growing up with substitutes to accept them unquestionably.

But the other alternative — let the

farmer stand or fall on the strength of his ability to compete — is a hard route. It is a hard thing to say, or to accept, that people who have given their lives to farming will have to get out of it; that there is only room for so many food producers, and these must be only the most efficient.

And this process of attrition will probably continue as even the efficient find others out-doing them in competition for the market. One thing that has always happened has been a constant passing along to the consumer of all the gains efficiency has brought the farmer. The only way to eliminate that that we can see is to set certain "fair" prices on each product, and have either the government or the consumer subsidize the farmer.

We think there are more farmers in Lancaster County who would rather take their chances in the open market than be kept as pets by either the consumer or the government. While that would also be our decision, we are not farmers.

Farmers will have to decide this question: we urge them to carefully consider their goals, and not to lose sight of the basic question in their search for immediate answers.

### Easter Time

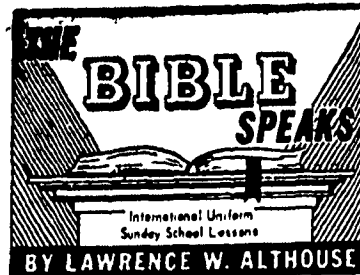
Easter Sunday is regarded by untold millions around the earth as the world's most important religious holiday. One of the most joyous days of the year, it symbolizing the reawakening of life that is universally associated with springtime.

The present-day parades that mark the day had their beginning in the original Easter walk of Europe, when devout men and women congregated and walked in an orderly manner through town and into the open country, stopping along the way to recite prayers and sing Easter hymns.

Today in many American communities, elaborate Easter parades find women and children in their new finery — the husbands and fathers going along for the walk. And one of the most charming of all customs is the Easter egg hunt for the children — renewing the custom far older than Christianity.

Easter combines a rich mixture of laughter and solemnity. Both are good — both are needed by the soul of man.

Yes, Easter Sunday is one of the great days of the year, a day of joy for you and your family.



### The Easter Faith

Lesson for March 26, 1967

Background Scripture: Luke 24.  
Devotional Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12-22.

When the Duke of Wellington and his army met Napoleon and his forces at Waterloo, the news of the outcome of the battle was relayed to London, first by a ship that crossed the channel and then a system of flags by which the news was wig-wagged to the capitol. As the message was being transmitted to Winchester, the signaler on the top of the cathedral began to spell it out: W-E-L-L-I-N-G-T-O-N D-E-F-E-A-T-E-D. . . Suddenly a fog descended and hid the rest of the message.

When this partial message reached London, the whole city was thrown into despair. After a while, however, the fog lifted and the signaler resumed the unfinished message: W-E-L-L-I-N-G-T-O-N D-E-F-E-A-T-E-D T-H-E E-N-E-M-Y. Soon, the message was spreading joyously through England.

### My Victory Too

That's the way it is with the Easter faith. On Good Friday the fog descends and the message in its incompleteness seems to say that the enemy has been victorious. But on Easter Sunday the fog lifts and the message is completed: He lives — death and sin are defeated! Thus it becomes the day, not of defeat, but of victory.

Furthermore, what makes it good news is that it is not only Christ's victory, but ours. I find it not so amazing that he, the Son of God, should be victorious; but that I, with all my weaknesses, my temptations, my failings, my defects, should be victorious with Him is almost too good to be true.

It began simply enough. On

that first Easter morning a number of sorrowing women went to the garden tomb, their hearts immersed in grief, and something wonderful happened there. First of all, they found an empty tomb. The great stone that had covered the entrance to the tomb had been moved to one side. Going within, they discovered that the body of Jesus was no longer there.

There was also a second reason: they received a message of "good news." Two strange men at the tomb reminded them that Jesus had spoken of his coming death and resurrection. Then they remembered his words. The women had come expecting to shed their tears over a lifeless corpse, but they were assured that he was alive.

### Their Own Encounter

They found, therefore, an empty tomb and the assurance that he was alive again as he had promised them. These are important factors, but it must be admitted that they, by themselves, are not sufficient evidence for the Easter faith.

This brings us to the third and most important reason for their belief in the resurrection: they experienced the living Lord themselves! As they were saying this, Jesus himself stood among them. Though the absence of a corpse and the assurance of the two angelic strangers had prepared them, it was their own encounter with the living Christ that told them the wonderful truth about Christ's victory over sin and death. This is the basis of the Easter faith.

Great news! But it is also something more a responsibility! Returning from the tomb, the women went straight to the disciples and shared this revelation with them. Later, when Jesus appeared to the Twelve, he charged them: "You are witnesses of these things." So it is also for us. It is a wonderful thing to stand in the empty tomb or the upper room and know that Jesus has conquered death and sin, but we must not stand there and savor indefinitely that moment for ourselves alone. We must share it.

This, then, is the essence of the Easter faith: To discover for ourselves that "He is risen!" To go and tell others that glorious news.

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## Now Is The Time . . .

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agent

### Letters To The Editor

Editor, Lancaster Farming

Your editorial about the May 6th College of Agriculture Open House gave us, who are working on the program, a boost in spirit. This is the kind of backing we need to make the program succeed. Local responsible leaders have to become aware of the need, and then take the initiative in seeing that their communities are represented.

For your information, I have checked with the Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction and those junior high schools which have guidance counselors are already on our invitation list.

Thanks for your continued support.

Sincerely,

William L. Bair  
Chairman,  
Open House Committee

Editor, Lancaster Farming

Last week you invited us to use your paper as a sounding board about the milk withholding action of the NFO. While I believe in the due and orderly process of law, and can't condone the violence as-

sociated with this action, I sure do sympathize with those men.

Most of us farmers have been low man on the totem pole of our county's so-called "Great Society" too long now. Even your gentle old pet dog will turn on you if you back him into a corner and beat him too long.

I just returned from attending a policy committee meeting of our milk producers co-op. I came away real disappointed. The most articulate men at this meeting were satisfied that we are getting enough for our milk and felt that to ask for more would be counting disaster. All I can say is the word you used in your editorial: Nuts!

People will hardly miss an extra two cents a quart for milk. To the family that uses four quarts of milk a day that's only eight cents, or about two minutes' work. To us dairy-men it could mean the difference between continuing or discontinuing in the dairy business.

These articulate men who are afraid of disaster are the most highly efficient men in the dairy business today. But us average Joes could use a little better price.

We farmers are told we are

the most efficient group in our economy, the hardest working, the most forward thinking. While I like praise as well as the next man, it's not negotiable at the feed store.

I don't know what will come of this withholding action, but I do know this: Most of the farmers who want to quit have already quit. The ones who are left want to farm, and we want a standard of living equal with the rest of our nation. We want vacations and days to spend in the enjoyment of our family. We want to take our children places, go to a ballgame, go fishing, go to the zoo or a museum, or time to spend in fellowship with family and friends. Really, life is too short to be spent nursemaiding a bunch of cows seven days a week. We can't enjoy this good life God gave us if we must live it with a cow every day. I won't go on with this subject now, but these men who are so proud that they can work from way before daylight until well after dark, and work their wives, children, and hired men like so many cattle, sure don't help matters any.

I think it is a crying shame our nation has sunk to the place where it necessitates violent action to obtain a redress of

(Continued on Page 12)

### To Shear Sheep

Early shorn ewes will make much better mothers than ewes permitted to carry their fleeces into hot weather. In addition, the wool clip will be heavier and in better condition. Sheep that carry their wool into hot weather will rub some of it off with more chances of getting dirty and becoming lower quality. A ewe that is clipped early will be more sensitive to changing weather conditions and bring her lamb into shelter more appropriately.

### To Kill Rats

The rat population will soon be moving out into the fields and open places as weather conditions improve. For each one that is allowed to get away from your buildings this spring, there will be many more return this fall. We urge prompt attention to this eradication work to help reduce the losses from rats. In addition to a good clean-up and fix-up program around the premises, a poison bait program will eliminate many of them. Don't put up with them; get rid of them, they are eating away at your farm profits.

Insect damage annually nullifies the labor of about a million working men.

A well-informed person is one who has the same ideas and views you do.

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### To Get Fertilizer Balance

Of the three major fertilizer elements, nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash, it is impossible to say that one is more important than the other. Each of them has a place in the proper fertility of any plant and the lack of sufficient amounts of any one of them can cause a decrease in crop yields. The approach is by way of a complete soil test to learn of the amounts available and then fertilize to get rid of the shortage.