

From Where We Stand . . .

Outdated Study To Update Meat Inspection Laws

A five-year old study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture has been "dusted off" recently and may be used as a basis for decisions on tougher meat inspection laws.

While meat inspection laws may need improving, an out-of-date study can hardly be expected to furnish facts of sufficient relevancy for formulating an improved program.

In Pennsylvania, for example, Secretary of Agriculture Leland H. Bull said this week that the 25 meat plants reportedly investigated in the state represent less than 1.5 percent of Pennsylvania's total operating plants. He noted several of these, condemned for certain practices in the report, which are no longer even in business.

Bull maintains that better meat inspection laws are needed, and he believes that compliance should be mandatory, not voluntary as now. He also favors a federal-state inspection program, but notes that this would require federal funds to match those provided by the state if such a plan is to be effectively operated.

The question is: how badly is such a law needed — how many offenders are there that can't be minimized or even eliminated through normal state supervision, especially if such inspection by state agriculture departments is made mandatory? Reportedly, 26 states already have mandatory animal inspection laws. According to Secretary Bull, 530,000 animals were slaughtered in plants operating under the Pennsylvania inspection program last year. Of these, 539 animals were condemned.

It would seem that with constant vigilance — in all states — the number of

unfit animals slipping past the state inspectors would be so small that spending millions of dollars annually for federal-state inspection would be impractical and uneconomical.

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Promote Your Own Product

Once again there is local evidence of an organized farmer group putting their efforts where their income comes from.

The Lancaster County Poultry Association is moving toward completion of a program for getting in a plug for poultry products where it counts — at the point of sale.

The Eli Lilly Co. has donated colorful posters to the association. These will be printed locally with home-grown slogans and displayed in the markets, hoping to appeal to the shoppers' proneness toward impulse buying. Whether or not it promotes eggs and poultry effectively remains to be seen. The important thing is that the effort is being made. As the old maxim states: "Nothing ventured, nothing gained."

And the impulse buying factor is an important one. According to a DuPont Co. shopping specialist, almost 70 percent of all purchase decisions are made by the shopper while she is there in the store. Even more significant, most of these store decisions are completely unplanned purchases — that is the shopper had no plans whatsoever to buy those particular items before she entered the store.

A survey, reported by the same specialist, also showed that more than 60 percent of shoppers do not carry a list, relying on the store to suggest the items to buy.

So, congratulations, Poultry Association! We think your self-help program is a move in the right direction.

Brandow Sees U.S. Food Supplies Adequate By '85; Technology Is Key

UNIVERSITY PARK — The U S farmer is capable of producing more than enough food for the 266 million persons expected to populate the nation by 1985, says George E. Brandow, agricultural economist at Penn State University. And he expects that supplies available for export will be at least as large as at present.

One possible assumption is that the rate of increase in crop yields per acre will be the same in the next 20 years as it has been in the past 10 or 20 years, Brandow stated in a recent issue of Farm Economics, a monthly Cooperative Extension Service publication.

This should mean average U S yields, for example of 137 bushels of shelled corn per acre and 34 bushels of wheat per acre by 1985. Even if corn yields rise to 103 bushels per acre instead of 137, adequate supplies will be available, he said.

"Either increase means that continued progress must be made in developing improved technology and putting it to practice. There is no real alternative to improved technology, either in this country or abroad, as a means of meeting future food requirements," he stated.

American agriculture has produced below its capacity in recent years with land taken out of production by government programs, he observed. About 33 million acres of U S farmland were in such programs in 1966.

While 60 million tons of surplus stocks of feed grains were utilized from 1961 to 1967, he said this is considerably less than the 160 million tons that could have been produced on land withheld under government programs.

The economist pointed to a need for substantial changes in livestock production by 1985 to maintain food consumption at present levels. Slaughter of cattle and calves should be nearly double the livestock total for 1966. Milk production per cow may go from the 1966 level of about 8,500 pounds to 15,500 pounds.

One big question, he said, is the course the United States will follow in assisting underdeveloped nations. Such countries will need more food than they themselves can produce. This does not mean, however, that a commercial export market will exist for U S foods in these countries.

Assistance takes two forms, food donations and technical assistance. Brandow wonders to what extent the U S will be willing to use tax money for assistance.

KEEP EGGS COOL

Herbert C. Jordan, extension poultry specialist at Penn State University, urges egg producers to gather eggs often during hot, summer months, and cool them as soon as possible.

Cows And Calves On Improved Pastures

Everyone knows that cows and calves both do better on good spring pastures, but just how much was brought out in a three-year test conducted by U S Department of Agriculture researchers on Montana ranges. Results of the tests were reported at the 59th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Animal Science at the University of Nevada, Reno, by USDA scientists from Miles City, Montana.

Nearly equal numbers of Hereford cows and calves were assigned to native range pastures as the controls while the experimental group roamed improved pastures of crested wheatgrass and alfalfa, and Russian wildrye and alfalfa for six weeks.

Calves on improved pasture had higher average daily gains, higher weaning weights, and higher weaning grades. Also cows on the improved pasture showed significantly higher gains during the summer and all-year long.

While this experiment involved only 55 cows, the calf crop weaned increased by 10 percent on improved pasture.

A chip on the shoulder usually indicates wood higher up



The cool is expected to hang around for the next five days, at least to the extent that temperatures will average somewhat below the normal range of 85 to 64 degrees.

Precipitation should hold off till about Wednesday with showers totaling 1/4-1/2 inch at that time.



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith

Lancaster County Agent

To Aid Tobacco Curing . . .

Some early crops of tobacco are ready for harvest and many more growers are making plans to start cutting in the near future. If the weather conditions of recent weeks continues, curing of the present crop will be a problem on many farms. The crop is high in moisture and will require different weather conditions if it is to cure without supplemental air or heat. It might be timely to be planning for some forced ventilation through the shed and the use of extra heat.

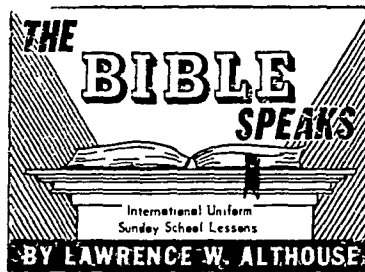
To Plan for Bumper Corn Crop

Many local corn growers are expecting one of the best corn crops in recent years; with continued favorable weather conditions and without any serious storms or adverse climatic conditions, most silos and cribs will be burdened to provide sufficient storage. For silage we recommend bunker

or trench silos for temporary storage. Growers needing to store ear corn in excess of normal crib capacity should be giving some attention to forced air drying with or without supplemental heat. Large piles on the floors of farm buildings will need more than normal air movement.

To Manage Alfalfa Carefully

One of the later cuttings of alfalfa should be permitted to reach the 75% bloom stage if the stand is to remain another year; this practice will help strengthen the root system and give greater yields next year. Fall fertilization after the removal of the final cutting is also a good practice to improve the following cuttings. New seedings made early in August without any chemical weed control used should be sprayed with 2,4-D, B when the weeds are 1 to 2 inches high to prevent crowding out later this fall.



Beyond Mercy

Lesson for August 13, 1967

Background Scripture: Acts 18:1 through 19:20.
Devotional Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

Apollos, it seemed, lacked something vital! He possessed eloquence, he was "well versed in the scriptures," he had been instructed in Christian discipleship, he had a fervent spirit, and he taught accurately what he had learned of Christ. How could such a well-equipped man be said to be lacking in anything?

Rev. Althouse says it this way "he knew only the baptism of John." The Baptist, you will remember, baptized people with water as a cleansing from sin for entrance into the kingdom. What could be wrong with that?

Timeliness of Sin

Nothing was wrong with it. It served a very necessary purpose and today we still baptize people for the remission of their sins. Repentance of sin and forgiveness are no less needed today than they were then. The meaning of baptism is by no means obsolete in our nuclear age, for sin, guilt, and the sense of guilt are still very much with us. No, there is nothing wrong with it, as far as it goes.

The problem is that it does not go far enough. Luke tells us that Apollos had begun "to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Acquila heard him, they took him and expounded to him the way of God more accurately." Obviously, there was something lacking, something more to be added to his already fine list of attributes.

What is "the way of God more accurately"? Luke doesn't bother to tell us in so many words, yet he makes it clear when he says: "he knew only the baptism of John." Obviously the baptism of John was not enough; something more than repentance and cleansing from sin are needed. But what?

A Thousand Pardons!

A man came to his pastor for counselling and admitted that he was seriously contemplating the act of suicide. Overwhelmed with guilt and a feeling of helplessness about himself, he was at the very brink of this act. "I'm so glad you came," said the pastor, "for what you need is the assurance of God's forgiveness." As if the pastor had not really comprehended his feelings, the man shouted: "Forgiveness! Don't you understand that I've received his forgiveness thousands of times — but it hasn't changed a thing!"

This man knew that forgiveness is not enough. Important as it is, we must move beyond God's mercy. Certainly we need to be forgiven and know it, yet if, like this man, we are forgiven again and again, still committing over and over again the same sins and feeling the same remorse, then life becomes a deadly treadmill. We sin, we repent, we are forgiven, we sin again, etc. What point is there to that? In time the forgiveness seems a cheap thing, worthless. The baptism of John takes one that far, but no more.

More than water

In the Church, therefore, there was another baptism that was related to the baptism of John. It was known as the "baptism of the Holy Spirit." This bestowal of God's power was the "way more accurately" that Priscilla and Acquila expounded to Apollos. We can repent of our sins again and again, but only when we have received God's power in our lives as well as his forgiveness, can we experience the victory over sin Christ promised. We need to go beyond mercy, to receive his power to transform our lives.

The condition of Apollo before his meeting with Priscilla and Acquila was like that of many people today. Such a Christianity is but a set of attractive ideals that is never realized in their lives. They become increasingly frustrated as it becomes apparent that they do not grow, but remain forever the same. Without the gift of God's Spirit to change us, our Christianity becomes a disappointment too hard to bear.

God's grace brings us not only forgiveness. It takes us beyond his mercy and gives us the power to be victorious.

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ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE SUNDAY

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