

# From Where We Stand . . .

## FFA — Challenging Youth In Agriculture

Today the business of agriculture is one of vast complexity and many hardships. There are great problems and decisions facing the agriculturist of today. Because of these many awesome facets of the agricultural scene, there are great challenges to be met.

These challenges must be put before the new generation of agriculturists, for these are the men that must meet this challenge. They must be stimulated by this great need and take steps to solve their problems.

The challenges facing the agricultural youth of tomorrow are staggering. It will take a vast amount of training to meet these challenges. The road to success will be long and blocked with obstacles. The Future Farmers of America, the youth in agriculture and the leaders of tomorrow, have accepted the challenge.

It will take a certain type of man to lead American agriculture. It will take a man with the determination and stamina of a hickory switch. He must be able to make the right decisions at the proper time. He must be a leader, but he must also be able to accept suggestions and listen to reason. He must be a universal genius, for he must know the skills of the scientist, inventor, technician, and business manager or his operation cannot survive.

Along with the manager, there must be an efficient operation. A good manager with a poor operation has the same effect as no manager at all. The operation must utilize all labor and capital to the greatest and most efficient extent possible, for in the future it will be the efficient operation that survives.

In tomorrow's world of agriculture, there will be many vast and nearly unbelievable changes. In general, the agriculture of tomorrow will involve a complex array of machinery and computers.

Perhaps the biggest challenge facing the Future Farmers is that of feeding the ever-increasing population. Meeting this challenge will require all of the skill, brainpower, and desire they can muster.

Future Farmers of America are celebrating FFA Week, February 17-24. Their theme — "Challenging Youth In Agriculture."

Training agriculturists is the business of vocational agriculture classes in high schools throughout the state and nation. The FFA program, a part of vo-ag education, gives Future Farmers an opportunity to acquire agricultural abilities, develop skills of leadership and appropriate attitudes of citizenship and cooperation.

## An Expression Of Americanism

Urban development is no respecter of individual rights or property rights — other than in terms of the minimum amount of cash called for by the law when property is taken over. The idea seems to be that so long as a person is paid so many dollars, his rights have been respected. But, such is not always the case, and it is pleasant to read of a community that has viewed property rights in terms other than the almighty dollar.

The residents of suburban Glenview, Illinois, recently voted on a bond issue to develop a public park. The park would have taken over the last farm in the area on which a family has lived since 1837. The bond issue was rejected by a 2 to 1 majority in one of the largest turnouts of voters in the community's history. One of the main reasons given for the defeat of the bond issue was that voters sympathized with the farm owners who said that they didn't want to lose their farm. As a press comment said, "... it is a notable event when a government is forced to recognize property rights and the right of a family to privacy in its home."

"The voters of the Glenview park district are to be congratulated. Their vote was a fine expression of Americanism."

We wish the same expression of Americanism would be more evident in the highway and other urban development currently eating our rich Lancaster County limestone farm land.

## ★ ★ ★ ★ Spring

Spring is just around the corner. Planting time will soon be here, especially in the South, but will gradually move Northward. Farmers should not delay in:

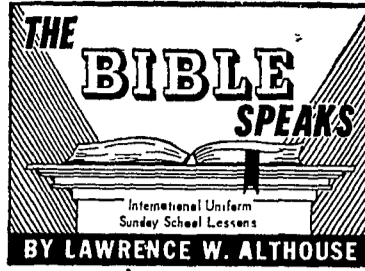
- (1) Ready all equipment and replacing worn out or obsolete items.
- (2) Checking with the County Agent and County ASC officials on programs which affect them.
- (3) Finalizing plans for production this year.
- (4) Having soils tested to determine fertility needs.
- (5) Ordering needed lime and fertilizer.
- (6) Ordering necessary seed.
- (7) Setting up farm records to determine amount of profit.
- (8) Arranging for needed laborers.

All farmers should take into account food and fiber needs of this Nation and foreign countries as determined by the various National and World authorities on this subject. The World population is increasing by the minute. However, the amount of land available for the production of needed materials is constantly decreasing. This is due to increases in industrial construction, the demand for additional housing, highways, shopping centers, etc. Therefore, each acre of land left must produce more to meet the increased demand. This emphasizes the necessity of improving the productive capacity of the soil by applying the needed minerals based on studies made by soil technicians. Lime and fertilizer are the basic materials needed for soil improvement — and in that order. So get your soils tested immediately and then get the lime on the land before Spring arrives and order the needed fertilizer for delivery when needed.

## Weather Forecast

The five-day forecast for the period Saturday through next Wednesday calls for temperatures to average below normal. Daytime highs are expected to be in the mid 30's and the over night lows in the 20's. Cold throughout the period with little day to day change. Average high is 42 and low 24.

Precipitation may total one-tenth of an inch occurring as snow flurries mostly over the mountains.



## THIS I KNOW!

Lesson for February 18, 1968

Background Scripture: John 7 through 9.  
Devotional Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:1-6.

"Seeing is believing," runs the old adage. Yet sometimes perhaps it is even more correct to say that believing is seeing. Sometimes we cannot see because there is no disposition to believe in anything. If our minds are



Rev. Althouse  
31 RSV).

### For Further Discovery

There could be little scientific advance today if men of science were not willing to believe beyond what has already been proven. Several years ago in the journal of a leading university there appeared an article about "particle 38." Having celebrated its discovery, the writer went on to say: "We are not absolutely sure particle 38 really exists, but it is a most helpful construction for further discovery." There can be no basis for further discovery in any field if we close our eyes and refuse to look beyond what we know to be proven.

Just as we have seen that there are two types of starvation or malnutrition, so there are two types of blindness. Physical blindness is bad enough, but spiritual blindness is an even more serious condition. The loss of one's soul is even more critical than the loss of the eyes.

Furthermore, Jesus makes it clear that spiritual blindness is not accidental. The man who loses his eyesight suffers enforced blindness, but the man who is spiritually blind is different in that he chooses to be blind. He can see but refuses to accept what he sees. His handicap is his unwillingness.

### Spiritual Myopia

This is evident in John 9 when Jesus heals the blind man. When the man appears before his fellow townspeople, they can see that his eyes are open, that he is no longer sightless. Yet, skeptically they ask: "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some agree that it is, while others refuse to accept what they see: "No, but he is like him." Because they do not want to believe, they will not see.

The Pharisees are no less blind. That a man's sight has been restored seems of no consequence to them. They fix their near-sighted vision on a question of propriety: has the sabbath been broken? Healing, they reasoned, was work and work was strictly forbidden on the sabbath. Since they were confronted by something they could not explain, they closed their eyes and saw only what they wanted. They remind us of the physician in Zadig who predicted that Zadig would lose his eyesight. When, instead, Zadig recovered, the physician wrote a treatise on why Zadig should have been blind!

### "Now I See!"

Thwarted in their attempts to get damaging testimony from the parents of the man who had been healed, the Pharisees turn to the man himself. Wasn't he aware that this "healer" was an impostor, a sinner? Theologically, of course, the healed man was no match for them. He was unable to untangle the legal implications of his healing. There is, however, one thing that he can say with complete confidence: "... one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see."

There is much in both science and religion today that lies beyond our proof and understanding. There is much we cannot explain. But we are not called to prove Christ, to match theological wits with each other, or to author irrefutable doctrines and creeds. We are challenged to meet life with eyes wide-open, ready to see whatever God would reveal to us and share with each other, not our theories, but our experiences of what Christ has done for us.

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## Read Lancaster Farming For Full Market Reports



## NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith  
Lancaster County Agent

### To Order Fertilize for Pastures . . .

Permanent grass pastures or any of the winter grains being used for pastures or green chopping will respond to an application of fertilizer early in the spring. On old bluegrass stands an application of 40 to 50 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre will give greater and earlier grazing. When there are some clovers in the stand, then a complete fertilizer such as 10-10-10 should be used. Early fertilization brings earlier pasture.

### To Topdress Winter Wheat . . .

Many wheat producers will increase yields with a nitrogen application about the middle of March, or when vegetative growth starts, the use of 20 to

30 pounds of actual nitrogen of wheat to be seeded down to hay, or 30 to 50 pounds of wheat not to be underseeded will give good results on most fields. This is especially true on sand or gravel soils where nitrogen leaching is heavier. On heavy fertile soils where lodging is a problem extra nitrogen is not recommended.

### To Obtain Agronomy Guide . . .

The 1968 Agronomy Guides are out and a very good publication for all farmers. This Penn State Extension publication is recognized as a farm crop handbook for farmers and is very useful. Get your copy soon and benefit from the recommendations.

## Farm News This Week

- Road Hunting To Be Further Curbed Under New Legislation — Page 1
- Milk Commission Accepts Testimony At Hearing — Page 1
- Poultrymen Hear Specialists On Egg Marketing Problems — Page 1
- Mumma Is President Of Guernsey Breeders — Page 1
- Annual Meeting Of Extension Set Feb. 20 — Page 1
- Cattle Feeder Meeting Draws 100 Farmers — Page 1

### LANCASTER FARMING

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