

From Where We Stand . . .

Farming Fever

Statistics show that farm accidents occur with much greater frequency during peak activity periods. This is due to long hours of work and the fact that as workers get tired they tend to take chances to save time rather than using good sense. This is "farming fever."

H. C. Tankersley, safety specialist and Rural Civil Defense leader at the University of Idaho's Agricultural Experiment Station, has outlined possible reasons for "farming fever" and the ways it can be reduced.

Why does the farmer take chances knowing the possible results? One reason is that he is often the farm manager, the chairman of the board, president of the corporation, marketing economist, and the janitor for his business. The livelihood and the standard of living of his family depend directly upon him. Lack of readily available extra labor often requires the farmer to work exceedingly long hours, or at least he feels he must. Too often the farmer is preoccupied with thoughts of managing his business and with the pressure of the season and climate while operating a piece of complicated machinery. Often he is so concerned with "getting the job done" to insure his family a maximum income that he fails to consider the consequences of acting unwisely at any given moment.

An obvious conclusion is that pressures of the season, lack of available extra labor, the need to make management decisions, and long hours on the job are things that cause "farming fever." Being overtired, impatient, rushed, and taking risks are symptoms of "farming fever." If we accept these conclusions, it is logical to conclude that accidents costing money, lost time, and death are the effects of "farming fever."

Farm work presents some hazards inconsistent with the actual task being performed. For example, the farmer is often faced with the task of moving his farm equipment from the farmstead to the field on a public highway. Here he is in competition with vehicles designed for high speed travel, while his tractor or machine is designed to function in an entirely different manner.

The use of modern equipment on the farm often presents serious hazards because of the nature of their use. For example, the farmer may actually use his rotary mower more hours per year than he will operate any other piece of equipment designed for a specific operation, such as a combine or potato harvester.

A farmer is involved in an occupation which is essentially seasonal in nature. He must "make hay while the sun shines." This is the reason for high accident rates

which deserve most of our attention. It is the real key to preventing farm accidents.

The prescription for prevention of "farming fever" is simple but one which is difficult to apply. It is thinking safety. This requires that the farmer always consider the consequences of his actions, identify the hazards related to the situation, and then act accordingly.

These simple rules can reduce farm accidents with machines

1. Keep all guards in place.
2. Never dismount from a tractor or machine without disengaging the driving mechanism.
3. Be sure equipment is in good operating condition before heading into the field.
4. Permit only the operator on the machine. No riders!
5. Don't allow oil or grease to accumulate where you have to climb or stand.
6. Replace worn out mufflers. Loud engine noise can permanently impair your hearing.
7. Keep wheels spread as wide as possible to prevent tipping.
8. Keep a proper fire extinguisher attached to machine.
9. Refuel a cool engine only.
10. Be sure brakes are evenly adjusted.
11. Use slow-moving vehicle emblems when moving on highway or road.
12. Take a mid-morning and mid-afternoon refreshment break. A half-hour is about right.

Don't succumb to "farming fever."



Plastic Wishbones?

A little item from the Poultry and Egg National Board about meatless turkey simulation came across our desk this week. It seems according to Food Processing-Marketing magazine (December 1967) — under the new products listing the introduction of a meatless turkey simulation — a frozen 2-lb simulated turkey roast is now in distribution from Worthington Foods, Worthington, Ohio.

The meatless product is produced exclusively from vegetable proteins. The simulated product is said to have the taste and texture of a turkey roast, and to contain all the nutritional value of the real bird without cholesterol. Each package of the roast contains a plastic wishbone. Suggested retail price is less than \$2 for the 2-lb. roast.

We know the egg industry has been told frequently that they appear to have a stronger wishbone than the backbone to finance a strong promotion program on a voluntary basis.

But, plastic wishbones?

We presume the plastic wishbone is for people who want to wish they wouldn't have to give up genuine turkey for soybeans. At least that's the way it looks from where we stand.

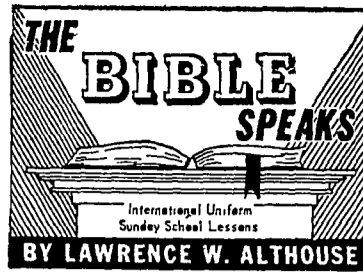
Across The Fence Row

"Can any thoughtful person reasonably believe that a disorderly society can survive? In all recorded history, none ever has. . . . History shows that every society which became lawless soon succumbed, and that the first evidence of each society's decay appeared in the toleration of disobedience of its laws and the judgments of its courts." — Argo, Ill., News

Weather Forecast

The five-day forecast for the period Saturday through next Wednesday, calls for temperatures to average below normal with daytime highs in the 30 to 40 range and the overnight low from 10 to 20. Moderately cold through the period.

Precipitation may total less than one-fourth inch water equivalent. Chance of snow Saturday night and snow flurries or scattered showers Wednesday.



International Uniform Sunday School Lessons
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE
THE SHEPHERD
Lesson for February 25, 1968

Background Scripture John 10.
Devotional Reading John 10:1-5.

While we were driving through Wyoming's Big Horn mountains this past summer, one of my sons spotted and called our attention to "hundreds of white rocks" on the road that climbed before us. As we drew nearer we recognized



Rev. Althouse

that the "rocks" were in reality sheep: a huge flock of sheep that nearly covered the mountainside was moving slowly in our direction. Our boys were delighted at the prospect of seeing so close at hand the fluffy, white animals. When at last we reached the sheep, however, engulfing our car on all sides like a swollen mountain stream, we were in for a surprise. Fluffy, white, "cute" at a distance, the sheep at close hand were not so white, not so fluffy, and not at all "cute."

Delicious Luxury

In fact, the sheep had an unpleasant odor. They were inhabited by huge flies. And as they continued to buffet the car — for no apparent reason except that the first had done so — it became apparent that they were none too intelligent either. Furthermore, the shepherd, when he passed us, was hardly the romantic figure we had envisioned. He looked tired, bored, and not in the best of moods.

Instinctively the twenty-third Psalm came to my mind and I remembered reading somewhere that most people misinterpret it entirely. Many repeat its words and envision beautiful green hillsides, lavender skies, snow-white sheep, and a fair-skinned shepherd who reminds us faintly of "mother." With this idyllic picture in mind, the psalmist seems to be suggesting that religious faith is a delicious luxury. As G. A. Studert Kennedy once put it, we think of religion, "not as life but

as a kind of addition to life which is very nice to have but which we could quite well do without."

Yet the sheep in the Psalm look to the shepherd, not for luxuries, but the bare necessities. They seek no little niceties added to life, but the hard, cold realities of food, drink, shelter, rest, and physical protection. The leadership of the good shepherd is the religion of a realist, a pragmatist who is concerned with providing sufficient strength for the meeting of life's daily problems and difficulties. There is nothing of sentimental luxury here.

Not "Little Lambs"

Thus when Jesus says to them, "I am the good shepherd," he is offering leadership to us for the living of life where we are. He promises to provide for our needs, not our luxuries. He does not guarantee us a path without danger, but his sustaining presence in the midst of it. He is the companion who is with us, not only in our "devotional moments," our hours of worship in our churches, the circle of family prayer, but wherever we are, whatever we are doing, he is there.

Neither are we his "little lambs," regardless of how sentimentally sweet it might seem to think so. Like real sheep, we are hardly as white as snow as we might seem at a distance. It is not always the odor of sanctity that hangs upon us. And there are times when we too seem incredibly stupid, doing what we do, not because it is reasonable, but because we are merely copying someone else.

Concept And Reality

"I am the good shepherd," Jesus said. Yet Jesus was never satisfied with saying a thing; he practiced what he preached, he embodied what he taught. In a short while the words of Jesus would be turned to deeds: "The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep . . . and I lay down my life for the sheep . . . No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord" (John 10:11-18 RSV).

The cross proved the integrity of those words. The concept of the good shepherd became more than an interesting theory. It became a reality at Calvary one spring afternoon.

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Read Lancaster Farming For Full Market Reports



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Take Note . . . If you are planning to make an office visit to our Agricultural and Home Economics Extension Offices, please come to the new Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, and not to the Post Office Building. We moved into the new Center on February 20 and everyone is urged to learn how easy it is to visit us there.

To Do Farm Planning . . . The 1968 cropping season is rapidly approaching, there are many details to work out and many decisions to be made, we urge all farmers to take time to do some "pencil pushing" in order to proceed according to an organized plan. Good manage-

ment of the farm is very important and time must be spent in order to plan and manage properly.

To Recognize Horse Parasites . . .

The light-horse population of the county is increasing, many families are buying a pony or a pleasure horse. At a recent meeting of horse-men, one of our Penn State Extension Specialists pointed out that in his opinion nearly 100% of our horses are infested with some kind of internal parasites. The thrift and growth of horses will be reduced when carrying a parasite infection. Owners are urged to submit a fecal sample of their animals to their local veterinarian.

Farm News This Week

Inter-State Adopts Resolution To Preserve Penna. Milk Agency — Page 13

Farm And Home Mortgage Limit At \$235,000 — Page 1

Extension Association Meeting Sees Soil Slide Presentation — Page 1

Bull Announces Plans For Milk Promotion Meet — Page 13

Progressive Farm Family Receives FHA Year Award — Page 1

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