

From Where We Stand . . .

The Poultry Production "Grass Roots" Promotion Control Debate

The Lancaster County Poultry Association and the men behind it are to be congratulated on sponsorship of the educational meeting that featured both sides of the controversial production controls issue. (The meeting was held Tuesday night and is reported on page one of this issue)

However, we were disappointed that more positive suggestions for solutions to the problem were not made, especially on the side of control without government interference.

Richard Ammon, on the side of no government controls but admitting voluntary controls don't work, spent his time degrading the Talmadge Bill just sent to congress. And rightly so. No, poultry producer could want to be controlled in the manner this bill proposes. Even Sam Berenson who took the other side of the story, told the group before Ammon spoke that this kind of bill was not what he favored.

Berenson's thinking was that government should control only production by issuing quotas on a graduating scale. For example he proposed a two percent cut-back on flocks of 5,000 to 50,000 birds, four percent on 50,000 to 75,000 bird flocks and six percent on 75,000 to 100,000 bird flocks.

He also would have the county agents check local situations and limit the sale of quotas within the state.

We appreciate the fact that at least someone presented an idea for consideration rather than just presenting what farmers don't want. However, even this proposal has a big if in it, because it is dependent on government controlling only a small part of the industry. And we doubt the consumer oriented congress would be satisfied to have it's hands on only a small part of control.

But, both sides agree voluntary control will not work because it hasn't. And everyone must agree that some solution must be found for producers (those who do the physical labor) if they are to survive the shock of twelve months of below cost poultry and egg prices.

At any rate, whichever side you are on, the meeting served to create more intelligent thinking. And that we need. But we also need positive action to control production. Either, voluntary cut-back or government administered control whichever producers want. And they better soon want one or the other or there will not be any production to cut. They'll be out of business.

At least that's the way it looks from where we stand.

Farm News This Week

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When did you last serve pork to guests? Or use any fresh pork cut besides pork chops? These questions were part of a quiz which Wes Howe, pork manager for Kroger Company, threw at Illinois pork producers recently during a talk on promotion. Some of the hogmen looked a little sheepish; couldn't answer the questions. Howe's point: The individual producer can start with "grass roots" promotion among his friends in town — or even at home.

And we heard about the true story of the Lancaster County farmer who tried to humiliate his herdsman in front of the veterinarian by asking, "What do you think of him? He uses margarine."

To which the doctor replied, "Oh, not too bad considering what you are doing."

At first the farmer didn't understand but soon he walked red facedly toward the calf barn carrying two pails of (you guessed it) milk replacer.

The moral is that if farmers don't use their own products they can't expect others to either. At least that's the way it looks from where we stand.

Thank You To Whom?

Yesterday, March 1, was declared as National Day of Prayer which brings to mind the writing of Lola Janes, from the state of Oregon, who wrote in Farm Journal's Letters From Farm Women: "My husband and I were commenting one morning about a letter in a newspaper advice column. A man had written, objecting to his son's saying thank-you to God for his food at mealtime. The father felt he himself should be thanked since he earned the money to buy the food. We joked about this point of view, then forgot about the incident. But not our five-year-old son.

"At supper that night, Donny said the blessing. He looked up at his father and said: 'Thank you, Daddy, for my food.' Then he bowed his head and continued: 'Thank you, God, for my Daddy. . .'"

Across The Fence Row

- You can't control the length of your life,
- But you can control its width and depth;
- You can't control the contour of your countenance,
- But you can control its expression;
- You can't control the other fellow's opportunities,
- But you can grasp your own;
- You can't control the weather,
- But you can control the moral atmosphere which surrounds you;
- You can't control hard times or rainy days,
- But you can bank money now to boost you through both;
- So, why worry about things you can't control?

Get busy controlling things that depend on you.

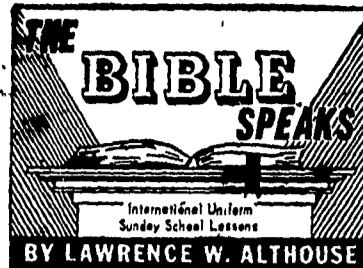
Some people fall for everything and stand for nothing.

Then there's this story:
A farmer wrote to a rural paper to ask "how long cows should be milked."
"Why the same as short cows, of course," advised the editor.

Weather Forecast

The five-day forecast calls for temperatures to average below normal with daytime highs in the mid 30's and overnight lows in the 20's. Cold Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. Near seasonal temperatures Tuesday and Wednesday. Normal high is 46 and low is 27.

Precipitation may total less than one-fourth inch water equivalent. Snow mainly over the mountains Monday night or Tuesday.

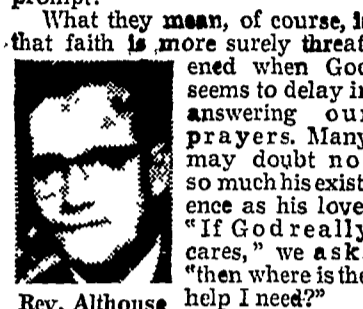


WHEN GOD DELAYS

Lesson for March 3, 1968

Background Scripture: John 11, Devotional Reading: John 14:1-11.

Someone has suggested that the burning theological question today is not so much, "Is God dead?" but "Why isn't he more prompt?"



Rev. Althouse

Two Days Longer

We sense some of this same attitude in the hearts of Martha and Mary. Anxiously they waited for Jesus to come while their brother's life ebbed ever lower. Often when human help fails to come, it is the result of someone's negligence or some other human failure. But it is not this in Jesus's case. The delay is purposeful. "So when he heard that he was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was" (John 11:6 RSV).

If, as John says, Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, then why did he delay? That's a strange way to show love! When at last Jesus arrives in Bethany, there seems to be a thinly-disguised reproach in Martha's voice: "Lord, if you have been here, my brother would not have died" (John 11:21 RSV). Apparently others felt the same thing, for as Jesus is led to the tomb of Lazarus, a bystander asks: "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" (John 11:37 RSV). The question seems fair enough, like some which we ourselves have perhaps asked.

Our Ignorance

So why does the Master delay? Jesus says to his disciples: "Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I

am glad that I was not there that you may believe." By the time the messenger arrives with news of Lazarus's sickness, Jesus knows that his friend has died in the meantime. There is no need to rush off to Bethany to save a life that already is gone. Therefore, Jesus' delay was partly dependent upon the fact that he knew what the others did not know.

So it may be with our prayers to God. We pray in our ignorance, but he answers them out of the context of his divine knowledge and wisdom. What we may ask may not be really wise or good in the long run. He gives his children what they need, not necessarily what they ask for. Cannot all of us say, "Thank God I have not received all from God that I have asked for?" For example, a boy and girl break off their engagement. Later the girl has a change of heart and begins to pray that God will lead her ex-fiancee back to her. Not an unreasonable desire, until she learns that he has since married someone else!

His Way And Ours

When Jesus arrives at the tomb, he does not ask God to do anything. Instead he thanks God for what he has already done! Even though Lazarus is still in the tomb, Jesus prays: "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me . . ." (John 11:41 RSV). Jesus has been praying for Lazarus all along and now in perfect confidence he looks to the fulfillment of those prayers. He did not delay in helping his friends, but he was helping them in a way that they did not expect.

So it may be with our prayers. We ask for help and expect that God will give us that help according to our terms, to follow our directions. If we want him to help us, we must let God be God, the place where he was" (John 11:6 RSV). Just because we cannot see the answer to our prayers, does not mean they are not being answered.

Jesus delayed returning to Bethany because he loved Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Even from this tragic death God would write a blessing. In fact, if he delayed, the blessing would be even greater!

And so Jesus said, "Lazarus, come out!" and he came out and Lazarus, a bystander asks: "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" (John 11:37 RSV). The question seems fair enough, like some which we ourselves have perhaps asked.

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NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Eradicate Johnsongrass . . .
We are aware of a number of farms with johnsongrass infestation and want to stress the importance of complete control, this grassy weed is known as the "green monster" of any crop land and is very difficult to control. It resembles sudan grass with similar heads but its white fleshy roots separate the two grasses. This grass will take over a field in a few years and almost eliminate the chance of any crop. Control requires spraying with dalapon or aminot-T when growth is 10 to 12 inches high and repeat sprays or deep tillage for the balance of the season. The field should not be planted to any crops until complete control is attained. Special attention to these areas is recommended.

To Creep Feed Lambs . . .
Local sheep producers who are planning to sell their early lambs for the Easter market should be giving them extra grain through

the creep feeder, this will result in more weight and a higher quality lamb to market. In most years the Easter market is one of the highest priced times to market lambs. Simple grain mixtures containing corn and oats in the feeder are recommended.

To Observe Winter Grains Closely . . .

The very dry weather conditions in the past month may have done considerable damage to much of our winter grain crop, this is especially true with winter barley. With the wheat fields growers are reminded of the value of top-dressing with nitrogen about the middle of March, or when spring growth gets started. This will stimulate the plants and could thicken the stand and result in greater yields. The amount per acre will vary from 25 to 50 pounds depending upon fertility and lodging problems.