

From Where We Stand . . .

Farm Safety

You can name an almost endless variety of ways to get hurt on the farm. For our Amish neighbors a run-away horse might be the problem. And we know tractor accidents kill more than a thousand people in the U.S. each year, mostly from overturns.

Several years ago, Leland Bull, Pa. Secretary of Agriculture, gave eight rules for safe tractor driving that we think are worth reviewing.

1. Drive slowly — for safety and for greater efficiency. Tractors are designed for power, not speed.

2. Drive cautiously. A hidden hump or ditch can flip the machine over or pitch the operator off.

3. Drive on public highways only when absolutely necessary, and then preferably when traffic is lighter.

4. Use extra caution on slopes. Avoid those that are too steep.

5. Climb steep grades in reverse to avoid flipping the machine over backward. Going down grade keep the machine in gear, but don't try to handle heavy loads.

6. Pull only from the drawbar. A load hitched to the axle or seat bracket can pull the tractor over backward.

7. When pulling really heavy loads, add front end weights to keep the tractor balanced.

8. If the tractor wheels stick in a ditch or deep mudhole get help. Something must turn when power is applied. If the wheels can't, the rest of the tractor will.

Another common problem on many farms is clutter. Lots of us are collectors. We can not bear to part with old newspapers, tattered magazines and books, broken tools, worn out tires, punctured innertubes, empty grease cans, bottles and jugs.

A few days work, reorganization of storage, a bonfire and a couple trips to a dump would do wonders for the appearance, convenience and safety of many farms.

Farm fires cost 500 lives and \$200 million in property damage each year. Fire prevention is especially important in considering ways to make your farm more safe. Burn rubbish at a safe distance from buildings and when the wind is calm. Check your electrical system and make needed repairs. Watch smoking in buildings. Check daily the temperature of newly stored hay.

And watch firearms. The story is told of several boys who were playing with a gun they found — one pretending to be a soldier and the other the enemy. The little soldier aimed at the enemy, not thinking the gun might be loaded.

For some reason the enemy shied away and asked the other boy not to point it at him. Fortunately, the soldier swung around and sighted an old hen nearby. Unfortunately for her, he pulled the trigger and the sharp crack and flurry of feathers instantly told them what had almost happened.

Many a barn, shed, garage, back porch

and basement is cluttered by little-used chemicals and containers: pesticides, fertilizers, cleaning agents, solvents, medicants, etc. You should provide safe storage areas for all these. And "safe" means beyond access of children and animals, preferably locked up.

Just this week, a report came across our desk about the dairy farmer in Western Maryland who began at 7:45 a.m. to spray 41 heifers due to calve this fall with an unlabeled liquid purchased a year ago at a farm auction. At 10:00 a.m., all 41 heifers were dead.

The farmer had not used the liquid when he bought it because he did not know what it was. This year he wasn't as cautious.

The extension veterinarian at the University of Maryland identified the liquid as methyl parathion, a chemical that is a highly toxic organic phosphate insecticide.

So, don't take a chance by using any chemical in an unlabeled container.

And you could go on and on with ladders, hand and power tools, silo gases and you name the hazard. The real thing to remember is that accidents can be prevented. They don't just happen; they are caused!

where we stand this Farm Safety Week, July 21-27.

Just A Thief

An issue of the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin included an article that tells in considerable detail about a breed of criminals that prey on every honest consumer and retail distributor — the shoplifter. Shoplifting is big business, and shoplifters unlike other law violators ". . . come in a wide range of ages and represent every walk of life. They use dozens of techniques to steal merchandise from stores varying in size from the small corner bar to items with price tags in the thousands of dollars."

According to the Bulletin, theft in the retail industry has been estimated in billions of dollars per year. Retailers in one city with a population of nearly a million estimated shoplifting losses at a million dollars a month. Since many stores, notably large volume supermarkets, operate on a slim one percent of net profit, a dollar lost to shoplifting means that \$100 in sales must be rung up to offset the loss. It takes no expert to figure out that with shoplifting running into the billions of dollars annually retail distributors have no choice but to cover part of the loss with higher prices.

Through some weird mental process, shoplifters do not consider themselves thieves. In the words of the FBI Bulletin, shoplifting is considered by many, otherwise well intentioned people, as something other than larceny, sneak thievery, stealing, or a criminal violation. Perhaps the best way to curb shoplifting would be to brand a practitioner of the art in the eyes of society for what he is — a thief.

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

Across The Fence Row

Little boy with report card: "I was the highest of all who flunked."

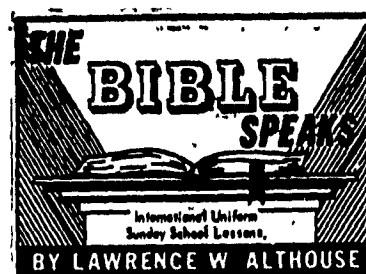
Beware of free gifts: a mouse can always find free cheese in a trap, but often is not too happy over the results.

Local Weather Forecast

(From the U. S. Weather Bureau at the Harrisburg State Airport)

The five-day forecast for the period Saturday through next Wednesday calls for temperatures to average below normal with daytime highs in the 80's and over-night lows in the 60's. Seasonal temperature through Monday and cooler Tuesday and Wednesday.

Rain may total one inch with showers likely Monday or Tuesday.



A HEART TRANSPLANT

Lesson for July 21, 1968

Background Scriptures: Ezekiel 18; 34:16-38.
Devotional Reading: Psalms 51:10-17.

Several years ago on one of those Sunday afternoon panel-interview television programs, a newsman asked a physician if he thought it would ever be possible to transplant the human heart. The unequivocal answer he received was "No, when he arrived definitely not!" Today, of course, there is no longer a question of impossibility. It has already been done and is likely to be done again and again.



Rev. Althouse

A new spirit

It is wonderful that today the human physical heart can be replaced by a transplant. How much more wonderful if we could transplant the spiritual heart as well. Just as that amazing muscular pump transplanted from one body to another can bring it new life, so new life could enter the soul of man if he could find the means of getting himself a new spiritual heart.

This is precisely what Ezekiel proposed to the people of Judah in their Chaldean exile: "Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit". The people of Judah are like a pile of whitened bones, but if they will get themselves a new heart, the dry bones can live and rise again. "Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God; so turn and live". (Ezekiel 18:31, 31b, 32 RSV)

There is the key: ". . . so turn and live!" The people of Judah needed to change. This is what Jesus told Nicodemus: that he and all men would have to be born anew. There are frequent New Testament references to the need for rebirth, renewal, and conversion. There is, also Paul,

quoting the Corinthians: "Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation". (2 Corinthians 5:17 RSV)

Quarrelsome ape

But is it possible? Can men "get a new heart" or is this merely some misty ideal? "No!" say those who have observed that people seldom change, that even their own attempts to change have been fruitless exercises in futility. These are the people who "give up smoking forever" at least once a month, who have despaired of bathroom scales that keep going up and never down. Like H. G. Wells, they have observed that, though man is an animal who can jump a hundred miles, see through brick walls, bombard the atom and analyze the stars, he nevertheless continues to "behave like the quarrelsome ape he used to be." Yet people can change; Ezekiel himself experienced that. A priest in the Jerusalem temple, he had had to re-evaluate his vocation when he arrived in the "outside world," it will be the same tough world they left behind. If they are going to find a place in it, they are the ones who will have to do the changing.

We might wish that the world were different, but it isn't. If it is ever to be improved, we must change first and then the world may begin to change too. It begins in us with a new heart!

Bill Sands was a prisoner in San Quentin some years ago. He was marked as an "incorrigible" and no one thought he would ever change. No one, but Warden Clinton Duffy who managed to communicate to Bill that he cared what happened to him. Today Bill Sands is a free man, a respected citizen, who is spending his life helping other convicts to "get a new heart." One of the things he teaches them is that when they return to the "outside world," it will be the same tough world they left behind. If they are going to find a place in it, they are the ones who will have to do the changing.

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NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith

Lancaster County Agent

To Prepare for New Seedings

Late summer seedings of alfalfa or permanent pasture takes time and planning. The first step is to run a complete soil test on the soil. Alfalfa should be seeded early in August and the new pasture seedings made the first week in September. The lime and fertilizer needed should be worked into the soil during the preparing process; a fine, firm seedbed free of weeds should be the objective.

To Purchase Top Herd Sires

During the summer months many hog and sheep producers will be buying new sires. To get a ram or boar good enough for the money wanted to spend is very difficult; many producers will not be willing to pay the extra price for a purebred sire, or one with good background.

Since the sire will have an influence on every offspring, he should be the best that is available and one that will produce desirable market animals in a short period of time. Performance testing and understanding of pedigree and bloodlines should be a guide.

To Feed Wheat

The decreased market value of wheat this summer reduces the value of this small grain as a good cash crop. Since wheat has considerable feed value, we'd suggest that all livestock producers (except horsemen) consider the feeding of some wheat in their rations. When fed as part of the grain ration (up to 25%) wheat may be used to replace corn pound for pound. Introduce the ground or cracked wheat (not whole) into the ration gradually.

Farm News This Week

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