

## From Where We Stand . . .

### Pork Not Worth Supporting?

Several weeks ago we reported the Lancaster County Swine Association asked the support of local farmers for the "Nickels for Profit" program by sending over 760 letters (a sizable mailing list for any organization) to local swine producers. The "Nickels" program is a voluntary self-help program started January 1, 1968, to enable pork producers to unite to improve quality and product promotion on a national scale.

Across the nation the results have been excellent as reported by the Meat Board. Quoting from the National Live Stock and Meat Board Reports, "Audited records show pennies representing 1,400,000 hogs deposited in MB account through cooperating markets, packer firms . . . but pennies on well over a million hogs came to MB, as a result of pork producer efforts, from firms not previously committed to MB financing. — as many as 100 new marketing sources now processing pork producer investments —"

But locally, the response has been disappointing. Only a few of the letters sent out have brought any response. We wonder why? Maybe pork isn't worth promoting. Maybe producers want the politicians in Harrisburg and Washington to run a mandatory program. Maybe imitation meat really isn't being manufactured. Maybe —

Well, anyway, we don't know why the program hasn't had greater support but it looks like one carrying very little fat of paid employees and fancy organization. Most of the work is done by non-paid workers like the Lancaster County Swine Association directors. It really does deserve your support.

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

### An Illustrious Future

"Often it is stated that man's basic requirements are three: food, clothing and shelter. I would like to suggest that while clothing and shelter may require a fair share of man's efforts in temperate zones, these items man has always been able to improvise wherever he could find food. A fourth essential to survival, health, often has been overlooked. And an advanced civilization requires a fifth essential, a political and economic system fostering incentives so that all may prosper by their efforts.

"As man passed from hunter to herdsman, then to community life, made possible by farming, the power structures and taboos of primitive societies provided neither health nor opportunity. Even those primitive societies often thought of as idyllic, such as the Polynesian, were so fraught with taboos the common man was held in fear and ser-

vitute by them. Cato the Elder, about 200 B.C., although the son of a peasant, noted that a farm was better run when the owner lived upon it, saying, "the master's eye is better than his heel." But Cato did not forecast the rapid strides man would make when every man was his own master. When Rome changed from agriculture to conquest as a base, the "glories that were Rome" were not shared by those slaves who were forced to build the arches of Rome.

"Throughout the centuries civilization fell to plagues and pestilence as well as to wars. Repeatedly nations were weakened for over-running by systems that subjugated the agricultural worker as a serf, without land ownership, tenure, or the incentive of gain through effort.

"It is no accident that societies prospered, after the Crusades, as they provided tenure systems for the farmer, thus creating initiative. And it is no accident that the great bulk of men's other advances have occurred in these same societies. It is no accident that health is best and life the easiest in societies that have encouraged a prosperous and respected agriculture. It is no accident that garden plots in Russia produce out of all proportion to collectives. And finally, it is not surprising that poor health and hunger walk hand-in-hand in lands where land tenure is difficult, farming considered a second-class occupation and where farmer incentives are lacking."

These paragraphs were written by Louis A. McLean in his ten-page discourse entitled "Peregrination By An Optimist". And we couldn't help thinking of his words as we sat in the meeting of farmers last week, called by the Lampeter Strasburg School Board to air ideas on the school's Ag program.

Time and again history shows that where the farmer lost his position in relation with the rest of the economy in his country, that country lost its position in the world economy. It is no secret that this is happening in our country.

We want to commend this school board for their final unanimous action bucking the national trend and keeping the FFA program at Lampeter Strasburg. As Board President Dr. Donald B. Witmer said, "If we are preparing even one or two percent of our population for life we should do it."

We certainly understand the problems of finding a good Vo-Ag teacher at this late date and the declining enrollment in the course. However, by accepting these problems the directors have insured an illustrious place for the Lampeter Strasburg School District in the future through their Vo-Ag Department as has been recorded for them in the past.

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

### Across The Fence Row

Did you hear about the Medicare patient who had surgery? He woke up and found a placard on his incision: "This is a Federal project showing your tax dollar at work."

Wife: "I want to do a lot of shopping tomorrow if it's a nice day. What's the weather forecast?"

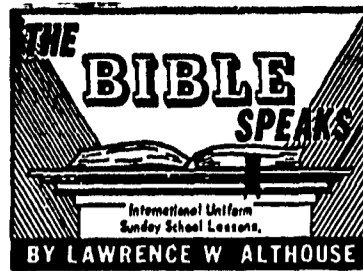
Hubby: "Rain, hail, sleet, snow, thunder, lightning and high winds!"

### 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 near or below normal with daytime highs in the low 80's and over-night lows in the 60's. Hot over the weekend and turning cooler the beginning of next week. Normal high-low for the period is 83-62.

Rain may total one-fourth to one-half inch as showers Sunday afternoon or Sunday night.



THE BIBLE SPEAKS  
International Uniform Sunday School Lessons  
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE  
THE DILEMMA  
Lesson for August 25, 1968

Background Scriptures: Ezra 7 through 10.  
Devotional Reading: Psalms 1.

People may encounter a book like Ezra and put it aside with the assumption that its day and its problems have nothing to do with our own. There may even be some disdain for a man like Ezra whose major concern seems to be that of preventing the Jews from intermarrying with pagans who live in the vicinity of Jerusalem. He may too easily be written-off as a narrow, prejudiced man.



Rev. Althouse

#### Who will influence who?

Yet the situation that so aroused Ezra is not very different from some concerns that occupy us today. As parents we may find our son or daughter associating with youth of dubious moral standards. We do not want them to be harmfully influenced, yet when our children remind us that our attitude may be judgmental and un-Christian, we find it difficult to give them a satisfactory rebuttal. How do we answer when our teenager says, "Dad, I won't let them influence me, I'm going to influence them?"

The same dilemma confronts us when we find someone contemplating a marriage in which the bride and groom are of divergent religions. Our objection need not be motivated by prejudice or lack of Christian charity. We may be concerned solely because we know that mixed marriages subject couples to far greater problems and pressures. A parent may likewise be distressed to find his son or daughter marrying someone with no interest in the Christian faith. His or her concern for the offspring's religious welfare does not necessarily point to mistrust or bias.

#### No Idle fear

These dilemmas are not easily solved. On the one hand, we may read Ezra's condemnation of mixed marriages and conclude that his motive is racial and spiritual arrogance. "After all," says the modern, "if these men and women love each other, what does it matter if they are not of the same religion?"

On the other hand, however, we may understand, as Ezra does, the danger of losing one's spiritual distinctiveness. Jewish men who married pagan wives were often encouraged to adopt some of the idolatrous practices of their pagan mates. Ezra is afraid that the Jew will let his own religious life be tainted by these pagan ideas. This was not some idle speculation, for it had happened again and again in Hebrew history.

It wasn't the pagan women themselves that bothered Ezra, but the "abominations" (idolatry) they practiced: ". . . shall we break thy commandments again and intermarry with the people who practice these abominations?" (Ezra 9:14 RSV) Ezra may not have hated the pagan wives, but he did hate the pagan religion they brought with them.

#### Fattening or immoral?

He might have taken the position that perhaps the Jewish men would influence their pagan wives to live and worship as Jews. Why didn't he? We can only surmise, but it is quite probable that he believed that it is always easier to pull someone down than to lift someone up. The pagan practices were appealing to human nature. They sanctioned the excesses of bodily appetites that people find hard to overcome. The downward pull is always stronger, it seems, because it finds a natural response within us. "Why is it," we ask only half in jest, "that everything I like is either fattening or immoral?"

Still it must be obvious that we cannot go through life frantically wrapped in a cocoon of self-preservation against contamination from without. Jesus said that we are the salt of the earth and the world needs our saltiness, not safe in the shaker, but in the midst of life. The Christian, then, must always be in creative tension between the temptation to stay out of the world and the danger of losing his saltiness. The ancient dilemma is still with us.

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### Farm News This Week

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Richard Buckwalter Has Top Wins At Annual Swine Show — Page 1

Earl Stauffer Is Selected FFA Co. Star Farmer — Page 1

#### LANCASTER FARMING

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## Lancaster Farming Ads Pay



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith

Lancaster County Agent

#### To Rat-Proof Buildings

It would be making progress in rodent control if farm buildings could actually be rat-proofed for we realize this task is very difficult. However, it is possible through a good sanitation program and the use of mortar and concrete to eliminate many of their harboring places. Now that fall is approaching when the weather will be chasing rats and mice from the open fields, we urge every property owner to eliminate places from them to hide and reproduce. Rodents are filthy and destructive. Everyone should cooperate in trying to eradicate them.

#### To Manage Silos Carefully

We urge all livestock producers who use silos to become familiar with all phases of silo care and the danger that might

exist in and around them at filling time. Silos have been proven a great storage facility and the horizon is full of them in almost every rural community. The danger of poisonous silo gasses is a threat to both man and beast. Special Circular #80 titled, "Silage and Silos" is available from any Extension Office and covers the subject thoroughly.

#### To Control Weeds In Alfalfa

New seedings of alfalfa will surely need some weed control attention, if herbicides were not applied just prior to planting, then growers are urged to spray for weeds when the weed growth is only 1 to 2 inches high. Most fields will need this treatment in order to eliminate weed problems. Spraying must be done when the weeds are small in order to get good control.