

From Where We Stand...

Harvesting Corn? It's Time To Think

It's that time again. No, we're not talking about approaching Halloween or the appearance of Jack Frost, though it is that time also. The time we are talking about is when a number of farmers each year lose fingers and hands and legs in corn pickers. Frankly, it is depressing to us who must gather and report such news as it happens. It all seems so needless. But certainly, if corn picker accidents are depressing to newsmen, who might never have met the victim, how much more emotion must be involved for families and friends of those caught up in the web of accidental injury or death.

Reams of material on safety have been written, warning signs of warning are displayed on corn pickers urging the operator to stop the machine before doing any repair work or unclogging of the rolls. Yet the headlines and the heartaches continue.

The picker in the corn harvesting operation is not the only culprit. An analysis of 100 accidents involving portable farm augers and elevators has been completed. Accidents were analyzed to determine corrective measures that could have prevented them. Mainly it is just a simple use of a common sense rule of keeping your hands out of the machine while it is in operation and allowing enough time to complete the task. All the safety campaigns in the world cannot save one life or limb if the persons for which they were designed think accidents and their prevention are for someone else. The safety devices and warnings can't prevent you from making poor judgments.

We have all seen the motto with only one word on it — THINK. It's a good idea to think all of the time, but when you are harvesting corn it is not only a good idea but a matter of life and death.

Keep Records For — The Banker

In an interview recently one local farmer said, "I think farmers should become more aware of finances." We certainly agree with that statement. Do you know how much your ear corn cost you to get it from the seed bag to the crib? Sure, you know what Penn State says the average cost is. But are you average? How do you know?

You may think such a small thing as the exact figures of how much it costs you to produce corn on your farm is not important, but if you know that, we believe you will also know the other cost profit information needed when you go to the banker or credit association for a short or a long term loan.

Farm News This Week

Cow Comfort Basic In Barn System, Grout Says — Page 1

Local Egg Ranch Wins Best Carton Award At NEPPCO — Page 1

Local Boys At Kansas City — Page 1

LANCASTER FARMING

Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly

P. O. Box 260 - Lititz, Pa. 17543

Office: 22 E. Main St., Lititz, Pa. 17543

Phone: Lancaster 394-3047 or Lititz 626-2191

Everett R. Newswanger, Editor

Robert G. Campbell, Advertising Director

Subscription price: \$2 per year in Lancaster County; \$3 elsewhere

Established November 4, 1955

Published every Saturday by Lancaster Farming, Lititz, Pa.

Second Class Postage paid at Lititz, Pa. 17543.

Member of Newspaper Farm Editors Assn.

Many farmers think the tight money situation is the reason they can't get needed credit, but those in the know tell us that money is available for the farmer who had the records to show he knows what he is doing. In fact, one farmer we know, was so mad when the bank turned him down for a loan that he went home and started a record keeping system that showed such good profits that when he went to the bank again they couldn't afford to turn him down. The farmer knew he was a good credit risk and that his business was making a profit but he couldn't prove it until he had the records.

Credit in farming is a tool like any other tool, and it can become burdensome if more is used than is needed. But how can you know how much you need if you don't have records? Farm records have proven their value in improving production through more efficient culling, program planning and marketing decisions. Now lending agencies are giving the farmer still another reason for keeping complete, accurate farm accounts. At least that's the way it looks from where we stand.

The Missing Asset

National unemployment figures, like a lot of other statistics, should be taken with several large grains of salt as nearly anyone who has tried to employ competent help can testify. A part of the problem is indifference and a lack of the will to work.

According to NEWS DIGEST, a newspaper of Oregon business and industry, "In Los Angeles, an unemployed unskilled man rejected a job as machine operator trainee with the remark, 'How do you expect a man to work for \$1.70 an hour?' . . . In Detroit, where even unskilled workers can earn about \$3.60 an hour, unemployment stands at 6 per cent while employers are unable to find badly needed low-skill workers. At a restaurant, a man turned down \$75 a week because he could get \$56 of tax free relief money just by staying home, and, moreover, could save the cost of getting to and from the job."

The Achilles' heel of a welfare state is that it leads to a breed of people that dissipate a nation's most valuable asset — the will to work.

Across The Fence Row

Adversity The only diet that will reduce a fat head

A local woman told her friend that her husband had gone skeet shooting several times recently, but that he hadn't brought home a single skeet. And then she added, "Say, how do you cook skeets?"

From Jack Wills, Atlanta, Ga., comes the story of the inebriate who stood at a busy corner staring at the "Walk" sign. "Watsa matter?" he demanded of it. "Are you AFRAID to PITCH to me?"

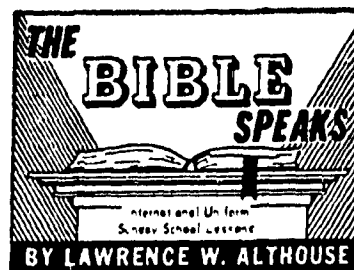
A farm efficiency expert is a man who knows less about your farming business than you do and gets paid more for telling you how to run it than you could possibly make out of it even if you ran it right instead of the way he told you to.

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 low 60's and over night lows in the mid to low 40's. Cool Saturday and moderating Sunday. The normal high-low for the period is 65-43.

Precipitation may total one-fourth to one-half inch as rain about Tuesday or Wednesday.



PROPHECY 1969

Lesson for October 19, 1969

Background Scripture: Hosea 4:1 through 5:14, Amos 7 through 8, 2 Kings 17, Deuteronomy 32:1-43, 35:1-10, 32:1-43.

A man was standing in the city's public square. He said nothing, but wore a large posterboard sign that read: "REPENT AMERICA! GOD'S JUDGMENT IS COMING!"

A group of people waiting at a nearby bus stop watched him with curiosity. Pedestrians slowed down to look him over as they passed by. Some children mimicked him. Many people smiled or smirked as they read the sign; a few laughed openly and loudly. People are not in a mood to repent and the thought of God's judgment coming upon us today seems an amusingly ridiculous idea.

Outdated?

No one, it seems, ever takes too seriously prophetic warnings. God's judgment, we reason, is something for some other person to worry about. Many have resigned the Biblical Day of Judgment to the realm of mythology. Repentance, as well as sin itself, seems an outdated way of thinking. Often, only when we have suffered or known difficulty, do we take God's judgment seriously.

It had been that way with Israel. In 722 B.C., approximately two hundred years after the division of the United Monarchy, after many unheeded warnings, that which had been well prophesied came to pass: Assyria defeated the forces of Israel and carried her people into captivity, the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel never to be seen or heard of again.

What were the reasons for this tragedy? This historian might offer the following: (1) She was ruled by a long line of unbelievably incompetent and evil kings; (2) She had placed her

dependence upon military alliances with other nations, all of which proved, in one way or another, to have been the wrong ones; (3) Although Israel had been relatively weak in military forces, the nation had often assumed pretensions of great military power and become involved in disputes too big for her to win.

The decay within

All of these are quite accurate enough. Yet, when we read the Old Testament, we find that the writers look upon the cause of the tragedy, not as military or political weakness, but as spiritual and moral decay. This the weakness within, was the real cause of Israel's tragic ending: "And they did wicked things, provoking the Lord to anger..." (17:11).

What was it that provoked that anger? For one thing, they worshipped pagan gods and idols: "They set up for themselves pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree . . . And they served idols . . ." (17:10,12).

Secondly, they followed the ways of their neighbor nations, even though these practices conflicted with their Hebrew heritage. For example: "And they burned their sons and daughters as offerings" (17:17). God had never taught them that.

Third, they were infected with materialism. For the sake of material gain, they "sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord."

Could it happen here?

Worst of all, they ignored the prophets who came to warn them. Prophets had tried to stir them to repentance, "But they would not listen."

Is there any danger that what happened to Israel could happen to our own nation? This is difficult for us to see, for, though we have no trouble in ascribing Israel's fall in 722 B.C. as the judgment of God on her evil and infidelity, we are not at all disposed to listen to today's prophets or see the operation of God's judgment in this year of 1969.

"Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel and removed them out of his sight . . ." Could it happen here?

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Attend The Church Of Your Choice Sunday

Read Lancaster Farming For Full Market Reports



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Winterize Motors

Freezing weather is just around the corner and all motors should be prepared for cold weather. Those to be used frequently during the winter will need anti-freeze and should be given attention before danger of freezing. Motors not to be used may be drained and kept out of the weather. All machinery should be stored in a dry place in order to prevent rusting.

To Evaluate Insurance Coverage

This has been a common suggestion in the past decade but is still timely. If the building and contents is covered for only the original cost it will not match the replacement costs at today's prices. All farmers are urged to consult with their insurance agent to be certain they are covered. The winter are destruc-

season usually presents more fire hazards because there is more activity in and around the buildings and more livestock and personal property is on hand.

To Control Rodents

Repetition of this suggestion is intended to reflect the seriousness of the problem. There should not be any place for either a rat or a mouse infestation on a well managed farm; once they get started, they are destructive and very difficult to control. A good clean-up program is the place to start and to eliminate all possible nesting places. The use of concrete in walls, foundations, and in feed and litter alleys will discourage them. Poison bait stations should be placed around the buildings to eliminate nesting rats. Don't live with rodents because they are destructive.