

# A Salute To FFA

Lancaster Farming urges the Lancaster County farm community to give special recognition to FFA Week, February 21-28. About 450,000 FFA members with 9,000 chapters in 49 states will join in activities during FFA week to emphasize the importance of agriculture.

Most active farmers in the county, we're sure, have been an FFA member, have sons or relatives in FFA or know some young men in FFA.

FFA is designed to help develop leadership and good citizenship.

FFA Week is observed each year during the week of George Washington's birthday. Although Washington is usually recognized as a Revolutionary War general and our first president, his first love actually was farming.

Washington was one of the first farmers in the nation to practice contour farming,

crop rotation, fertilization and other soil improvement methods.

During FFA Week, vocational agriculture students in Garden Spot High School will have a display case in the school lobby, present an assembly to the student body, provide the school cafeteria with FFA napkins, and have FFA members wear their jackets and tie to school for the week.

Speaking on the need to emphasize the importance of agriculture and FFA, Nelson E. Weaver, president of the Grassland FFA said, "We have such an abundance of food in America that people seem to take farming and agribusiness for granted."

But we suggest that students at Garden Spot High School will have a difficult time taking farming for granted — thanks to the FFA there.

FFA represents the new generation of Lancaster County farmers. Let's think about it during FFA Week.

## Time To Plan

Each year at this time, Lancaster County farmers are faced with important decisions on how to budget their time and resources for another growing season.

Should a farmer plant a little less of one crop and more of another this year? What are the prices likely to be for crops in the fall? Is another piece of machinery justified at this time?

It's answers to questions like these that help determine what kind of year a farmer will have.

### Which Crop?

It's a time of change across the nation and this is certainly true of farming.

New technology, seed, and farm practices are making themselves felt. Often it's the farmer who adopts more efficient techniques first who gains the competitive advantage.

In this area of change, have you, Mr. Farmer, thought about the crops you grow? Are you growing the right crops for your particular farm and capabilities?

Could you make more money easier by growing more of one crop and less of another? Do you know why you're growing the crops you do or it is just a habit?

Take tobacco, for instance. Who would have thought 10 years ago that there would be the national crusade now underway against smoking?

All questions of the rightness or wrongness of the government's position in this matter aside, what effect will it have on your farm operation? Will it make tobacco less profitable, or will it have the opposite impact?

If the government continues its crusade, which appears likely, can tobacco growers continue to make money from tobacco? To most tobacco farmers, this question probably isn't urgent yet, but we suggest it might be in future years. It's the type of question the prosperous farmer will be on top of, so that if tobacco growing begins to lose its profitability for him, he can switch into other crops which do make him money.

It's a fact that over the past several years some farm crops have been declining

in importance in Lancaster County while others have been increasing. There are generally fundamental reasons behind these changes and the wise farmer is fully aware of them.

### Cucumbers

One particular new crop that has been striving for recognition here is cucumbers. It's probably too early to say just how successful the venture will be.

One thing for sure, there's a large cucumber market, as you can readily determine by visiting some local grocery stores. Note the large number and varieties of them.

But it takes much more than a big market to make a product successful locally.

Questions to be answered about cucumbers here include: Will enough farmers take up the venture to make it economical for the packing concerns? Can farmers produce in enough volume at low enough cost to make them adequately profitable?

### Government Subsidies?

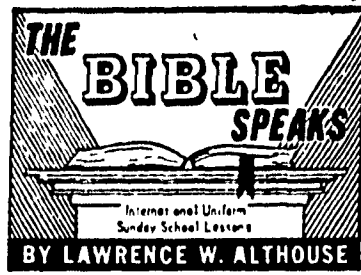
In making decisions this year on what to grow, local farmers might also profitably consider what not to grow. Specifically, they might consider the ASDS feed grain and wheat allotment programs. These programs basically reward farmers for not growing or cutting back on their crops, a concept normally alien to a farmer's nature.

But purely from a financial view, the program might be more attractive than usual to some farmers this year, because of the general economic conditions surrounding feed grains and wheat.

For one thing, there have been bumper crops internationally in recent years, U.S. grain exports have dropped. Farm surpluses are high. As a result, prices for wheat and feed grains aren't particularly good and the federal government is pushing to cut back on production. Whether or not he should do so, and, if so, whether he should do so through the ASDS program is each farmer's decision.

The point to be made here is that if a farmer who's eligible for the programs is considering cutting back, he might want to talk to Miss Dorothy Neel of the ASCS about how to get government payments for the cutback. There's an explanation elsewhere in Lancaster Farming about the wheat and feed grain programs, but we suggest anyone really interested should contact Miss Neel at the Farm and Home Center or call 397-6235.

Note, however, that while wheat and feed grain prices haven't been attractive, beef, hog and milk prices have been quite favorable. Some farmers who aren't impressed with wheat and feed grain markets may still want to grow the products for their own livestock, rather than buy on the open market.



## THE ULTIMATE TEST

Lesson for February 22, 1970

Background Scriptures: Matthew 16:13-23; Isaiah 42:1-4; Romans 10:1-13.  
Devotional Reading: Psalms 19:7-14.

If you go back over the first fifteen chapters of Matthew, you will find that Jesus's message has been concerned entirely with the coming of God's kingdom. Jesus has made no claims for himself as God's Son or Messiah. He has approached no one saying, "I am the Messiah, believe in me."

We can well understand, therefore, that there was a great diversity of opinion as to who he really was. Even the disciples must have wondered about his identity. Possibly there was even divided opinion among them.

What do men say?  
There came a day, however, when a great change would take place. Jesus had taken them out of Galilee to Caesarea Philippi where, far from the pressures of the crowds, they could talk quietly. They may have thought that this was to be one of Jesus's periodic "breathing spells," but they were to find it to be the very climax of his Galileean ministry. It was a day that was to change their own lives.

Here, for the first time, Jesus would raise the question of his identity. First, he asks, "Who do men say that the Son of man is?" Whether Jesus is using "Son of man" to mean simply "man" or "messenger," we do not know. The disciples answer his question, listing four different people with whom he is identified by others. Some think he is John the Baptist returned from the dead. Both Jesus and John devoted their message to the coming of God's kingdom and the necessity for repentant preparation to enter it.

### The day of the Lord

Others believed that Jesus was the resurrected prophet Elijah. He had been one of Israel's greatest prophets, had lived and worked some nine hundred years before the birth of Jesus. It was believed that he had not died, but had been taken bodily into Heaven, to return again to herald the restoration of Israel.

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest he come and smite the land with a curse" (Malachi 4:5,6).

Still others, the disciples reported, thought that Jesus was Jeremiah the prophet returned from the dead. Perhaps they detected the similarities between the message of Jesus and the oracles of the great prophet of the seventh century B.C. The phrase, "one of the prophets," indicates that there may have been still others with whom they identified him.

### What do you say?

The second part of Jesus's question was by far the most important part: "But who do you say that I am?" It is natural that Simon Peter was the one who replied. He was impulsive and often seemed to speak for the others. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God," he replied.

The word "Christ" (Christos in Greek) means Messiah, or "the anointed one." He also calls Jesus the "son of the living God." This means that he is saying that Jesus is actually more than Messiah, that in some way, he possesses God's own divine nature.

Human titles and designations seem to fail us when we approach Jesus. If we call him Saviour, he is that but he is also more. If we call him Messiah, he is that too, but he is more. No matter what names or titles we use for him, he is always more than we can say about him.

Actually, the most important thing is not what we say about him, but what we do. Jesus himself put it: "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." That is always the ultimate test.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service.)



Rev. Althouse

### What do men say?

There came a day, however, when a great change would take place. Jesus had taken them out of Galilee to Caesarea Philippi where, far from the pressures of the crowds, they could talk quietly. They may have thought that this was to be one of Jesus's periodic "breathing spells," but they were to find it to be the very climax of his Galileean ministry. It was a day that was to change their own lives.

Here, for the first time, Jesus would raise the question of his identity. First, he asks, "Who do men say that the Son of man is?" Whether Jesus is using "Son of man" to mean simply "man" or "messenger," we do not know. The disciples answer his question, listing four different people with whom he is identified by others. Some think he is John the Baptist returned from the dead. Both Jesus and John devoted their message to the coming of God's kingdom and the necessity for repentant preparation to enter it.

## Read Lancaster Farming For Full Market Reports



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith  
Lancaster County Agent

### To Be Sure About Pesticides

The use of spray materials on all types of plant and animal life warrants very close supervision. Some materials have been withdrawn from use, while others will carry definite labels regarding application. Property owners and all feed and food producers are urged to follow the changes carefully and be certain the proper materials are used.

### To Expand Cautiously

The trend on many farms throughout the county is to expand the size of the enterprise. In some cases this is very much in order and larger net returns are realized. However, without good management, mistakes can cost the farmer serious losses. To increase the volume of busi-

ness certainly does not insure greater profits. The use of linear programming of the farm business is one scientific way to approach this decision; it has helped many farmers and should be of value to many more.

### To Plan For Alfalfa Seeding

The seeding of alfalfa early in the spring without any nurse crop is recommended. Many farmers have obtained successful stands. The band seeding method should be used just as soon as the ground can be prepared. The area should be sprayed for weeds in order to keep down the competition. If an additional field of alfalfa is needed, we suggest the straight spring seeding.

### LANCASTER FARMING

Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly

P O Box 266 Lititz, Pa 17543  
Office 22 E Main St Lititz Pa 17543  
Phone Lancaster 394 3047 or Lititz 626 2191

Robert G Campbell Advertising Director  
Zane Wilson, Managing Editor  
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., Pa. Newspaper Publishers Association, and National Newspaper Association