

## Plan For Pollution

The statement this week that air pollution is costing Pennsylvania farmers millions of dollars a year probably confirms what many of us suspected all along. That Lancaster County is prominent in these losses isn't surprising, considering the county's growing urban development and its proximity to metropolitan centers of the east.

Many consider Lancaster's rich and beautiful farmlands one of its major attractions. As long as agriculture remains profitable, it's likely to continue here on a big scale, even in the face of urban development.

But if the levels of pollution continue to

rise, as they normally do with increasing development, crop losses from pollution can be expected to become greater each year. Yields could suffer from pollution damage.

Increasing levels of pollution, along with growing urban pressure, could become the combination that kills off Lancaster's beautiful farms much faster than even the most pessimistic can now foresee.

It's not that anyone needs to panic. The problem isn't that serious — yet.

But it's certainly something to think about and begin planning for. Sometimes it's the alarmist, strongly criticized for his over-reaction, who's really the person responsible for heading off disaster.

## Test Soil Now

Lancaster Countians, including most farmers, are used to thinking of Lancaster County soils as being among the richest in the nation.

And probably that's true, although the hard work and know-how of Lancaster County farmers may be even more important in making Lancaster County one of the leading agricultural counties in the country.

So it comes as quite a shock to some of us when a knowledgeable Pennsylvania State University extension agronomist tells us most county farms are deficient in one or more soil minerals.

Wayne Hinish, citing actual data obtained from 3,500 soil samples from Lancaster County analyzed by the state extension service, said 62 per cent were low in lime, 45 per cent were low enough in phosphorus to cause yields to suffer, 35 per cent were low in potassium, and many were low in magnesium.

Speaking at the annual Crops and Soils Day this week at the Farm and Home Center, Hinish went on to explain how plants must have sufficient quantities of these minerals to grow properly, and how lack of them detract, often seriously, from the quantity and quality of crops.

### Poor Soil Costs

The agronomist's message was clear: while it may cost the farmer substantial sums to put these nutrients into the soil in the form of commercial fertilizers or manure, it may cost him far more not to add the minerals. The cost of not adding the minerals may be several times greater in the form of lower yields.

Other speakers joined Hinish in pointing out the importance to farmers of maintaining high crop yields.

Joseph McGahen, a Penn State agronomist, said recent surveys of Pennsylvania corn growers show that farmers have to grow at least 70 to 80 bushels per acre JUST TO BREAK EVEN. If they only get 70 to 80 bushels, they've just made expenses.

It's the extra bushels beyond 80, such as 100, 120 or 140 per acre that make it worthwhile to grow corn. It's these extra

bushels that pay for the farmer's labor and give him some profit.

It takes good management to push up the number of these extra bushels, but it also takes good soil. The good farmer must make sure his soil is capable of producing the top yields.

But Hinish explained that no wise farmer will go out tomorrow and begin adding fertilizer to his land without first taking a soil test and determining exactly what's needed.

With the hit and miss approach without the test, the farmer may or may not solve his soil problems. But even if he does, he may have added a lot of extra minerals that weren't needed and so represent a misuse of money.

### Get Soil Test

Hinich explains that every Lancaster County farmer who expects the highest possible profits from his land should have his soil tested periodically.

The farmer should then use the test results as a guide for applying nutrients to offset soil deficiencies.

Sound simple. Sure. But the majority of Lancaster County farmers aren't doing it.

Hinich said, "There are a lot of poor farm managers not sending samples in. The good managers are the ones who usually send samples."

At a time when, as McGahen put it, "the heat is on" for farmers to improve efficiency, a soil test would appear to be an easy first step.

Farmers interested in a soil test must get a kit from the agricultural extension office at the Farm and Home Center for \$1.50. Soil samples, dried and sieved for easy handling, are sent to Penn State.

Farmers seeking more detailed information can call the extension office at 394-6851.

Mrs. Dorothy Kreider of the extension office assures us the whole process can be accomplished and the farmer can have his results back from Penn State in about two weeks, plenty of time to apply the findings to 1970 crops.

## Parent And Child

Let television fit in as an equal part of your child's day, but don't let television hog the biggest share of the child's time, advises James E. Van Horn, extension family life specialist of Pennsylvania State University.

Van Horn says it's important that parents take time to read to their child, just plain visit with him, or play ball or some other game with him.

For proper child development, nothing can replace the special attention another person, particularly a parent, can give to a child, according to the family specialist.

Van Horn's advice is worth considering. In a world in which progress, innovation, automation and learning are orders of the day, it's easy to get caught up in a rat race and overlook some of the really important things — like the well-being of the next generation.

Van Horn is certainly right when he says, "Television cannot take a mother's or father's place."

Television has proven its worth. For most of us, it's now an indispensable part of life.

But television can't and never was intended to replace parents.



## NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith  
Lancaster County Agent

### To Transfer Silage

Livestock and dairy producers who have silage stored in temporary silos, and plan to transfer it to an upright silo for automatic feeding, should get this job done before warm weather arrives. Not only will there be less danger of spoilage, but less loss of feed nutrients when moved at air temperatures under 50 degrees. The more rapid the silage is transferred into the upright silo, the better the chances for maintaining good quality.

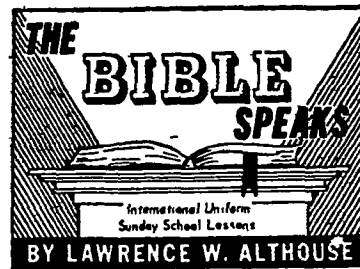
### To Plan Expansion Carefully

Many farmers have expansion in their plans in order to increase farm income. This may or may not turn out favorably because in larger operations mistakes cost more money. With

good management, larger operations should return more money for labor than small ones, but there are many questionable factors. Linear programming of the farm operation is one way to find the answers. This service is available.

### To Practice Pesticide Safety

The subject of pesticides, including all types of agricultural sprays and chemicals, is being discussed by many groups this spring and needs the attention of everyone connected with agriculture. Some materials are being withdrawn from use and others will have more restricted use. All farmers are urged to be extremely careful with their applications and follow labels and instructions.



### KEEPING CHANNELS OPEN Lesson for March 1, 1970

Background Scriptures: Joshua 24; Matthew 18:1-20; John 17  
Devotional Reading: Isaiah 42:5-9

In his book, **DARE TO LIVE NOW** (Zondervan: Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1965), Bruce Larson tells of an experience that happened to him when he began his infantry basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Going to the mess hall for his first breakfast there, he saw a large bowl of what looked like cream of wheat. Scooping out a large portion, he put it in his bowl and added sugar and cream. A tall



Rev. Althouse boy from the mountains was sitting across from him. Bug-eyed, he exclaimed: "Is that the way you eat grits?"

As a Chicago boy, Larson had heard of grits but he had never seen them until this moment. Rather than appear ignorant, he smiled and answered nonchalantly: "Oh yes, this is how we eat grits in Chicago." The grits tasted horrible to Larson and he noticed that the mountain boy ate his with butter, salt, and pepper.

### To protect the first lie

Several days later, Larson happened to be sitting with the same mountain boy across the table. Again they were served grits and to prop up his initial lie, Larson again put cream and sugar on his bowl. "Somehow," he says, "I managed to eat the mess . . . The whole tragedy of the human predicament is demonstrated in this incident. We do not want to admit our mistakes. We would rather go to hell maintaining our innocence than to say 'I was wrong.'" This same pretense is often a factor in our relation to God. Though we delight in thinking of ourselves as "his people," still we often respond to him with pretenses because we cannot bring ourselves to admit that we have

knowingly done what is wrong. The result is a barrier that we erect between ourselves and God, closing off the flow of his grace to us. It is like taking the phone off the hook: God is still trying to get through to us, but we have clogged the line of communication and help.

### An expensive bitterness

An illustration of how this may work is found in the experience of a woman who was suffering from an illness which had failed to respond to treatment. She went from doctor to doctor, ever seeking to find a new diagnosis that would give her hope. All the verdicts, however, were the same.

In desperation she went to her pastor and poured out her fears and anxieties to him. He prayed for her and invited her to come again to talk with him. On a subsequent visit, she mentioned an incident in her life that had caused her to become extremely bitter toward someone who had been her close friend. She had nursed a grudge toward that person for many years and it upset her to even speak of it with her pastor.

The minister listened quietly and when she had finished her story, he suggested that it was time she gave up this grudge and forgave her former friend. The woman thought over this counsel and at last determined to do just that. She forgave her friend and dismissed the bitterness from her mind.

### The power of forgiveness

Before she left his study, the pastor prayed for her healing. As he prayed for her, she experienced a sensation of warmth flooding over her, and with it a wonderful sense of well-being. Several days later, when she went to her doctor, he was amazed to find that the previously "unresponsive" condition had disappeared. The woman was quick to realize that it had been her grudge against her friend that had prevented her healing. Now, free of her grudge, she was also free of her affliction. Forgiveness had opened the channel for healing of body and spirit.

As the people of God, we need to realize that repentance and forgiveness are absolutely essential if we are to keep open the channels of God's grace.

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