

On Swine Production Rise

The latest USDA reports on hog and pig supplies and trends (see page 13) indicate that the egg market may not be the only major sector of agriculture in danger of a bust.

After several years of relatively stable supplies and good prices, the hog market appears headed toward a big expansion which can only result in lower prices and a profit squeeze for farmers.

Note the trend.

Breeding stock on June 1 is up 16 per cent from a year ago, according to the USDA, while market stock is up nine per cent.

What usually happens in the swine industry during expansions in production, we are told, is that hogs going into breeding are kept off the market; as a result, the adverse market effects of the expansion come several months after the expansion.

When there's a substantial increase in the breeder stock, however, there's a far greater increase in the market hog figures a few months later, since sows normally have two litters a year of eight to 10 pigs each. Thus, a 16 per cent increase in the breeding stock represents a tremendous increase in market hogs late this year.

So far, we haven't seen much information to confirm the USDA projections. But the reports we do receive increasingly point to a production increase in the swine industry.

Likely impact of the increased production also is uncertain, although the logical expectation is that it will cause prices to drop sharply.

The U.S. meat market, it should be noted, has not reacted in the past year or

two exactly as the farm experts have predicted. Beef prices have stayed high longer than many expected.

But beef prices may have gone as high as they did for as long as they did largely because of inflation. Indications now are mounting that the rate of inflation is slowing down and can't be counted on to help meat prices in the future.

With broiler production expanding at about eight per cent annually in recent months and with beef production continuing to expand, it would appear that any substantial increase in swine production could have major adverse effect on the overall meat market for farmers.

In the next several weeks and months, hog producers should keep a close watch on the swine market trends and plan and act accordingly.

Farmers in general, particularly those involved with broiler and beef operations, also should stay alert to indirect effects of changes in the swine production level.

Overall, the evidence is mounting that the unusually good times experienced by many meat producing farmers during the past year or two may be drawing to a close.

At this point, it's far from a discouraging situation. But it's not the time for a farmer to get careless and allow sloppy management to make him vulnerable to changes in the market.

Now's the time to take inventory, do some figuring on production costs. Now's the time for each farmer to determine exactly where he stands, so he will know exactly where he's going if the market situation changes.

President's Safety Reminder

The efficiency of American agriculture and the quality of life for agricultural workers is threatened today by the continued high rate of farm accidents. Many thousands of farm residents lose their lives or are seriously injured in accidents every year. Both the human and the financial costs of these accidents are intolerable.

A quarter century of experience in organizing for rural safety has shown that most farm accidents could be prevented through sensible practices and protective devices. Safety information and mechanical safeguards are readily available and their consistent use should be actively encouraged.

Now, therefore, I, Richard Nixon, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the week of July 19, 1970 as National Farm Safety Week. I urge all farm families, and every person and group allied with agriculture, to make every effort permanently to reduce the number of accidents which occur at work, in homes, at recreation, and on the roadways.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-fourth.

Richard Nixon

Be Summer Cool

Long hours spent on farm machinery during the summer months greatly increase the possibility of disabling accidents, according to Thomas H. Williams, extension agricultural engineer at the University of Delaware.

Most of the warning and advice Williams gives is self-evident for farmers who have been in the business any length of time. But then, most accidents do involve foolish mistakes and we need to remind ourselves of this fact to avoid slipping into careless habits that eventually end up in injuries — or worse.

Williams also gives the following advice.

Most accidents are the result of small mistakes, small mistakes that turn to tragedy. These include too much speed, a slight error in judgment, a lost or broken shield, an improperly adjusted hitch.

When operating machinery in the field, watch for open ditch banks and hidden rocks and stumps, he advises. And avoid climbing steep banks. Always hitch loads to the drawbar, never to the tractor axle.

Know what to expect from your equipment. A tractor pulling a heavy load may handle quite differently than the same tractor without a load.

About one-third of all fatal tractor accidents occur on highways. If you operate a tractor on the highway, keep as far right as safety permits. Use warning flags that are clearly visible during daylight hours and be sure that machinery is properly lit after dusk.

For added safety, use slow moving vehicle emblems to warn traffic that you are operating a vehicle at less than 25 miles an hour, says Williams.

Never operate machinery when you are extremely tired, worried or in a hurry, he adds. This is when most accidents occur. Keep children away from farm machinery, and never allow extra riders.

We repeat. Most accidents occur when farmers, for one reason or another, get careless. Play it cool during the hot summer and be safe!



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Clean That Sprayer

Any spraying job is not completed until that sprayer has been adequately cleaned. Cleaning is one of the most important maintenance items that insure safe and proper operation of the equipment. Sprayers not well cleaned may corrode or the materials left may cake and cause trouble at the next spraying. The greatest danger is the residue in the sprayer such as 2,4-D that may injure the next crop sprayed. Detergents may be used to remove some materials while stronger cleansers such as ammonia may be needed to remove herbicides. Be careful that a contaminated sprayer will not injure the next crop sprayed.

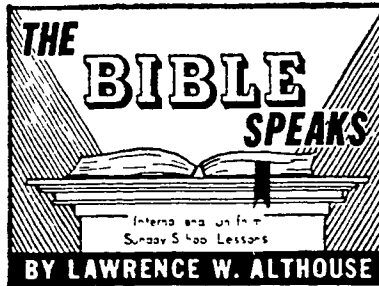
To Seed Cover Crops

Winter grain fields from which the grain has been harvested and no grass-legume mixture has been seeded, and the land is to lay idle until 1971 could be

seeded down to a cover crop that will improve soil structure in the future. Green manure crops such as ryegrass, field brome grass, or any of the winter grains may be seeded from August to late September and serve as good soil builders to hold water and organic matter. Ground left open during the winter is subject to both soil, water, and wind erosion.

To Mow Pastures

Many permanent pastures are soon ready for their second clipping of the season. Good management suggests regular mowing every 4 to 6 weeks during the grazing season. Weeds will be prevented from maturing and the forage grasses will respond with new, more palatable growth. Excess old grass growth will dry and the livestock will consume this dry material readily. Don't look at a weedy pasture all summer!



THE OLDEST RIVALRY?

Lesson for July 12, 1970

Background Scripture: Genesis 1 through 2; Isaiah 40: 12, 21, 28, 1 Corinthians 8: 4, 6, Hebrews 1: 1-4.
Devotional Reading: Jeremiah 32: 16, 25.

Asked to name the "oldest college rivalry in the United States," a contestant on a television quiz show with tongue-in-cheek answered, "Science versus religion!"

Unfortunately there is all too much truth in that statement. In the minds of many people, whether on or off college campuses, science and religion are irreconcilable enemies who, when they are not doing battle, exist by simply ignoring the existence of each other.

Some of God's best friends . . .

This picture, however, is simply not accurate. Many scientists are also practicing Christians or subscribers to some meaningful religious faith. They see no necessary conflict between these two perspectives of life. In fact, many of these, because of what they know of science, are even more deeply committed to a faith.

Many Christians—and others—have been deeply influenced and helped by the work of a Jesuit priest who was by profession a brilliant biologist. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, not only found no inherent contradiction between his faith and his science, but, in fact, found that each spoke to the other. His scientific beliefs enhanced his faith and his faith enriched his science.

The more his science revealed about the world, the more Teilhard was awed at the thought of the God who had created such a world. Many of us today share his wonder as we learn of the marvels in the world about us: the intricacy of the "genetic code," the power in the laser beam, the wonders of the tiny atom, etc.

The ancient Psalmist had cried: When I look at thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon, and the stars which thou has established; What is man that thou art mindful of him . . .

(Psalms 8:3,4a)

Today we are no less awed when we consider the universe. The telescope at Mt. Palomar enables men to photograph planets over one billion light years away. What this means in miles is equivalent to 186,000 (miles per second) times 60 seconds times 60 minutes times 24 hours times 365 days times 1,000,000,000 years. We haven't the slightest idea how many stars or planets there are. We can well understand a certain astronomer who, when he was asked how he could believe in God, replied, "I keep enlarging my idea of God." Many of us today are finding that science continues to force us to enlarge our idea of God!

Very good!

As Teilhard contemplated the world he seemed to find it telling him that in its five to ten thousand million years of existence, even from its very beginning, it followed a "unidirectional trend," it evidenced a purpose toward which it is moving. Not that he was alone in that conclusion. Dr. Kirkley Mather of Harvard has said, "We live in a universe, not of chance or caprice, but of law and order," and Albert Einstein, hardly a religionist in the ordinary sense of the term, also observed: "Certain it is that a conviction akin to religious feeling, of the rationality or intelligibility of the world lies behind all scientific work of a higher order."

"And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). Teilhard teaches nuclear age man to look at the world which God has made and recognize with him that it is "very good" because it bears the stamp of the Creator of the Cosmos.

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