

Fun For Farmers

The Farm and Home Foundation is sponsoring a Farm and Home Center Labor Day featuring a slave auction Thursday, July 30 at the Center. Starting at 7:30 p.m., the program also includes volleyball and refreshments. Proceeds go to paying off the remaining mortgage on the Center.

Sounds like a good time and place for farm folks and their urban friends to get together for some fun and relaxation.

Besides helping a worthy cause — the Center is certainly a tremendous asset to the entire farm community — the event has many potential fringe benefits including a good means of helping to bridge the generation gap.

While the generation gap never has been the problem in the rural areas that it has been in the urban areas simply be-

cause those under 30 still have a real and vital role on the farm, it never hurts to take that extra step to keep things running smoothly. The old bit about a stitch in time saves nine still means something to area farmers.

Besides supporting a worthy cause any way you look at it, the labor buyer at the auction is more than likely to get his money's worth. The local farm youth we have seen have a lot on the ball and we expect the young men who would volunteer for the auction will be among the best around.

In a time when it seems there's always another meeting or event, it's necessary to be selective; but we think this is one affair that meets all the qualifications for a great evening that shouldn't be missed.

Pa. Hog Numbers Grow, Too

The Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service reports that the inventory of hogs and pigs on Pennsylvania farms on June 1 was 906,000, up three per cent from the 550,000 on farms a year earlier, and that market hogs numbered 481,000, up two per cent from the 473,000 on hand a year ago. Breeding stock numbered 85,000 compared to 77,000 a year ago.

The Crop Reporting Service also listed national figures which show that the number of hogs and pigs on farms June 1 was up 10 per cent and breeding hogs up 16 per cent.

At first glance, it would appear that Pennsylvania is way below the large national swine build-up which the USDA is projecting.

But the key figure is breeding stock, which is up 8,000 or slightly more than 10 per cent. This 10 per cent is under the 16 per cent projected nationally, but is still much higher than the three per cent overall increase by June 1. Apparently, what we

are seeing now — if the Crop Reporting Service figures are accurate — is the increase in breeding stock which precedes by several months the increase in market animals.

If the figures on the breeding stock are accurate, we should see a large build up in market hogs in Pennsylvania and nationwide sometime this Fall.

USDA reports show this is the first major swine production increase in five years.

Indications are that the larger swine supply will have an adverse effect on hog prices, but to what extent remains highly uncertain.

What does appear certain Farmers should not base future expectations of profits in swine production on prices that have existed over the past year. A strain on profit margins can be expected. Efficiency and low cost of production will become more important.

Clean Environment—Priceless

The Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters recently reminded citizens that the state's park program is one of the finest in the nation but it can be "wrecked" by littering.

State officials noted what should be obvious. No one likes to picnic in areas covered with paper cups, plates and empty beverage bottles and cans, fishermen don't like trash littered streams, campers don't want to set up in a camp strewn with used food, empty cans, paper and plastic cups, and bathers don't like beaches strewn with broken glass, hooks, don't enter a trail littered with paper handkerchiefs, paper cups and half eaten sandwiches.

Littering Is Costly

The officials note that it is difficult to determine, in dollars and cents, how much it costs the Department of Forests and Waters each year to clean up its State parks — the picnic areas, the campsites, bathing beaches and trails — but it's a fact that the figure, if ever determined, would represent a tremendous expenditure.

This is an expenditure which certainly could be put to better use for example,

making improvements to existing State park areas.

Following a nation-wide survey an organization known as Keep America Beautiful Inc. announced it costs the taxpayers of this country an estimated \$500,000,000 annually to remove litter from parks, beaches, streets, highways and other public property, and that \$15.5 million was spent one year to clean up and maintain national recreation facilities and sites administered by the U.S. Forest Service.

Littering, a Major Problem

Whether it's on public parks or private areas, it should be obvious to everyone that littering is a major national problem — an important part of the environmental issue that's talked about so much.

It's easy to drop little bits and pieces of litter of various kinds as we go about our daily living and assume that this one little bit doesn't matter.

When each person adds his little bit in heavily traveled areas, natural beauty is covered by ugly waste; in this way, the beautiful environment which contributes so much to man's enjoyment and humanity is gradually converted into another eyesore which grates on the nerves.

Compulsive Non-Litterers

As the world moves on in its seemingly endless trend toward haphazard progress and ugly development, it will become increasingly important for all of us to become dedicated, even compulsive, anti-litterers.

We all need to see occasionally a place which is clean and beautiful to reassure ourselves that all is well, that in spite of his follies and shortcomings, there is hope for man. When there are so many of us, so many more of us must become non-litterers, even willing to go an extra step and help clean up some of the mess created by our neighbors who have not yet learned the truth that a clean environment is a priceless asset.



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Prepare Alfalfa Ground

Farmers who are planning to make an early August seeding of alfalfa should be getting the ground in shape. A complete soil test will give the lime and fertilizer needs, these elements should be worked into the topsoil during the preparing practices. The use of certified seed, well inoculated and applied with the band seeding method should get a good stand, if current weather conditions continue. The best time to make this seeding is 10 days in August would be a good time to make this seeding.

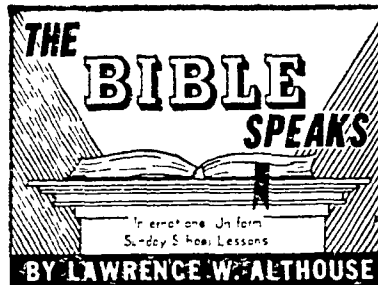
To Report Sick Hogs

The local swine industry is facing a serious threat since hog cholera has been found in this part of the state. It's very important that all swine feeders or breeders promptly report sick hogs to their veterinarian. Pennsylvania swine are extremely

susceptible to cholera and the disease may be present in raw garbage and in out-of-state feeder pigs. Delay in diagnosing the disease in heavily swine populated areas could be very serious.

To Practice Safety

The week of July 19 to 25 has been set as National Farm and Home Safety Week. In most cases this will get little attention because most folks feel that safety is for the other fellow. It might be a good time to evaluate the safety practices used on your farm or in your home. How many things are you doing that are reckless that you have been getting away with? Parents and farm owners are urged to discuss these hazards and good safety practices with their children and employees. It might save a life or serious injury.



WHAT IS MAN?

Lesson for July 19, 1970

Background Scripture: Genesis 1:26 through 2:25, Psalms 8, Matthew 10:29-31, Acts 17:26-28, 1 Corinthians 15:45-50.
Devotional Reading: Psalms 8

The birth of a human being is one of the most common, yet at the same time most miraculous and mysterious processes of God's creation. The more that science learns about it, the more we stand in awe at this evidence of



God's creative masterpiece.

Consider facts such as these:
... A new human being begins as a single cell which in 266 or so days increases to a fantastically complex organism of 200 billion cells — a billion times greater than its original weight.

... In the nucleus of this single cell is a kind of coded blueprint for the stage-by-stage development of a complete human body.

... When the baby is born it is pushed into the world by a one-hundred-pound propulsive force.

... In a few short seconds the new-born baby must make a great many unbelievable drastic adjustments: from a cozy temperature of 98 degrees F. to a room temperature of some twenty degrees lower; from a totally dark environment to one of blinding light; from a complete dependence for oxygen and blood upon the mother to the sudden, unpracticed use of its own lungs and heart for that purpose.

No wonder man is called God's greatest creation!

In His own image

Yet, fantastically wonderful as is the physical creation of man, he is looked upon as the crown of God's creation for still a greater reason: what he is rather than how he is made. The writer of Genesis says it one way: "So God created man in his own

image . . ." (Genesis 1:27). The writer of Hebrews, quoting the psalmist, says it another: "Thou didst make him a little lower than the angels" (Hebrews 2:7). Both of these men are making approximately the same affirmation: there is a likeness, kinship, or similarity between the personality of man and the basic personal nature of God.

This does not mean that man is the same as God or equal to him in any way. It does mean, however, that man in his very essence — or that which makes him man — bears in an incomplete and finite way the characteristics which we find in a complete and infinite way in God. As Reuel Howe has put it, "Blurred and distorted though the image of God in man is, still the mark of the hand of the Divine Craftsman is on him."

Everything in subjection

We may "see" God in nature, "hear" him in the sounds of the earth, and find his footprints in a hundred thousand different places, but in man we get the most accurate picture of all. In one man — Jesus Christ — the picture was not even blurred or distorted.

There is another reason why we call man God's greatest creation. Not only is man exalted in what he is created to be, but also in what he is created to do. Man is created to put "everything in subjection under his feet." He is intended to rule over the rest of creation for the Creator.

There are then two facts that we must note about the nature and purpose of man. First, there is man's privileged position in regard to the rest of creation. No other creature has been so blessed as man. What a privilege to be created with a kinship to God and a mandate to rule God's creation for him.

There is a second fact, for with the privilege there is also a responsibility too. Man is blessed by God so that he may be a blessing. He is given powers, advantages, and endowments so that he may fulfill God's plan and purpose. He is therefore the creature with the highest privileges and also the highest responsibilities. That's why he's called the "crown of God's creation." That's what man is.

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ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE SUNDAY

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