

DDT vs. the Gypsy Moth

or

Which Is Worse: Cure or the Disease?

The pesticides issue is one area of the new battle to save the environment in which it appears the farmer has much to lose and little to gain.

This unfortunate situation is due primarily to the highly emotional and unreasonable manner in which the issue is handled.

In the pesticide issue, the farmer is faced with the prospect of higher costs for new, expensive pesticides which don't last as long and won't work as effectively as the present lower priced chemicals.

And, if the new pesticides don't work as well, the farmer is faced with lower production through crop losses.

In the long run, these costs must be passed on to the consumer in the form of higher food costs.

Mistakes Made

Mistakes have been made with pesticides. Various individuals and officials question the wisdom of using some pesticides — including some which have not so far been publicly attacked.

Many of these same individuals and officials who are critical of some pesticides, however, are equally concerned about what they consider are unfounded and unwarranted attacks on some pesticides such as DDT.

The feeling is widespread among many persons that DDT, which has been virtually banned from use in this country, is far less dangerous than many of the chemicals which have replaced it. Many of the successors to DDT are relatively untried and reportedly highly dangerous to handle, far more dangerous than DDT.

In previous editorials, we have endorsed the position of the Pennsylvania Farmers Association and other farm organizations and leaders in urging reason and restraint in bans on pesticides and fungicides.

Not Unrestrained Use

While we believe no reasonable person in this time of legitimate concern about the environment would urge unrestricted and unrestrained use of pesticides, we also believe that no reasonable person would urge total abolishment of pesticides.

While farmers have a lot to lose if unreasonable restraint is placed on pesticides, consumers will ultimately also pay for mistakes made in banning pesticides.

And it mustn't be mistakenly assumed that the pesticides issue is a minor or unimportant one. Most farmers know that without pesticides many crops would be literally over-run with insects.

The Gypsy Moth

One particular issue now facing Pennsylvania shows just how important and far-reaching the pesticides issue can be. We're referring to the Gypsy moth.

The Gypsy moth recently has completely defoliated 5,000 to 10,000 acres of woodland in the Saylorsburg-Kunkletown area of Monroe County, according to Associated Press reports. The moths are reportedly doing extensive damage in many other areas of the state and the menace of the Gypsy moth is reported growing rapidly.

In past years, state officials kept the Gypsy moth under control by using — you guessed it — DDT. The successors to DDT don't work as well, have to be applied much more often, therefore costing much more in terms of both materials and manpower. At a time when the state is faced with budgetary problems, the Gypsy moth is winning against a limited attack.

DDT or the Moth?

The question arises: Which does the most damage to our environment, DDT or the Gypsy moth? Or, can we really afford the luxury of totally eliminating the use of DDT?

As the Gypsy moth spreads across the state like a plague, wiping out or weakening and maiming the beautiful forests for which the state is famous and which support such a large proportion of the state's economy, are we going to sit idly by?

Are we going to let an insect wreck our environment while we ban the pesticide that can control that insect?

Similar experience is being found around the world with mosquitos and other insects. In some areas in which it was once thought malaria had been permanently wiped out, the once dreaded disease is reasserting itself in the absence of DDT.

In such instances, it is more than just trees, it is human life which is being sacrificed in the ban on DDT.

Why Did We Ban DDT?

If, in banning DDT, we allow our forests to be defoliated and mankind to be racked by disease, perhaps we ought to consider why we banned DDT in the first place. Did we ban DDT to make the world a better place in which to live, or to compel man once again to wage the bitter battle with nature for survival?

We think the Gypsy moth will be just one of many examples of how everyone, and particularly the farmer, will lose if the pesticides issue is allowed to be settled by those who turn off their brains.

Today, it's trees.

Tomorrow, it could be corn, wheat, potatoes.

Use Reason

Let's be reasonable. Let's save agriculture and ourselves at the same time we save the environment. Let's not destroy everything in the name of the environment.

This is not a plea for unrestricted use of DDT. But it is a plea for reason and recognition that there can be far worse things than DDT.

Perhaps a system for use of DDT in emergencies — when the benefits far outweigh any possible damage — is the answer.

Lawmakers' Addresses

Names and addresses of federal and state legislators, representing local residents, are listed here for persons wishing to write to them.

FEDERAL

Sen. Hugh D. Scott, Room 260 Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20515
 Sen. Richard S. Schweiker, Room 4317, Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20515
 Rep. Harvey C. Nittrouer, 125 South St. Myerstown, Pa. 17067.
 Rep. Edwin D. Eshleman, 1009 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20515

STATE

Sen. Richard A. Snyder, Box 21, State Senate, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120.
 Sen. Clarence F. Manbeck, Fredericksburg R1 Pa. 17026
 Rep. Harry H. Gring Reinholds, Pa. 17569
 Rep. Sherman L. Hill, 201 Manor Ave., Millersville 17551
 Rep. Jack B. Horner, 23-A S. Market St., Elizabethtown 17022
 Rep. Marvin E. Miller, 501 Valley Road, Lancaster 17601.
 Rep. John C. Pittinger, 307 West End Ave., Lancaster 17603.

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent



By Max Smith Lancaster County Agent To Renovate Pastures

August is a good month to kill the old sod, or plow it down, to prepare for a new pasture seeding the last of the month or early September. The ground should be tested for lime and fertilizer needs. These late summer seedings have been very successful, if permanent pastures need improving. In many cases the more productive grasses become crowded out by weeds and native grasses and need to be reseeded for maximum forage production.

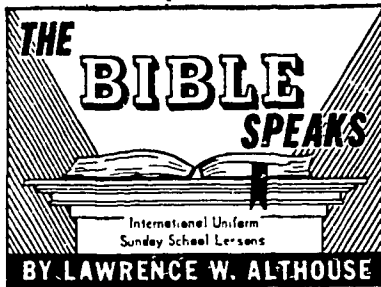
To Recognize Livestock Silage

The use of all kinds of silage is becoming more common; many producers are investing in larger storage facilities in order to make more silage and less hay. Most any kind of

forage crop may be made into silage with a benefit of storing a larger amount of feed nutrients. Corn silage is one of the best crops to obtain the maximum amount of milk or weight gains from an acre of land; reduced feed costs are very important and crops made into silage instead of hay or grain is one practice toward lower costs.

To Utilize Wheat As A Feed

Producers fortunate enough to get their wheat crop harvested might consider the use of the crop as a livestock feed. For those yet to get their wheat it might be in such condition that feeding would be the only method of utilizing the crop. Wheat is higher in protein than corn or barley but lower in energy. Due to the pasty condition of the (Continued on Page 10)



NO "ONLY CHILD"

Lesson for August 2, 1970

Background Scripture: Genesis 4:1-24; 1 John 3:11-15.
 Devotional Reading: Matthew 5:21-26.

God seems to have the knack for asking disturbing questions, doesn't he? Recall a few of them with me.

First, there's that little unpleasantness about Adam and Eve picking fruit from the forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden. From their hiding place they heard God calling them, "Where are you?" Finding them and seeing their shame, He asks again, "Who told you that you were naked?" Worst of all is the next question: "What have you done?" No doubt about it, God knows how to ask the right questions. If only Adam had done as well with the answers.

Good questions

But the questions do not end with Adam and Eve. Cain, their son, will face some of these questions himself. In the middle of his act of sacrificial offering, Cain is surprised by God's query: "Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen?" Cain cannot afford to answer that one sincerely, so he remains silent.

In due time, however, another question is put to him which he cannot avoid: "Where is Abel, your brother?" It is not difficult for us to understand the consternation and distress that cause him to reply with a question of his own: "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?"

Good questions all—let's see if we can find some equally good answers.

Two sons were born to Adam and Eve. One, a farmer, is Cain; the other, a sheepherder, is Abel. How simply and symbolically the writer of Genesis is demonstrating a primary fact of life: no two persons are alike!

Despite their common parentage, these two brothers are quite different from each other.

Both brothers took their sacrificial offerings to God. The offering of Abel was pleasing to God, but that of Cain was not. Why? We cannot know for certain, but it seems likely that Cain's sacrifice was rejected by God, not because the gift was not good enough, but because Cain was nursing an ailing temper and bruised ego within himself. More important than the gift he gave was the spirit with which his sacrifice was given. Abel brought his gift out of gratitude to the Lord, but Cain brought his only to gain God's favor. Instead of coming to give praise, Cain came to seek it.

Why He was angry

"So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell." Why was he so angry? He could not bring himself to answer God, but neither could he hide his jealousy for his brother Abel. Just as Adam and Eve pointed the finger at the serpent, Cain looked upon his brother as the cause of his unhappiness.

Remember that this is our story too. Are we not like Cain? Don't we also seek to project our troubles upon others and blame them for the unhappiness we feel within? Isn't it when we cannot face our own guilt that we must find a scapegoat to bear it for us?

Whether Cain intended to murder his brother or not, the result was the same. Abel lay dead because his offering had gained God's approval. Men are still killed today for motives no greater.

Where is your brother?

Cain was to learn, as his parents had learned, that one cannot hide from God and his terrible questions. He meets the question first with a lie and then an insolent rejection. The reply of Cain is not so much a question as it is a declaration of independence. But there is no independence from one's brother, whether he be near or far.

I heard someone comment about this story that it was interesting but didn't "have anything to do with me because I'm an only child; I have no brothers or sisters." But he missed the point: in the sight of God no one is an "only child."

(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.)

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