

## Farmers Begin New Year

For farmers, January 1 really is the beginning of a new year.

January 1 is always followed soon afterward by the Farm Show and then farmers really do start a new season and a New Year.

Most farmers work long hours through the summer and into the fall. Only when harvest is completed does the pace begin to slow and even then, there's plenty of odd jobs, such as equipment and building maintenance and preparation for winter to keep the farmer busy.

But then comes the hunting season and many farmers take a break, the only real vacation many of them have all year. This is soon followed by Christmas, then New Year. December, the last month of the year, is a period of relaxation. Relatively relaxing, since cows and hens don't quit producing and swine and steers don't quit eating.

But January and the Farm Show (see

our Farm Show issue next week) is the beginning of the new year. Days already are beginning to get longer and, while it's going to be mighty cold for some time yet, farmers know they have to be getting ready for planting.

Spring planting time is hectic enough, even when everything possible has been done ahead of time. Bringing last year's records up to date, deciding this year's farm program, fixing equipment, buying supplies and equipment — these are some of the many important things which must be completed between Farm Show and planting time.

How well the management job is done between Farm Show and planting can have an important bearing on how well the farmer does in the new year.

So, let's get the new year off to a good start in the next several weeks. Make it a **HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

## Farming the Kreider Way

The naming of Noah W. Kreider as a "Master Farmer" was an honor for Kreider and for Lancaster County. Kreider was one of only six chosen from 120 nominees throughout the state.

Kreider is well known in the farm community. He is well known as a competent and progressive farmer. His right to the award will not be questioned.

While there are many things which could be singled out to explain Kreider's success, we think his ability to get his sons involved is particularly worth noting.

His two sons are full partners. This is important for many reasons. It explains why Noah Kreider has been able in recent years to devote more time to the business end of farming.

The partnership bodes well for the future. It means the highly efficient Kreider farm will continue far into the future. By making room for his sons long before he really had to do so, he assured the happiness of his family and the future of the farming operation he spent so many years to build.

With the partnership, Kreider eliminated questions which nag many other farmers, such as: Why do the children leave the farm for the city? What will happen to the farm when I'm gone? Is there really a future for farming?

We think the partnership is symbolic of Noah Kreider and the way he operates. His is a solid and enduring type of farm operation.

## The Winter Meetings

Elsewhere in this issue, we carry a schedule of the annual winter events at the Farm and Home Center.

Now, while the reader is thinking about it, we suggest that the schedule be clipped and placed where it will be easy to spot, or that items of specific interest to the farmer be noted in his own special calendar. This should be done now while the matter is fresh in mind.

A reading of the schedule will show there's something for everyone, no matter what type of operation the farmer has.

Most of the meetings are educational, designed to bring the farmer the latest and best information available on the subject covered. Most of the major farm enterprises — poultry, swine, dairy and beef — are covered, along with special topics on farm management practices.

We suspect it may not be too difficult to convince the farmer to attend a meeting on his most important farm enterprise. Swine producers attend swine meetings and dairymen attend dairy meetings.

But both the swine producer and dairymen might benefit from some of the farm management meetings. Farmers with teen-

age sons should consider the meeting March 18 on partnerships and corporations — as a means of preparing later for giving the sons a solid reason for staying down on the farm.

The wills, estates and taxes meeting March 4 should have a similar general interest. A will can be very important in determining how much of an estate is passed on. The meeting will also stress, we feel sure, the importance of planning ahead on estates.

We know some farmers will question the necessity of attending a meeting on swine or dairying this year if they attended a similar meeting last year. There will probably be some repetition, but farm practices are changing.

New knowledge on feeding is being developed, disease problems and treatment practices are changing, market prices change along with the farmer's management practices to realize a profit from the current market.

Since the latest information is usually discussed at the meetings, this tends to eliminate much of the repetition.

Even slight changes in management practices from year to year can lead to significant improvements for the individual farmer.

Even if the farmer doesn't learn anything new, having everything summarized and put in the proper relationship may lead the farmer to a better understanding of what he's doing and how it all fits together.

The value of the type of reliable information available at these meetings for the asking should not be underestimated.

Work some of the meetings into your winter schedule. Make them a bridge between what happened in 1970 and what will happen in 1971.



## NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith  
Lancaster County Agent

**To Segregate Livestock**  
Years ago, I heard a very successful veterinarian recommend that segregation goes along with sanitation in any good livestock enterprise. This is still very important and I'd like to remind producers of the great risk of putting newly-purchased animals in with acclimated animals the day of arrival on the farm. Also, animals that have been to shows or sales need to be segregated for at least 30 days. I'm aware of some past experiences where State Farm Show animals have brought back shipping fever to the rest of the herd. Careful management is very important and segregation is a vital part of good management.

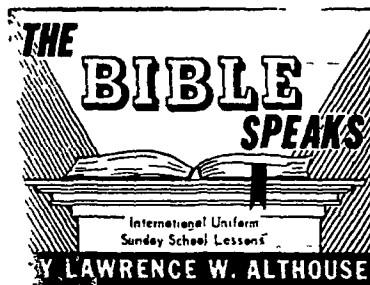
### To Keep Accurate Farm Records

If a better or a new farm record system is to be established, this would be the time of the year to make the change. The calendar year is a good 12-month period for any kind of

records and this applies to agriculture. Farm records not only satisfy the Internal Revenue Service, but are very important in evaluating various farm enterprises and in planning for the future. There are various types of farm accounting, including the latest electronic farm record system of our Penn State Extension Service. Additional details are available.

### To Make War Against Rodents

The winter weather brings rats and mice into the farm buildings. The farmer will be much better off if he tries to prevent this kind of infection. If their nesting places are cleaned up and removed through good sanitation, they will not stay very long. Poison bait stations should be used to help with removing the migrating rats. In severe cases commercial exterminators should be used to clean them out. They are a source of disease and infection and dangerous from the fire hazard angle.



### IN PARABLES

Lesson for January 3, 1971

Background Scripture Isaiah 6:9-10; Matthew 13:1-30, 34-43.

#### THE TROUBLE IS THAT YOU ONLY HEAR WHAT YOU WANT TO HEAR!

Has anyone ever said that to you? A teenage son comes to his father for the car keys. The father responds in an irritated voice "I told you last night I needed the car this evening and you could not have it. Weren't you listening?" I wish I had a dollar for every time someone has asked me if I hadn't been listening. Almost every time I've had to "plead guilty."

What is true of hearing is also quite true of seeing. Most of us have experiences of seeing, yet not seeing. Perhaps we've walked past a friend on the street without being aware he or she was right in front of us. Or we may search our home for an object we've lost, only to discover it was in sight all the time.

#### Seeing but not seeing

It is as if our eyes and ears are "tuned" to see and hear only certain things. My grandmother may be walking over a thickly-carpeted lawn and suddenly stop, bend down, and come up with a four-leaf clover. I may be walking right beside her and yet not see what she sees. In a sense it seems as if her eyes are "tuned" or, to use a current term, "programmed" to find four-leaf clovers.

Last spring our family took a long walk down a road we often traverse, but always in the family car. We were amazed at all the sights on that road we had never seen before. There were even houses we discovered for

the first time. We had seen these things, but we had not seen them.

#### A matter of attention

Another reason that people fail to see and hear all that they should is that they do not have their minds on what they are seeing and hearing. They are giving only a small part of their attention to what their eyes see and ear hear. In a sense, we need to remember to look where we're looking.

This same principle holds true, not only for simple and relatively unimportant matters, but also for matters of some consequence. We may be exposed to something very important, but because we are so preoccupied with our petty interests and projects, we miss completely what is taking place before us. We can't "see the forest for the trees."

#### Common and divine

Jesus was certainly well aware of this factor and resorted to a particularly effective method of teaching in order to communicate his good news. We call this method, "teaching in parables."

What is a parable? William Barclay, the well-known British writer, has said: "It is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning." Something on earth is compared with something in heaven; that the heavenly truth may be better grasped in light of the earthly illustration" (Barclay, William, THE GOSPEL OF MARK, Westminster, 1954).

Another explanation has been offered by William Hamilton, "In essence a parable is a comparison, usually of God or the Kingdom of God to some ordinary event or thing" (Hamilton, William, THE MODERN READER'S GUIDE TO MARK, Association Press, 1959).

The purpose of these simple stories of Jesus, then, is to help us grasp spiritual truths that otherwise we might not "see" or "hear." It was for this reason that Jesus taught in parables so that simple people, indifferent people, and preoccupied people—like us!—could hear the good news and understand and understand, respond.

(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