

# Play Safe With Seed Corn

As could be anticipated following last year's corn blight, there has been sharp competition among farmers to obtain the relatively small supply of blight resistant seed available.

Our reports indicate that only a little more than 20 per cent of all seed corn will be of the resistant type. This means that only about one out of every five acres of corn to be planted next year will be with resistant seed.

So it is obvious that not everyone can plant resistant seed.

Our reports indicate most of the resistant seed is being parceled out by the established seed companies to their customers.

As usual, when a shortage of any type exists and there is a strong demand for a product, there has been quite a scramble.

Some of the scramblers have been and are trying to profit from the blight scare by buying resistant seed at high prices and selling for even higher prices. These scramblers have created the so-called black market in corn seed.

Along with the more or less legitimate profiteers in seed corn, there have been reports of thefts of resistant seed and many types of questionable and dishonest practices.

For instance, there have been reports in some areas of men who bought the bags in which resistant seed originally was sold and then filled these bags with regular corn to sell as resistant corn.

The point for the individual farmer should be clear. Stay away from black mar-

ket corn; its inflated costs may be the least of its problems.

Warnings to stay away from black market corn are coming from many reliable quarters, including the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and the farmer who ignores these warnings is gambling with the success of his own farming operation in the coming year.

While there is still some danger from blight in 1971, we believe that the farmer is much safer with blend or regular corn from a reliable dealer than with black market corn from a source on which he cannot depend.

The farmer who buys a good blend seed or the seed of a non-resistant variety which showed good results in 1970 is the farmer who is most likely to have a good corn crop in 1971.

After buying the good seed, the next most important thing is to follow all the cultural practices which experience showed last year helped slow down the blight.

For instance, Extension specialists advise farmers to plant early, make sure the ground is properly fertilized, provide for good control of weeds and insects, don't misuse chemicals, keep plant population to a reasonable level. These are the types of factors which provide maximum plant growth and strength, give maximum resistance to blights, and insure the farmer top yields.

For the farmer intent on a sound farming program using the best available management practices, black market corn is unwise and unnecessary.

# Consider Foreign Markets

The U. S. Government has been placing much emphasis on agricultural exports. As much as one fourth of total U. S. agricultural output now is being shipped to other countries, recent reports indicate.

Much of this export market is geared to the large scale wheat, corn and soybean production in other parts of the country, particularly in the Mid-west and parts of the South.

In the East, particularly in this part of Pennsylvania, farms generally are smaller family units which are not suited to the large scale production which is necessary for the grain export markets. This local area actually is a net importer of these feed products from other parts of the country.

But this does not necessarily mean that this area cannot benefit from a strong export market.

Many foreign countries now are becoming industrialized and are turning to other countries for food products.

Japan is an outstanding example. In fiscal 1970, U S farm exports to Japan totaled \$1.1 billion, the largest amount ever shipped from one country to another in a single year.

To get a sense of the importance of the \$1.1 billion export to Japan, note that all of Pennsylvania's 67 counties have a yearly farm production of about \$1 billion a year.

Total U S. farm exports now are running at about \$7 billion a year.

Along with Japan's industrialization in recent years, there has been a change in Japanese diets away from traditional foods such as rice toward more familiar Western diets that emphasize meat, milk and eggs.

In Japan as in the U.S., when consumers have more money to spend, they spend a large share of it on high protein foods.

These are some of the same products which are receiving increasing producer emphasis in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Trends similar to those in Japan are taking place in the European countries. Unfortunately, many of these countries are setting up major trade barriers through the Common Market. Despite this, the U. S. is maintaining a large volume of farm exports to Europe.

While the major Eastern markets such as Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, New York, Baltimore and Washington need the locally produced food products, the existence of a strong export market can mean a great deal to the farmer in terms of maintaining a good price for his products.

Because of the importance of both the export and import markets in determining local farm prices, foreign trade is one subject that some local farmers and farm leaders might begin to study more with a view toward future programs and activities in which might be of benefit to local farmers.

The implications of the tremendous volumes of goods which are brought into this country and shipped abroad should not be overlooked. For instance, the widespread and growing use of many Japanese products, the so-called "miniaturized" items, suggest the importance of the issue.

And, as the Livestock Market Digest recently concluded in an editorial headed "Japanese Diet Changes Offer Big Opportunity":

"American's widespread importation of Japanese products suggests that the U. S. ought to have a favored status. More than that, however, U S industry needs to practice the sort of salesmanship and know-how in getting farm products to that Japanese market which it has exhibited at home."



## NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith  
Lancaster County Agent

### To Plant Early

With several of our spring crops, it is very important to get them into the ground just as soon as weather conditions permit. I'm referring to spring oats and to straight seedings of alfalfa. With the spring oats, it is extremely important to sow them in March, if possible. Later planting will have less yield due to the dry, hot weather which usually comes early in southeastern Pennsylvania. Spring seedings of alfalfa will also get a better start before hot weather, if they are planted late in March or early April.

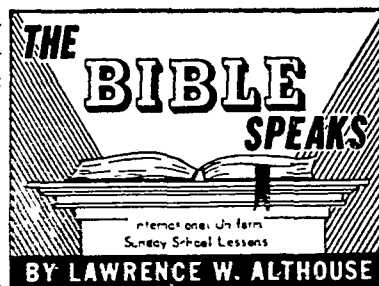
### To Be Cautious With Strangers

During the spring months, many farmers and property owners are confronted with various salesmen selling many special bargains. It is possible that some of these are satisfactory and that the person is honest and reliable; however, in other cases when the person is a stranger in the com-

munity, the product may not turn out to be as represented, and also, the salesman may be difficult to locate when an adjustment is wanted. We suggest that business transactions be made with reliable persons and concerns who are willing to give service and make adjustments when necessary.

### To Practice Farm Safety

The 1971 cropping season is approaching when many pieces of farm machinery will be put into action. We urge all operators to take time to be safe and follow the manufacturer's directions relating to shields and protective equipment. We realize that young folks like to ride tractors and other farm equipment, but want to point out that they will be safer if not permitted to do so. Haste and carelessness comes very easily when we are under pressure to get the job done; however, they can cause serious accidents and loss of life and property.



## ARE YOU READY?

Lesson for March 21, 1971

Background Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13; Mark 13:28-37.  
Devotional Reading: Matthew 24:36-44.

Most of the parables that Jesus told are teachings about the kingdom of God. Jesus used these stories to help his listeners understand what it was like. He did not describe it in generalities and abstract terms, but illustrated its nature through stories drawn from the lives of people.

Think of what he has said about the kingdom in these stories. In Matthew 13 there is a story about a man who sowed

Rev. Althouse good seed in his field—on the day of judgement the wheat will be separated from the tares; only the righteous will enter the kingdom. In Matthew 18 he tells of a king who settle accounts with his servants—only those who forgive others will enter the kingdom. In Matthew 20 we find a householder who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard—the kingdom is entered by the grace of God, not the merit of men. In Matthew 22 we find a king who gave a marriage feast for his son and sent his servants to call those who were invited—the kingdom will be entered by those who willingly respond to the great invitation.

### The price of unreadiness

This week we turn to another parable of the kingdom in which we find that the kingdom may be compared to: "... ten maidens who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom" What is Jesus saying here about the kingdom?

The local wedding customs of Palestine directed that the bride-

groom should come to the house of his bride in the evening. The time of his coming is not set for a specific hour, but is left indefinite, thus leading to a humorous suspense to the story. The ten girls are close friends of the bride and it is their duty to wait with her at the bride's home. It was traditional for them to go out to greet and welcome the bridegroom and escort him in honor to the bride.

When the delayed bridegroom comes, five of the girls are out trying to buy some additional oil for their lamps which have gone out. We may wonder why the five wise bridesmaids did not share their oil reserves with the others. Is Jesus telling us not to share what we have? No, this is only a detail in the story and is not intended to be an example for the Christian.

The point of the parable, then, is that failure to be ready for the kingdom's opportunities will keep us from experiencing them. We have, therefore, added to our list of people who will be excluded from the kingdom. Already it includes: those who reject the invitation, those who are preoccupied with other matters, those who deny mercy to others—and now we add: those who do not prepare themselves for its coming.

### Paved with "good intentions"

There was nothing evil about the five "foolish" girls. They did not reject the invitation. They were not too preoccupied to come. They were not hateful or proud or unforgiving. They were simply careless. How foolish to lose such an opportunity!

You may think that this is a comparatively harmless failing, yet we must remember that "the way to Hell is paved with good intentions." Very often the greatest judgement falls, not upon the evil (of whom little or nothing is expected), but upon the good (who should know better).

Is this not one of our great dangers today? Many of us do not reject the great invitation of Christ's kingdom, yet, having heard his call, we are nevertheless unready when the opportunity comes.

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**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