

Rush, But Safely

Some farmers already have been busy with plowing, signaling that the spring rush is arriving.

Any time now, with a few days of continuous good drying weather to bring soil moisture to a reasonable level, and the rush will be on to get the ground plowed and planted.

While all this is going on, we want to remind again that accidents usually occur when people are in a hurry.

Farmers should particularly recall last year about this time when a rash of farm accidents, many of them resulting in deaths, occurred in Lancaster County and surrounding areas.

A little thought will avoid most acci-

dents. The farmer should never allow himself to get in such a hurry that he forgets to do his work in a safe manner.

Usually, safety does not really take that much time.

Farming is listed, in some reports, as the nation's most dangerous occupation.

We think a little care during the spring rush will go a long way toward eliminating this agricultural first.

Farmers have many things for which to be proud, but the accident record is not one of them.

Let's keep safety in mind as we get the equipment ready and get out in the field for what we all hope and think will be another good crop year.

On Making Plants Resist Bugs

Have you ever wondered why insects attack certain plants and not others?

There undoubtedly are many reasons, but some recent research by Japanese scientists isolates one reason and illustrates the tremendous opportunities to control insects without endangering the environment.

The scientists found that some plants and trees produce substances which inhibit hormone production and thereby stop reproduction in some insects.

Imagine the day when we can take this kind of knowledge and use it on a large scale basis. Maybe we can find out, for instance, what makes these plants resistant; from there, maybe we can proceed to make plants resistant to any insect we single out as a menace to our crops.

In our area right now, for instance, if we had this kind of choice, we would probably make corn resistant to corn rootworm.

It sounds a little wild. But it is not really unrealistic in terms of the kind of work which is underway. Many scientists are working from many directions to find means of saving farm crops while preserving the environment.

Many of these new techniques, however, are many years away from development and application at the local farmer level. Farmers must continue to stress that the public will have to pay dearly through higher food costs for forcing farmers to quit using right away the pesticides now available.

Meanwhile, we can expect scientists to place increasing emphasis on answering such basic questions as why insects attack certain plants and not others.

And we can be sure that the answers which are found eventually will have great importance for the individual farmer.

Use Care While Burning

The days are getting longer and warmer, flowers are blooming, and farmers are putting things in order so they can spend most of their time for the next several weeks out in the fields.

One of the chores which farm families like to take care of before plowing is cleaning up and burning up debris which has accumulated during the winter.

But burning can lead to serious problems.

This is the time of year noted for high winds. The wind in itself is a very great fire hazard. Wind often takes small fires which would otherwise be easily controlled and whips them into much larger fires, which can be a danger not only to wood land, but to buildings.

The wind is a hazard in another way, too. It dries things out, making them much easier for fire to consume.

When the action of the wind and drying

out the material combines with the accumulation of debris from a winter's accumulation, plus all the dead matter from last summer's growth, we can see how fire can get started and get out of control.

Local fire companies often issue warnings at this time of year to use extreme caution with any type of burning during this dry season. It is good advice and anyone who has much burning to do should strongly consider consulting his local fire company.

Another possibility is the local forest fire warden.

The Valley Forge Forest District 17 at Fort Kennedy notes that the Bureau of Forestry manned fire lookout tower at Mount Penn in Berks County can be reached by calling 372-2008.

The forest district also urges reporting all wild fire hazards and fires to one of the following: District Foresters Office, Patrick Lantz, Port Kennedy, 783-0650; William Keller, Forest Inspector, Point Pleasant, 297-5773; Kenneth Glassmoyer, Forest Inspector, Douglassville, 326-3479; Mt. Penn Fire Tower, Mt. Penn, 326-2008; Cornwall Fire Tower, Lancaster County, 665-4755, or contact your local fire wardens.

While working with the people who have had experience with fire and know how to deal with it can help, most farmers have had experience with burning and know about the dangers. When disaster occurs, it usually results more from carelessness than from lack of knowledge.

Therefore, we think the best advice of all is simply to think things through before burning is started. A minute or two spent in this manner can save hours of grief.



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Set Strawberry Plants

Early spring is the best time to start strawberry plants in Pennsylvania. Some growers try to set their plants about the first or second week in April, which is about one month prior to the date of the last expected frost. Early planting is important because experience and research has revealed that the greatest fruit yields next spring will come from the first few runner plants produced after setting the plants this spring. Rows four feet apart and plants about 24 to 30 inches on the row would be good spacing.

To Protect Water Supplies

Good quality water is becoming more important and many rural water supplies do not meet the health requirements for either man or beast. We are aware of the large number of water supplies that are too high in bacteria count and too high in nitrates. These problems are very difficult to correct, but in most cases the trouble comes from contamina-

tion from the surface. Both human and livestock wastes are blamed for much of the trouble. Surface water must be kept away from water supplies and rock formations should not be near disposal fields or silos. More attention to the protection of good water supplies is needed on many farms and in many communities.

To Be Careful With Weed Killers

Vegetative growth is beginning and this means more and more weeds will be growing. One of the greatest labor-saving practices in this generation is the control of weeds by chemicals rather than by clean cultivation. However, with this change we have the problem of the herbicides injuring other plants, in addition to the weeds. All gardeners and farmers are urged to be extremely careful by following the instructions on the weed spray containers, and be sure that any drift of the spray, or fumes following the application may cause damage.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS
International Uniform
Sunday School Lessons
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

REJECTED CORNERSTONE
Lesson for April 4, 1971

Background Scripture: Matthew 21:1-17, 33-46.
Devotional Reading: Isaiah 5:1-12.

Sometimes the parables of Jesus required some deep thinking before their significance was comprehended by his listeners. This was not true of the parable which he tells in Matthew 21:33-48. His audience surely recognized the meaning of "vineyard," for Isaiah had spoken of Israel as God's planted vineyard.



My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He digged it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice

Rev. Althouse vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a vine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes (Isaiah 5:1a, 2).

The rebellious tenants

So it was not a flattering reference to Israel for the prophet was saying that, despite the tender care God gave his vineyard, it was unfruitful, failing to yield the results he had intended. Once again, then, Jesus is comparing Israel to a vineyard. This time the inference is not that the land is unfruitful, but that the tenants who tend it are rebellious against the owner, refusing to give him the fruits which are rightly his.

This parable came as a terrible condemnation to the religious leaders in Jesus' day for Jesus is picturing them as wilfully rebellious against God. The problem is not that they don't know any better, not that they are simply making a mistake, but that they are wilfully choosing to rebel against God. It was bad enough for Jesus to suggest that they were wrong, but for him to say that they were knowingly rebelling against God

must have been a bitter slap in the face.

As Bishop Gerald Kennedy has said, "One of the hardest things to understand about Jesus is his constant attack on classes of people we admire most." These men were zealous advocates of the Jewish faith; they were almost fanatical in their observance of the law; surely he should not have found fault with them!

But he did. And the fault he found was the fault of arrogant pride. They were not humble tenants on God's vineyard, but proud and willful men who were bent on having their own way. It was pride in their supposed moral righteousness that caused them to turn a deaf ear to the prophets.

He sent his son

This is not ancient history but also a description of our own contemporary situation today. God has the greatest difficulty in getting through to those of us who should be easiest to reach, yet, because of our self-righteousness, are most likely to turn a deaf ear to his messengers. Like Israel, the Church is often tempted to take the vineyard into our own hands, to enjoy its fruits and ignore the one who owns it.

In the parable and in Jesus' life, the son also was rejected and, in fact, put to death. This, Jesus points out clearly, is a rebellious, defiant act against the Father himself. So it was not just Jesus whom Israel rejected, but God.

Jesus, who should have been the cornerstone of a renewed Judaism, was utterly rejected by the very people who most should have accepted him. One cannot help but wonder whether we today might stand where they did. Of all people, we should receive the Christ at work in the world today. All that we do should be built upon this cornerstone, yet, are we not in danger of rejecting him even as they did?

(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.)

ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE SUNDAY

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