

Welcome the Bairs

We join Lancaster County farmers in welcoming the new Extension agent who began work in the County July 1.

He is N. Alan Bair, a recent Penn State University graduate with B.S. and M.S. degrees in dairy science.

Although Bair fills the gap left by the late Victor Plastow, he will have general Extension duties and will be joining our present agents in meeting needs of local farmers and farm youths through the 4-H program. While his work load will be general, we expect many local dairymen will want to take advantage of his up-to-date training.

The value of the Extension program and our county agents and home econo-

mists in helping local farmers solve problems and determine the best courses of action cannot be overemphasized.

The Extension agents are called on constantly to give technical assistance and advice and to help solve problems in such diverse areas as farm pond management, pesticide and herbicide recommendations, disease and nutrition problems and just about anything else which puzzles or frustrates local farmers and home owners.

Bair is joining a local organization with a fine service record and we're sure he will carry on the tradition.

Let's give the Bairs a good Lancaster County welcome in the coming weeks.

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent



To Keep Hogs Cool

Fattening hogs nearing market weight may notice the hot weather more than other swine on the farm.

Maximum ventilation should be provided if the hogs are confined; all doors and windows should be open. Exhaust fans will move the air out of tight buildings providing there is sufficient fan capacity. With hogs weighing from 100 to 200 pounds each there should be 6,000 cubic feet of air per minute for each 100 head of hogs.

Hogs should be moved or trucked during the night or early morning to avoid overheating.

To Observe Corn Plants

The danger of a severe outbreak of southern corn leaf blight is present on many local farms. When it will develop, or if it will develop, is difficult to say at this time.

Growers are reminded that considerable effort is being placed on this problem at this time by agronomists and corn breeders.

We will do our best (Extension Service) to keep growers informed. Growers are urged to be on the alert for elongated lesions on the leaves and blighted leaves, as remembered from last fall.

To Utilize New Grains

Barley is being harvested and the winter wheat crop is maturing rapidly.

Livestock feeders may use either of these grains in most rations but should go easy until the new grains have dried; the use of small amounts (10 to 20%) in the ration is recommended for the first month after combining. Wheat may be substituted for corn, after it is thoroughly dry, in hog, beef, and dairy rations; however, it should be ground or cracked and introduced slowly into the ration.

As much as 50 per cent of the corn in the ration may be substituted with wheat when increased gradually. Too much wheat may cause digestive disorders.

Salute to FFA Activities Week

It was FFA Activities Week at Penn State University this week for 1,500 FFA members from across the state.

The group included some 105 Lancaster County FFA members and many from neighboring counties, reflecting the local area's strong position in the state farm economy.

Activities Week is the culmination of the year's FFA activities. Local and area winners in numerous contests have a chance to compete with their counterparts from other counties and areas around the state.

Behind the good natured competition

is a real educational experience. The contests involve learning important farm skills such as evaluating the quality of dairy, livestock and poultry. Farm mechanics, machinery, land judging, and many others round out the competition.

In addition, FFA members attend conferences and educational demonstrations and have an opportunity to exchange ideas with each other.

It's a major event for FFA and for the future farmers who participate in it. It's the type of event which helps insure that farmers in the future continually do a better job.

Blight Hits -- What to Expect?

The report last week that Southern Corn Blight is already established on farms in several Southeastern Pennsylvania counties, including Lancaster County, was certainly not good news.

Even though the blight hit here last year only a couple of weeks before most corn was matured, it still caused much damage in some fields.

So the real concern now is that the blight is well established 45 to 50 days earlier in the growing season. It could have plenty of time to attack the important corn crop at the critical stages before corn is formed. Last year, most corn was far enough developed that even when the blight hit it caused relatively little damage; this may not be true this year.

But even though the blight is here, how serious will it be? We don't think anybody knows for sure.

Several factors are in farmers' favor this year in comparison to last year.

Farmers started out this year with a full awareness of the blight's potential. Many of them, we're sure, used management practices which were recommended to minimize blight damage. This includes such things as keeping plant populations at a reasonable level, because it was found last year that blight hits hardest fields which have high populations.

We're sure also that some farmers took extra care to insure protection against weeds and insects. Anything which competes with the corn for nutrients saps the strength of the corn and makes it more susceptible to blight, farmers have been told.

Although no precise figures are avail-

able, the state has reported that about 30 per cent of the Pennsylvania corn crop is of blight resistant varieties. This means that some 30 per cent of the corn should not be susceptible to blight. This is a significant proportion and reports indicate that all the corn next year should be resistant.

Of this year's remaining 70 per cent, part of it, probably about half, is blend corn, which means a combination of resistant and non-resistant corn. No one is certain how the blend corn will react to blight. It was sold on the basis that it would give some degree of protection.

In addition, those varieties which showed the most blight losses last year were drastically cut back by local farmers, while varieties which were not hit were increased. Will this mean that even the non-resistant corn will be much less susceptible to blight in 1971? This is a key question which only time will answer.

There are many other key factors which will help determine how serious the blight is this year. One key is weather. Blight thrives on hot, moist weather and seems to get started best where corn fields are moist. This is one reason for reducing plant population. No one can predict if the weather will favor blight.

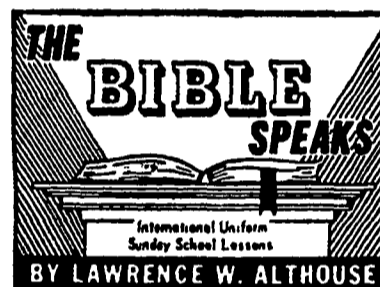
There are many other factors. Experience has shown that a plant disease may be different in its impact from year to year. Will the blight react in 1971 the same way it did in 1970? Arnold Lueck, associate Lancaster County ag agent, was referring to this factor when he said it's not known yet how virulent or aggressive the disease will be this year.

Altogether, there's cause for concern, simply because the corn crop is so vitally important to the local farm economy.

But we must not compare the situation in 1971 with 1970. There are many factors favoring the farmer which did not exist last year.

We'll just have to keep our fingers crossed for the next six weeks and hope that nature gives us a break this year.

Next year, with blight resistant seed, Southern Corn Blight shouldn't be an issue at all.



HOW FREE ARE YOU? Lesson for July 4, 1971

Background Scripture: Mark 10:43-45; John 8:31-42; 1 Corinthians 6:12; 9:19-23; Galatians 5:13-26.
Devotional Reading: Psalms 106 1-12.

There is a lot of confusion about this word "freedom."

Take, for example, the confusion of a college freshman whom we shall call "Jim." Upon arriving at college, Jim felt like shouting, "Free at last!" No more

would his parents be there to tell him what he could and couldn't do. From now on he would be governing himself.

Called to freedom

Jim found himself doing a lot of things he hadn't been able to do before and this exercise of his freedom had a delicious taste to him. In a month, he was spending a good deal of time with a group of five or six other students from his dormitory at a little bar just next to the campus. As time went on, less and less time was spent in study. By the end of the semester, Jim had been placed on "academic probation." Sitting in the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs, he reflected upon the price he had paid in order to exercise his new freedom. Now the important question was: "Can I break out of this pattern I've slipped into? He had become a slave to his own immaturity.

This was precisely the problem that prompted Paul to write his epistle to the congregation at Galatia. He felt it important to remind them of what they had been called to: "For you were called to freedom, brethren" (5:13). They needed to be reminded that the gospel of Jesus Christ had set

them free of exterior control, that they were not intended to remain in bondage to anything or anyone—least of all themselves!

This is the ironic thing about freedom: when we are made free to make our own choices, some of us choose slavery in some other form. So Paul tells the Galatians that God didn't free them from their old pagan lives so that they could live in bondage to either passion or the Jewish law. He set them free so that they would really be free.

Through love be servants

Look at the catalogue of sins he finds among these so-called "liberated" people: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissension, party spirit, envy, drunkenness, carousing, etc. If any of the Galatians were subject to any of these, Paul said, then they had traded their freedom for slavery. Paul does not end with condemning slavery. He shows, however, how a man can use his Christian freedom. Motivated by the power of love, the Christian is set free to choose to serve others. A servant is in bondage to a master. The servant does not serve him because he wishes to, but because he is in bondage.

Not so, however, with the Christian, Paul says. Because he doesn't have to serve anyone, he may choose to put his life in the service of someone who needs it, and if he freely makes the choice himself, even though he serves he retains his freedom. This is what was unique and compelling about Jesus' servanthood; he wasn't forced to serve, but willingly chose to do so. Because the choice was his, his dignity could not be taken away.

Freedom wisely used

Martin Luther has said: "A Christian man is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." This is the meaning of Christian freedom: to be able to choose to follow willingly the best that is within us.

How free are you?

(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