

Health Centers Solve Critical Problem

One of the social problems which has been all too common in rural areas across the nation is the lack of medical doctors and health facilities.

Usually, doctors in rural areas have been overburdened with too many patients and not enough facilities. This combination of too much work and poor working conditions has kept new doctors, which are increasingly specialized, from locating in these areas. As the existing doctors have retired and died, medical problems have become increasingly more critical.

While the medical problems in Lancaster County have never been as critical as they are in many of the less densely populated farm counties, lack of enough doctors to handle their medical needs has been recognized as an important problem in both the Quarryville and Christiana areas. Both communities are taking action to develop medical centers.

In Quarryville, residents had raised about \$9,000 by early this week to start a clinic in conjunction with Lancaster General Hospital. Five doctors under a special family general practice program will be working out of the clinic while they continue their training at Lancaster General.

While the five young doctors are not officially practicing on their own, it should be emphasized that they have completed the necessary medical training to set up an office of their own. They are continuing their training on a voluntary basis.

One of the goals of the program is to encourage the young doctors to recognize the critical medical needs of rural areas and to set up practice in these areas, particularly in the Southern Lancaster County area.

If this goal is achieved, it will represent big strides toward the solution to what is recognized as one of the most critical problems in many rural areas throughout the country.

The Grange will sponsor a booster night program, open to the public, at 8:15 p.m. on September 27 at the Grange Hall in Oakryn. Three of the five doctors who plan to practice at the center will be on hand to explain some phase of the health center and to get acquainted with the local residents.

Rootworm Multiplies Rapidly

One of the most dramatic experiments at Ag Progress Days recently involved corn rootworm.

Three small plots located within a few feet of each other showed that first year corn in the plot which had alfalfa the previous year had almost no rootworm damage, while second year corn had noticeable damage and third year corn was severely damaged.

In the second year of continuous corn, there were some goose-necked stalks, but this represented only a small proportion of the total. Overall, the yield loss would probably be significant, but not severe in relation to the total output.

But in the plot with the third year of continuous corn, a high proportion of the corn stalks, possibly one-third to one-half, were goose-necked or defective to some extent. In addition, the corn appeared to be off-color, slightly yellowish, indicating nutritional deficiencies.

A researcher explained that the corn was not receiving enough nitrogen from the soil, even though the soil had plenty of nitrogen, the same level as the corn in the

To make the General Hospital program possible, a special committee of representatives of various civic and farm organizations throughout the Quarryville area have formed a medical committee to help explain the program and to raise funds to finance it.

Jesse Cutler, committee chairman, said this week that the first \$10,000 is needed within the next few days and the total of at least \$20,000 should be raised soon.

Cutler urged interested citizens and organizations to get the money in by October 1. The funds are needed primarily for medical equipment which will be used in the new health facility on Fourth Street, Quarryville.

Cutler said that the spirit of the people in the area has been good and there has been considerable cooperation. But he emphasized the need for the additional funds.

Cutler said one of the main questions raised by citizens is why shouldn't the doctors set up their own facilities, as other businesses and services do. He said that there's a shortage of doctors and that other communities which need these doctors have provided such facilities; Quarryville can't compete for medical services without providing some facilities, he explained.

We would add that, according to a recent estimate by an existing Quarryville doctor, the Quarryville area needs at least twice the number of doctors that it now has. It is highly doubtful that these doctors can be obtained without direct action by the community itself.

Also, a fund campaign in the neighborhood of \$20,000 is extremely modest in an effort to solve this type of problem. Reports from other communities that we have seen indicate the cost usually exceeds \$100,000.

While the cost may go up before a complete solution is reached in Southern Lancaster County, we think it shows that the problem is being approached with a view toward minimizing the cost for local citizens.

Because the cost is minimal and because the present effort may solve a critical problem, we think the people of Southern Lancaster County should make sure that funding is not a stumbling block to this project.

other two plots. He explained that the rootworm had destroyed the corn's roots to such an extent that the corn simply could not take enough nitrogen to develop properly.

Lancaster County Extension agents inform us some local farmers have been complaining that their corn turned yellow even though they applied lots of nitrogen. This research shown at Ag Progress Days indicates farmers should control rootworm, as well as apply nitrogen.

Besides being severely malformed and off-color, the third year continuous corn was noticeably shorter than the corn in the other two plots.

While it's still too early to say what the difference in yield will be between the three plots, it is almost certain that the third year plot will show very significant yield reduction in comparison with the first year plot.

The demonstration, we think, vividly underscores what local Extension agents and agri-businessmen have been telling farmers all along about the dangers of build-ups of corn rootworm on land devoted to continuous corn.

Farmers with second year or longer continuous corn should definitely be paying close attention to their fields this year and any significant indications of rootworm attack this year would indicate the need either for switching to another crop on the land next year or using control measures against the corn rootworm next year.

The important point to remember is that once the rootworm becomes well established, it multiplies very rapidly, moving from a situation of relatively little damage one year to severe damage the following year.

While we saw no evidence at Ag Progress Days concerning other crops and other pests, we suspect that the general lesson of the rootworm with continuous corn should be remembered in relation to other crops and other pests.

NOW IS THE TIME . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent



TO SECURE STAND-BY GENERATOR

Many of us do not realize how much we depend upon electricity until we are deprived of it. With more of our farms becoming higher mechanized using more electric motors, it might be very difficult to operate without power. Many ventilations systems, automatic feeders, water systems, milking machines, and other labor-saving devices must have electric power. All farmers with these kind of operations should select a stand-by generator and have it ready for any emergency. Winter is approaching when heavy snows and ice storms may disrupt power for several days. Be prepared to furnish power on your own and prevent serious losses.

TO RECOGNIZE WITHDRAWAL TIME

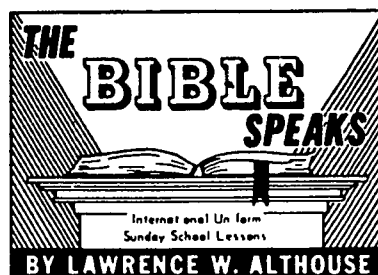
There are many drugs and antibiotics used today to treat livestock and poultry. When used properly they render a valuable service and contribute to efficient production. The important thing is that producers become familiar with and recognize the length of time required, after treatment, before the animal should be slaughtered or in the case of milk cows, the length of time before the milk should be

saved. The manufacturer of the product should have this on the label or local veterinarians can give this advice. With the Food and Drug becoming more active with their inspection of farm products, in order to protect the consumer, all producers should use careful management at all times.

TO SEED WINTER BARLEY

In the southeastern counties winter barley is a profitable grain crop and deserves some acreage on most livestock farms. Late September is usually a good time to make the seeding so that the root systems will get well strated before freezing weather. Barley responds well to lime when the soil is not in the 6.5 to 7.0 ph range; this should be worked into the soil before the grain is seeded. When lodging is a problem only a phosphorus-potash fertilizer should be used; applications of manure will also increase the problem of lodging. Barley is one of the best substitutes for corn in most livestock rations; the straw is also very suitable to livestock bedding needs. With wheat prices less attractive in recent years, and since wheat may not be as suitable as barley on many farms in the grain rations, it appears that winter barley can make a useful contribution to the livestock production program.

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WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Lesson for September 26, 1971

Background Scripture Psalms 73, Ephesians 1
Devotional Reading Philippians 3:4-16

As soon as an infant is born into this world he becomes part of an unquestioned routine. Even as he grows and matures and begins to take some responsibility for himself he does most of what he does without reasoning why.

We settle down into patterns of life, routines, habitual practices and become too busy to spend much time in questioning what or why.

There comes a day, however, when at last it occurs to us to step back, look at the lives we lead, and ask: "What's it all about?" Suddenly the things we have done all our lives seem incomprehensible. It is as if we have been sleep-walking and suddenly have been awakened. The world, once so familiar, so understandable, seems strange and incomprehensible. Where are we, we wonder? Where have we been and where are we going?

The meaning of life

Life and existence have always puzzled men. Does it really have

a purpose? Does it make some kind of sense? Is this real or is life just a cruel illusion? What are we doing here and what are we expected to accomplish? Can we really get anywhere with all this struggle or is it as futile as it seems? Am I justified in trying to see some meaning and purpose in it or am I simply wasting my time?

Aren't these questions that all of us ask at sometime? They are as old as man himself. Just as man has been eternally seeking to discover all he can about God, so he has also been searching to discover all he can about life and its purpose. Some men have despaired and given up the struggle to live a meaningful life. Others have concluded that they must squeeze out of it all that they can, as long as they can.

Then I perceived . . .

Others, however, have found their answers as they have turned to God. The Psalmist confesses: "But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I perceived their end." (Psalms 73:16, 17). Like others, he despaired of finding any meaning in life until he turned to God and at last received from him the understanding he needed.

Apart from God we cannot find either meaning or purpose for life. If there is no God, then life is futile and without any meaning.

Because we believe that he knows what it's all about, we can face life with confident faith.

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