

## USDA Subsidizes Bees, DDT Ban

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced a bee indemnity payment program. Although the program itself is quite complex and not easily summarized, the basic intent is to reimburse beekeepers for bees killed by pesticides.

What the USDA did not say in announcing the program is that it stems primarily from the growing ban on DDT. DDT was not lethal to bees, but many of the widely used chemicals which have replaced DDT are causing massive kill-offs of bees (It should also be noted that many of the DDT substitutes have caused some human

deaths and many serious injuries; DDT has never been seriously charged with being lethal to humans).

Those who are aware of the vital role that bees play in pollination of plants and crops readily recognize the threat posed by the bee-killing pesticides, as well as the concern of the USDA for keeping beekeepers in business.

Add the destruction of bees to the current outbreak of the gypsy moth and growing incidence of malaria in this country and abroad to the increasing price which is being paid for the ban on DDT.

## State Develops Export Tools

New tools to aid in the development of export sales have been made available to state food processors and packers by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

One is known as Trade Opportunity Referral System (TORS). This computerized service is operated by the Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA, in cooperation with the various states. Names of more than 100 Pennsylvania firms are listed in TORS and are made available on request to foreign buyers in search of U. S. food products. The names of the importers seeking items are in turn relayed to listed companies.

Each of the Pennsylvania firms listed in TORS also is supplied each month with an Export Market Newsletter issued by the Pennsylvania Division of Market Development, Bureau of Markets. The newsletter reports on export developments concerning the types of products Pennsylvania has to sell and also lists sales leads made available from various sources, including the FAS and the U. S. Department of Commerce.

We note this increasing interest by Pennsylvania officials in the export market because of its important potential as a

means of expanding markets for Pennsylvania farm products.

While export of U. S. farm products is now a multi-billion dollar operation annually, total processed agricultural exports from Pennsylvania averaged less than \$50 million a year in 1966 through 1968. While \$50 million may seem large, it is very small in terms of what other states are doing and in terms of the vast potential.

Pennsylvania is increasing its farm exports. In 1961-62, the figure was only about \$28 million a year, compared to about \$45 million by 1968.

Major Pennsylvania food exports include processed fruits and vegetables, poultry, meats, bakery products, specialty foods, confectionery, and cereal products.

This list is only a guide. It can be enlarged upon.

With the national administration greatly concerned about the balance of payments and interested in increasing farm exports as a means of helping the situation, and with state officials also increasingly urging farm exports, we think the export market is a market which the local farm community cannot afford to ignore.

## Observe Calving Schedules

As dairy cows become more expensive and produce larger quantities of milk, dairymen must increasingly be concerned about getting maximum possible production from each animal.

This includes developing animals which maintain high production levels for greater numbers of years.

It also includes keeping the animals bred on the proper schedule. With high built-in costs, failure to breed on schedule is increasingly costly.

A Missouri study shows that on milk loss alone, any calving interval longer than 12 months is very costly to the dairyman. While decreased income per cow is only \$6 for a 13 month calving interval, it jumps to \$39 per cow on a 14 month interval, then doubles to \$78 per cow on a 15 month interval.

These kind of figures multiplied out over several animals obviously indicate that a large per cent of the dairy farmer's potential yearly income can be lost from this one factor alone.

But there are also other losses from longer calving intervals. For instance, there's a loss resulting from loss of annual number of calves produced. The study notes, for instance, that if only a \$60 value is assigned to each calf, the loss is 16 cents for each day a cow remains open beyond 86 days. This loss figure is obviously much too low for the better cows which are relied on to produce replacement stock.

There's also costs involved, such as veterinary fees, in solving breeding problems.

Altogether, the study indicates that long calving intervals can be a critical profit drain for the dairyman.

Maintaining proper balanced rations and culling difficult breeders are among management practices needed to solve the problem. Keeping good records is also critical.

We suggest that farmers who have this problem with any significant number of their animals should contact their veterinarian, the Extension service, their feed company nutritionist or others for advice. The important thing is that the problem not be allowed to drag on.

The cost of solution will almost certainly be many times less than the problem itself.

## NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith  
Lancaster County Agent



### To Be Careful With Heat Lamps

A portable heat lamp is very useful about the home and the farm during the cold winter months. On the farm they are often used to provide comfort as brooders for young animals, to warm water, dry wet areas, to warm crankcases of motors so they'll start easier, and to provide heat at a work bench. However, they may be a fire hazard if improperly handled; they have been blamed for starting some barn fires. In the barn and especially when being used as a brooder, be sure the lamp is securely hung from the ceiling and out of the reach of all animals. If they are knocked or pulled down into straw or bedding, a fire will soon be started.

### To Practice Good Management

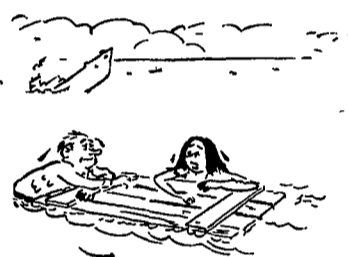
Every farmer should recognize that good farm management is more important now than ever before; getting the jobs done on time and according to the best known methods are important parts of proper management. The correct handling of labor and money is also part of good farm management. In many cases the difference between success and failure in a farm business is the management. Farmers are urged to accept every opportunity of learning more about the correct management of their enterprise in order to realize greater profits.

### To Inspect Extinguishers

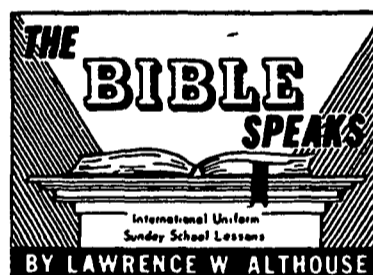
The winter season is ap-

proaching when many heating units will go into operation. Also, barns are full of livestock, feed supplies, and in too many cases expensive farm machinery. All of these point to the fact that every farmer should be prepared to prevent fires and try and keep them under control until the local fire company can assist. Several fire extinguishers about the home and barn is very important. In addition, be sure each unit is in good condition, and also that every member of the family knows how to operate the extinguisher. Make sure that water supplies are accessible with a minimum of time and effort. The prevention of fires is always in order, but to be prepared to keep them under control for the first few minutes will surely reduce losses.

## My Neighbors



"I wonder if you shouldn't stop payment on the check for this cruise."



## PRAY BOLDLY!

Lesson for October 17, 1971

Background Scripture: Matthew 7:7-12; Romans 8:26-27; 2 Corinthians 12:1-10; Hebrews 11:6  
Devotional Reading: Psalms 42.

One summer while I was in college the only job I could get was selling household goods door-to-door. Usually, my summers were spent in construction projects, but this summer saw a building slump and the sales position was the only thing available to me.

I was a timid salesman. I approached each door with mixed feelings: afraid no one would answer my knock, and even more afraid someone would! I wanted to make sales but I dreaded the process of selling. When someone did open the door, I was apologetic and dubious in my approach. I had steeled myself to accept their refusal. Needless to say, it was a lean summer!

### Beginning with belief

Many people attempt to pray in much the same manner that I tried to make door-to-door sales. Their prayers are timid, apologetic, and prepared to accept the worst. They seem not only afraid that God will not answer, but even more fearful that he will! They are not terribly disappoint-

ed that nothing seems to happen, because they didn't expect anything to happen in the first place.

Failure in prayer can often be traced to timidity. We do not receive anything in prayer, not because God is reluctant to give, but because we have rendered ourselves unable to receive. It is interesting that the Greek word for receiving and taking is the same. As Andrew Murray once pointed out, when Jesus says, "Every one that asketh receiveth," he used the same verb as at the Supper, "Take, eat" . . . Receiving not only implies God's bestowment, but our acceptance." Thus, the problem is not at the giving end but at the receiving end of the transaction.

### Continuing with vigor

This is why Jesus uses three action verbs in one of his well-known discourses on prayer: "Ask . . . seek . . . knock . . ." (Matthew 7:7). There is nothing timid about these verbs. They are vigorous approaches to prayer. Yet neither are they brash: they are aggressive and assured only because they presume to know that God is even more willing to give and answer than they are to seek and ask. We may dare to pray boldly because we have caught a vision of the boldness of God's grace.

Emily Gardner Neale has said: "Our besetting sin, and I think it is a sin, is that we habitually expect so pitifully little, daring to impose upon His mercy and His power the limits of our own humanity." To pray timidly is to demean God, to indicate that we have grave doubts about his grace. In a sense, this is insulting to him for he has so clearly demonstrated to us the depths of his Fatherly love.

To pray boldly is an act of affirmation and praise.

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