

Feed Costs Down Again

The economics of farming have changed drastically in the few short months since it has become generally known that there would be a record harvest this year.

From high corn prices in the area of \$1.75 and up a bushel for corn, we have suddenly gone to corn which costs \$1.00 and less. There have been comparable reductions in other grains.

Basically, this means a rapid shift from a high feed cost to a relatively low feed cost situation.

While we formerly had a situation where it was profitable to sell corn and grains on the market and where feeding these products to animals was at best a marginal

operation, we now have a situation which is very favorable to process corn and grain through poultry, livestock and dairy enterprises.

Because most local farmers rely heavily on poultry, livestock and dairy enterprises, this in general represents an improved situation for them.

This improved economics of feeding, we think, will more than offset the adverse impact of a relatively poor corn crop this year.

Farmers who have extra storage space on their farms should consider buying additional corn and grains on the open market while prices remain low.

The Cost of Sign Thefts

The State Department of Transportation is taking every precaution to prevent accidents due to vandalism such as stealing stop signs. Recently a young man in Allentown was killed because someone removed a stop sign.

Traffic sign vandalism costs the taxpayers over \$250,000 and an untold amount of inconvenience, confusion, and increased highway risks.

Stealing signs is not the only way vandals strike. According to the State Department of Transportation (PennDOT), traffic signs are regularly painted, shot, bent, pasted with stickers and posters, and pelted with rocks and bottles.

Signs often are painted during the football season, covered with political stickers during election time, and used as targets for practice by hunters during the hunting season.

Letter of Thanks

Editor, Lancaster Farming:

We want to thank all who have helped on the evening of October 19 when we had the misfortune of losing our barn and some calves destroyed by fire.

October 27th was clean up day. Again our sincere thanks to everyone sharing their time and bringing equipment to clean up the debris.

Special thanks to children, teenagers, firemen, electricians, plumbers, businessmen, etc., for being so kind and courteous.

Also to the ladies in the community, friends and relatives in a distance that brought in food and helped serve the dinner

Thanks again for a wonderful job well done.

Lewis and Arlene Shore and family
Washington Boro RD1

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All this is costly: it costs \$25 to \$28 to replace a traffic route marker, between \$300 and \$2,000 to replace one of the large green-and-white Interstate highway signs. And it cost at least one life before an Allentown stop sign as replaced.

PennDOT officials, although they admit that vandalism cannot be completely halted, are taking steps to combat the vandals work, such as:

— Selection of sign material that even when defaced will still be readable, and the use of hardware that will prevent the sign from being carried away.

— Establishing the ownership of the sign by placing the PennDOT symbol on it.

— Listing all signs damaged or destroyed in an accident by PennDOT accident analysis field teams.

— Requiring all state maintenance personnel to report any missing or marred signs.

Motorists also can help a great deal by reporting any signs they notice missing or damaged to the nearest PennDOT District Engineering Office or to their county maintenance office.

The traffic sign vandal steals and destroys not only signs, but our money and our safety.

Editorial Noted

Editor, Lancaster Farming:

Our organization would like to commend you for the editorial published in the October 9th issue of Lancaster Farming entitled "DeBakey Backs Framingham".

It is a service that certainly has had the notice of poultrymen in the area you cover and has, no doubt, served to better inform folks in other segments of agriculture.

We are urging our members to disseminate this information to the friends and contacts they have beyond farming circles.

The publicity you have given Dr. DeBakey's news encourages our poultrymen in the effort they are making to counter unfounded attacks on our product—eggs.

Raymond F. Delano,
NEMA General Manager

NOW IS THE TIME..

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent



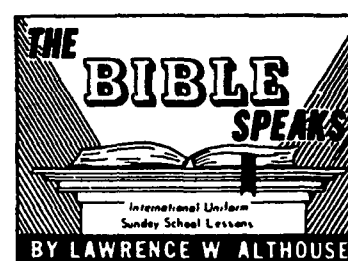
To Observe Stored Corn
Weather conditions during the past several weeks have not improved the drying out of the current corn crop. We are aware of reports of some cribs or piles of corn that are heating. Growers should look into their corn storage places and if the corn is heating or steaming, it should be given more air through a forced air system, or taken out, shelled, and dried. To permit it to continue to heat may mean the loss of the corn, or corn that is of very poor feeding qualities. No doubt the shelling and drying of the corn by use of supplemental heat would be the safest way to correct the problem. Weather conditions may improve, but may not come in time to keep the crib of corn from spoiling.

To Protect Water Pipes
With the kind of weather we have had in the past month it may be difficult to be thinking of freezing weather, but it will be on us quickly one of these days. Water pipes that are exposed may be a problem and should be either buried 24 inches deep, or wrapped with electric heating cable; this latter method is very common and will give good protection. Care should be exercised when installing the cable to prevent fire hazards; consult your local electrician for details. In some cases heat lamps may be used to prevent freezing indoors; the lamp should be securely fastened and out of the reach of all livestock.

To House Heifers Properly
The raising of dairy herd replacements is getting more attention because of the strong

demand and favorable prices. The young calf needs special attention and the best of care for the first year, but after that time, she can be housed in an open shed or pole barn with daily outside exercise with excellent results. We favor letting these yearling heifers "rough it" rather than to keep them in a warm barn in stanchions or in box-stalls. They should have plenty of good quality hay and silage and limited grain. Some dairymen are constructing special barns or sheds for their young stock, allowing them plenty of fresh air and exercise. Labor costs will be much lower when the yearling heifers are not housed too closely.

To Disc Corn Stalks
The practice of growing corn after corn in the same field is becoming more common; along with this practice corn diseases may also become more common; we have had a sample of this condition with the corn leaf blights. We are told that the "normal" strains of hybrid corn will nearly eliminate the problem of southern leaf blight, but how about some of the other blights and corn diseases? I still maintain that the old corn refuse should be put through the barns or disced into the ground during the fall and winter; also, something should be done to eliminate the amount of volunteer corn in the field. Several discings during late fall might also get this corn covered so that it will rot during the winter. The management of corn refuse needs more attention on many farms.



"ALIVE AND WELL"

Lesson for November 7, 1971

Background Scripture: Psalms 104; Acts 14:15-17; Colossians 1:15-17.
Devotional Reading: Job 38:1-11.

A bumper strip on the car ahead of me read: "GOD IS ALIVE AND WELL IN MY BACKYARD!"

I mused on that proclamation for the next fifty miles. What did it mean? To begin with, it probably was intended to indicate that the driver was one of those people who do not accept the claim that "God is dead!" In a sense, he was saying that he knows God "lives" because he encounters God in his own life.



Rev. Althouse

"Thou art very great!"

This is the kind of faith we find so often in the Book of Psalms. Very seldom is it a speculative faith that reasons its way to God. Much more, it is the faith of someone who experiences that "God is alive and well in my backyard!" The Psalmist believes in God because he sees him at work in his world. For him life is full of the sights and sounds of a God who does things.

Many of us would like to live in such a world today. We wish we could hear and see God at

work in our world. Ironically, we do live in that kind of world. The sounds and sights are the same as those that the Psalmist heard and saw. Through the trappings of civilization have radically changed since the day of the Psalmist, it is still pretty much the same world; the sun, the moon, the stars, the seasons, the elements — despite all that we have learned about them — exist pretty much as they existed thousands of years ago.

The difference is with us. Feeling largely self-sufficient, we manage to ignore the presence of God. There is the analogy of two men listening to a violin solo. For one man it is a truly inspiring experience, the beautiful music delighting the man's ear and heart. For the other man, the same experience is perceived simply as "so much horsehair scratching over cat-gut."

What God did and does!

When the Psalmist looked at the world, he was overwhelmed with the evidences of what God had done. He had created an orderly, dependable world, set on firm foundations. He had conquered the chaos and established both a moral and natural order. The world bore striking evidence of the mighty works of God and the Psalmist could not help but exclaim: "Bless the Lord! O my soul! O Lord, my God, thou art very great!" (104:1).

When the Psalmist looked at his world he saw a God who was not dead or even in retirement, but the Lord who was alive and well and active in his creation. When you look at the world, what do you see?

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