

## On High Producing Cows

There's always an issue among farmers on whether the big, high producing cows are really more profitable than the smaller, moderate producing cows.

The contention by farmers who believe in the smaller animals is that, while they don't produce as much, they don't eat as much either.

But every study we have seen indicates that the high producing cows are both more efficient and more profitable. A California study, for instance, showed that cows averaging over 24,000 pounds of milk per lactation produced 1.88 pounds of milk for each pound of feed consumed. Another group of cows averaging over 15,000 pounds of milk produced 1.49 pounds of milk for each pound of feed eaten and another group of cows producing just over 10,000 pounds per lactation produced only 1.16 pounds of milk per pound of feed.

While the high producing cows do eat more total pounds of feed, by a small margin, they produce many more pounds of milk. Their efficiency is much greater.

A recent report in the Holstein-Friesian World noted, "What does this mean to dairymen? It means they are on the right track when selecting and feeding cows for maximum production. It also lends credence to the concept of feeding all cows for high production and culling those who do not perform well. Under this system, cows are all fed the same and are culled

according to production rather than fed according to production. As average production levels continue to climb, this method of feeding is likely to become more popular and should result in faster genetic progress in the total dairy cow population."

A key figure for broiler producers has long been the "feed conversion". This is the number of pounds of feed it takes to produce a pound of meat.

Similarly, the dairyman should be very aware of his feed conversion or the number of pounds of feed it takes to produce one hundred pounds of milk. Increasing this efficiency can be one of the key ways of increasing profits in the face of growing costs.

One advantage of high producing cows which should not be overlooked is the overhead cost factor. One cow producing 20,000 pounds of milk requires much less space and overhead costs than two cows producing 10,000 pounds each.

Therefore, the high producing cow offers the potential not only for more efficient use of feed, but also for lower overhead costs in achieving a given level of production.

We're aware that this isn't the final word. Dairymen will continue to debate the pros and cons of a particular large cow versus the smaller cow.

But it would appear that unless the small cow can keep up in volume of production, the larger cow with the capacity to produce a lot of milk is more efficient and profitable.

## Dumping and Egg Prices

The United Egg Producers (UEP) board of directors recently directed management to investigate egg pricing practices in several parts of the country, particularly Southern California.

This action followed numerous complaints from producers claiming that egg prices nationally have deteriorated due to unfair trade practices.

In commenting on the situation, Dr. Gene Masters of UEP noted that egg prices in Southern California for the past several months averaged well under the national average and competition for shelf space on cartoned eggs was "extremely fierce." Gene Faulkner executive vice president of the National Federation of Egg Marketing Cooperatives, said it is his impression it is "unlawful to sell, or even offer to sell, at below cost of production prices, if the intent is to eliminate competition."

Pennsylvania egg producers have periodically complained of some retail outlets selling eggs below the cost of production. It is reported that this practice is also illegal in Pennsylvania.

One problem which the egg industry has recognized is that the weakest seller tends to set the price in the egg industry. During periods of oversupply, when there are too many eggs to meet market demands, there has tended to be "dumping" of eggs on the market at any price the buyer will offer. This is usually done by producers who have not secured reliable markets and this is often the producer who expanded too rapidly and caused the market glut.

But because the dumped eggs tend to set the market tone, everybody in the industry suffers from this practice.

A key question facing the industry is what to do about dumping.

## To Buy a Cemetery Lot?

The family cemetery lot, a place purchased for family members for the inevitable time of need, may not be realistic for the family today, point out Pennsylvania State University Extension home management specialists.

There are advantages in having made the decision before a time of sorrow, of course.

But if the prepaid lot is a half a continent away from where the family now lives, the advantages are erased by the need to transport family members to attend the burial, the cost of transferring the body

from the place of death, and services of a funeral director at each locality. The deceased also may have prepaid for funeral services that aren't available at either site.

The home management specialists say that salesmen of cemetery lots cite rising costs as a reason to buy in advance of need. But interest rates have risen at least as fast the cost of lots. So a sum in a savings account in bonds will accomplish the same result.

Any buyer of a burial lot should investigate exactly what care and maintenance are covered by the purchase price and how perpetual care endowments are handled, remind the specialists.

Personal preferences concerning a cemetery can be written down for family reference without actual-purchase of a lot, Extension specialists point out.

In a former era when large families, often involving three generations, usually stayed together, either in the same house or at least in the same general area, such advice would have been out of hand.

But our changing society, including our increasing mobility, is changing many things for most of us—including the factors we need to consider in preparing for the hereafter.

## NOW IS THE TIME . .

By Max Smith  
Lancaster County Agent



### To Control Chickweed

The favorable growing conditions this fall and the late time of the first killing frost has given chickweed a good start in many new seedings of alfalfa. Growers are urged to inspect their fields carefully and spray in the next month, if chickweed is present. The materials to use will depend upon the air temperatures and whether or not there are any grasses seeded with the alfalfa. Now that the plants have been stopped growing by several freezes it would be time to make spray applications. On alfalfa stands with grasses included the DiNitros and Simazine sprays may be used. On straight alfalfa stands Karmex, Simazine, or Chloro IPC may be used. Details will be furnished upon request. The important thing is to get the chickweed under control before the first of the year.

### To Utilize Corn Fodder

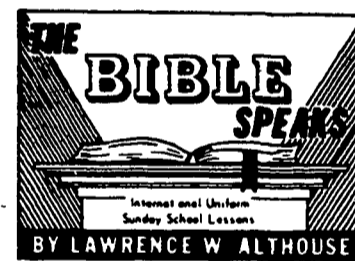
The shortage of bedding in recent years points to the possibility of corn growers using the corn fodder through the barn as a substitute for straw. Now that we have had several freezes, the corn plants should dry out better and may be used as bedding. Shredded corn stalks make very good bedding for all types of livestock and could save considerable money by cutting out purchase of straw. Be sure the fodder is dry enough so that it will not mold or heat when baled or brought into the barn.

### To Inspect Heating Systems

Cold weather has arrived and more is sure to come. It is a good practice to inspect all flues and chimneys to be certain they are tight and to prevent sparks from getting out into the barn or tobacco shed. Tobacco growers who will be using stoves to heat the stripping room may need to do some pointing between the bricks in the chimney, because it will fall out after several years. Fire prevention is very timely now before the arrival of the coldest part of the winter. In case the fire extinguishers have not been checked this year, it might be a good time to try them out; all members of the family should know exactly where they are located and how to operate them.

### To Be Ready For Emergency

Power failures do happen and all farm operations that depend upon electricity to do many of their major farm chores should be prepared with a stand-by generator. Winter snow and ice storms may disrupt power lines for too long a time when feeders, electric fans, pumps, and other important pieces of equipment must be operated. Farmers are urged to give emergency power units some thought and be prepared for the emergency; it may never happen, but the protection of being prepared is good farm planning. Tractors or gasoline engines may be installed to operate the generator units until normal power is restored.



## LAW OF HARVEST

Lesson for November 14, 1971

Background Scripture: Exodus 20:1-20; Romans 2:12-16; 3:21-26, Galatians 6:7-10.

Devotional Reading: Psalms 75

Heinrich Heine, the German poet, let it be known that he did not worry very much about "the world to come" beyond death. Asked why he was so confident, he replied, "C'est son metier" ("It is his trade!"). Why worry about judgement when God is so gracious and forgiving by his very nature?



Rev. Althouse

### The game of "grace"

For some people grace is a game. They assume that grace is automatic, that, in a sense, God has to give it to us when we want it because it is his nature to give it to us and he cannot transgress against his own nature. Following this line of logic, I live as I please and do not worry about the consequences because the forgiveness of God is always there for the taking.

Thus, however, is a distortion of the reality of grace. As Paul says to the Galatians, "Do not be deceived; God is not mocked . . ." (6:7).

What some people fail to understand is that just as God has ordained laws that govern the processes of nature, so also there

are certain moral laws that are inherent in the universe. One of these we might call the law of "identical harvest," and Paul states this law simply: ". . . for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (Galatians 6:7b).

A man was standing in his yard shaking his head sadly at the flowerbed of marigolds. He had wanted a bed of roses. "Oh," said a sympathetic neighbor, "did you plant roses?" "No," replied the man, "I planted marigold seeds, but I so hoped they'd come up roses!"

### Reaping what we sow

Perhaps many of us are like that man, we want to reap something else than we have sowed. The fact is, however, God has ordained the universe according to the law of "identical harvest" — what we sow determines what we reap. God's grace can restore our relationship with himself, it can bring us his forgiveness, but it does not change the consequences of our acts.

Jesus also indicated a law of "identical harvest" in his teachings. He spoke of life beyond death as an existence filled with what you have "laid up" for yourself by your choices here on earth in this life. He reminded his listeners that one does not get "grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles." The judgement of God that awaits us is not so much the retribution of a vengeful God, as it is the harvest of the seeds we have chosen to plant and nurture. The place of our abode in the life beyond is the dwelling we have fashioned for ourselves.

(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