

On Egg Busts and the Future

For about the past year and a half, egg producers have been trying to weather the storm.

There have been brief rises in the egg market, but these have been moments of temporary relief when the farmer had a chance to make a few bucks or simply minimize his losses. But overall, these 18 months have spelled serious losses for most egg producers.

As we predicted and warned in the spring of 1970, the industry was beginning one of its longest and most disastrous busts.

At first, there was hope that voluntary programs by the industry to cut production would be successful. But as many industry men predicted — and their predictions had the element of self-fulfillment — the egg industry is not made up of the type of people who voluntarily police themselves.

Now, a bill has been introduced in both the House and Senate in Washington to allow the industry to have a mandatory fowl reduction program whenever the industry gets in a depressed condition. This bill has considerable support within the poultry industry.

But whatever happens along these lines, it would appear that it would be several weeks or even months before it could be adopted and implemented to the degree to allow relief for poultrymen.

As we see it, more promising developments are already occurring in the natural course of events. As usual, in an egg bust, it simply goes on until the weakest producers find they can no longer afford to subsidize the consumer.

In particular, we're referring to USDA figures which show some of the sharpest declines in many months in egg type chick hatch.

Noteworthy among these figures were the following: a 30 per cent drop in California chick hatch, a 33 per cent drop in Georgia chick hatch, and a 38 per cent drop in Florida chick hatch for October.

Drops of this nature a year and a half ago in these areas would have saved the poultry industry hundreds of millions of dollars. The fact that they're coming now simply points out that a large share of the hundreds of millions of dollars were lost in these areas and that the losses are now so great that producers in California, Georgia and Florida are forced to cut back. It's a brutal system for correcting an egg bust.

The question facing the industry is whether it wants the alternative of a government supervised slaughter program.

The only serious objection we can find to the government approach is that it penalizes all areas equally for the extreme excesses of areas such as California, Georgia and Florida. The argument within the industry has been that once a bust occurs, it does no good to access blame, because everyone suffers.

But under the present system, whenever a region expands too fast to secure its markets, eventually causing a bust, this area suffers most during the bust. This is true because the weakest seller determines the market; when eggs are in oversupply, the seller without a secure market is forced to take what he can get, causing the market bust, but also ruining himself.

If the severe penalties for causing busts are removed, and every producer has to cut back equally to make room for those who continue to expand, what's to stop uncontrolled expansion and continual low egg prices in the future?

On Fading Away

When life runs smoothly, changes are gradual, and are usually accepted easily. Abrupt changes, on the other hand, are often difficult to adjust to.

The person who fails or refuses to face the reality of passing years may find himself with an abrupt change of role when he reaches retirement age, points out James Van Horn, Penn State University Extension family life specialist.

Much unhappiness and frustration might be avoided if people could accept the idea that the aging process can't be altered with toupees, hair dye, wrinkle creams, vitality medicines, or vain wishes. Observation of nature will remind you that people really do "fade as a leaf."

You can't prevent fading, you can't

stop having birthdays. But you can, by thought and planning, make the transition from work to retirement in a gracious, smooth way, says Van Horn.

Interest, hobbies, friends—these are things that do not end at any age. Begin now to cultivate these, so they will be flourishing when you retire. Make financial plans, and face the possibility of increasing costs for health problems.

Finally, face the fact that there is a definite time at which your work days will be over. While it is true that for many people work potential lasts longer than age 65, nine out of 10 companies have compulsory retirement. Rather than worry about forced retirement, accept it.

And plan constructive use of the time you will have after your work days are over.

Rings Are Dangerous?

Just a note to the guys. If she asks why you're not wearing your ring anymore, just tell her it's dangerous.

Honest, we're not kiddin'. When we first heard about it, we thought

somebody was puttin' us on, but we've since been assured, and by some women who don't have anything to gain from their assurances, that wedding rings really are dangerous.

It seems that the rings are subject to getting caught. When they get caught, at the wrong time and place, the guy can lose his finger.

It seems that the rings are particularly dangerous around moving equipment and on jobs requiring strenuous physical activity. Which we think describes the farmer's work very well.

Figures we got show that the ring finger is amputated two to three times more frequently than any other finger. And it's all because of the ring, we're told.

We still find it a little difficult to accept this excuse. We've heard so many others.

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent



To Beware of Miracle Chemicals

Farmers are urged to be cautious about buying products which salesmen claim will make crops grow faster, larger, and resist disease or insects, just to mention a few of the likely claims. Everyone should be more cautious when the salesman is a complete stranger. To the best of our knowledge there are no miracle substances which can be used in the production of agricultural crops and animals. If a farmer is approached by such a salesman, it is essential to find out if the product has ever been researched by some reliable research concern or station, and be sure to get the name and address of such a concern. Do not accept testimonials from farmers, who are usually from another part of the country, as substitutes for research data. First, be careful when buying from strangers, and secondly, be careful about buying miracle materials.

To Learn More About Pollution

The control of air and water pollution is a very timely subject and one in which everyone is interested to some degree. Farmers, and especially livestock and poultry producers, must become knowledgeable about all phases of pollution in order to avoid serious trouble. Many answers are yet to come, but many regulations are on the way. We urge all farmers to accept every opportunity of learning more about pollution and what can be done to prevent it.

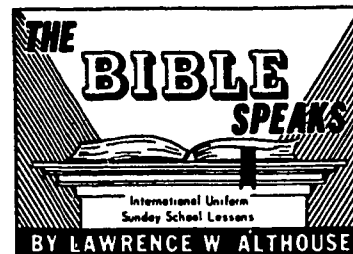
To Check Feeding Programs

Some dairymen are ex-

periencing a serious drop in milk production this fall; this problem can be kept to a minimum and corrected if feeding programs are adjusted to current forage rations. During the summer months, when lush pasture is available, many dairymen reduce the protein content of the grain and reduce the amount fed. When the winter season approaches and corn silage becomes one of the main forage crops, then protein levels must be increased. Also, grain rations must be increased to meet the production needs of each cow. The quality of the hay and silage determines the protein content of the grain ration. This may be known by forage testing the roughages, including a mineral analysis. We urge all dairymen to use forage testing in order to determine the proper grain ration. Also, a Special Circular from our office, "Concentrated Mixtures for Dairy Cattle" is very helpful. Forage testing should not cost a dairyman money, it should pay him well.

To Protect Farm Machinery

The winter season is at hand and most farm machinery should be under roof until next spring. Considering the great investment in farm machinery, and the high cost of repairs and replacement, good management dictates that machinery should be kept out of the weather most of the time. Working parts should be greased and needed repairs checked before next spring. The storing of farm machinery outside is poor business at any time.



THE GOOD NEWS

Lesson for December 5, 1971

Background Scripture Luke 11-4, Acts 11-5

The writers and editors of the various books of our Bible made very few personal references. Often they do not even identify who they are. Usually they do not tell us what purpose motivated, although sometimes this is quite



Rev. Althouse glimpse into his own purpose

"Many have undertaken . . ."

For one thing, he tells us that there have been "many" who have attempted to tell the story of Jesus and the early church. He was referring, not only to the books we know as Matthew, Mark, and John, but a number of other "gospels" and books of "acts." It may come as a surprise to Christians today to learn that there were many writings to choose from when the New Testament was assembled. Those who decided what would be included in the New Testament believe that they were preserving for the church the best, most author-

itative accounts—though not the only ones.

Secondly, it is obvious that Luke did not personally observe all that he wrote about, but collected his information from different sources. This he did, not simply so he could write a biography of Jesus, but so that he might put together an account of that which he believed was essential to convey the "good news" of Jesus Christ. Often, Christians forget that the gospels were not intended to be biographies—the gospel writers were not interested in biographies—but evangelistic tracts to challenge and win converts to Jesus Christ.

"He presented Himself alive . . ."

Thus the gospels are unlike biographies in that biographies are concerned primarily with history. But Luke is not writing about a "great man" who lived and died some time ago, but about a living Lord whose story has not ended but is continuing in the life of the Church. Luke's book is a story that is open-ended, it is still going on, new chapters are still being written.

Luke also had another purpose in writing his account of the life and ministry of Jesus and his Church: he wanted people to see the reality of Christ in relation to their own lives and situations. Luke does not tell us everything Jesus did, but he tells us many of the acts and words of Jesus that had meaning, not only for the people of his own day, but ours as well.

Luke experienced the glory of the "good news" of Jesus Christ, but that experience was so compelling that he had to pass it on. However we do it, that is the challenge that comes to each of us.

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