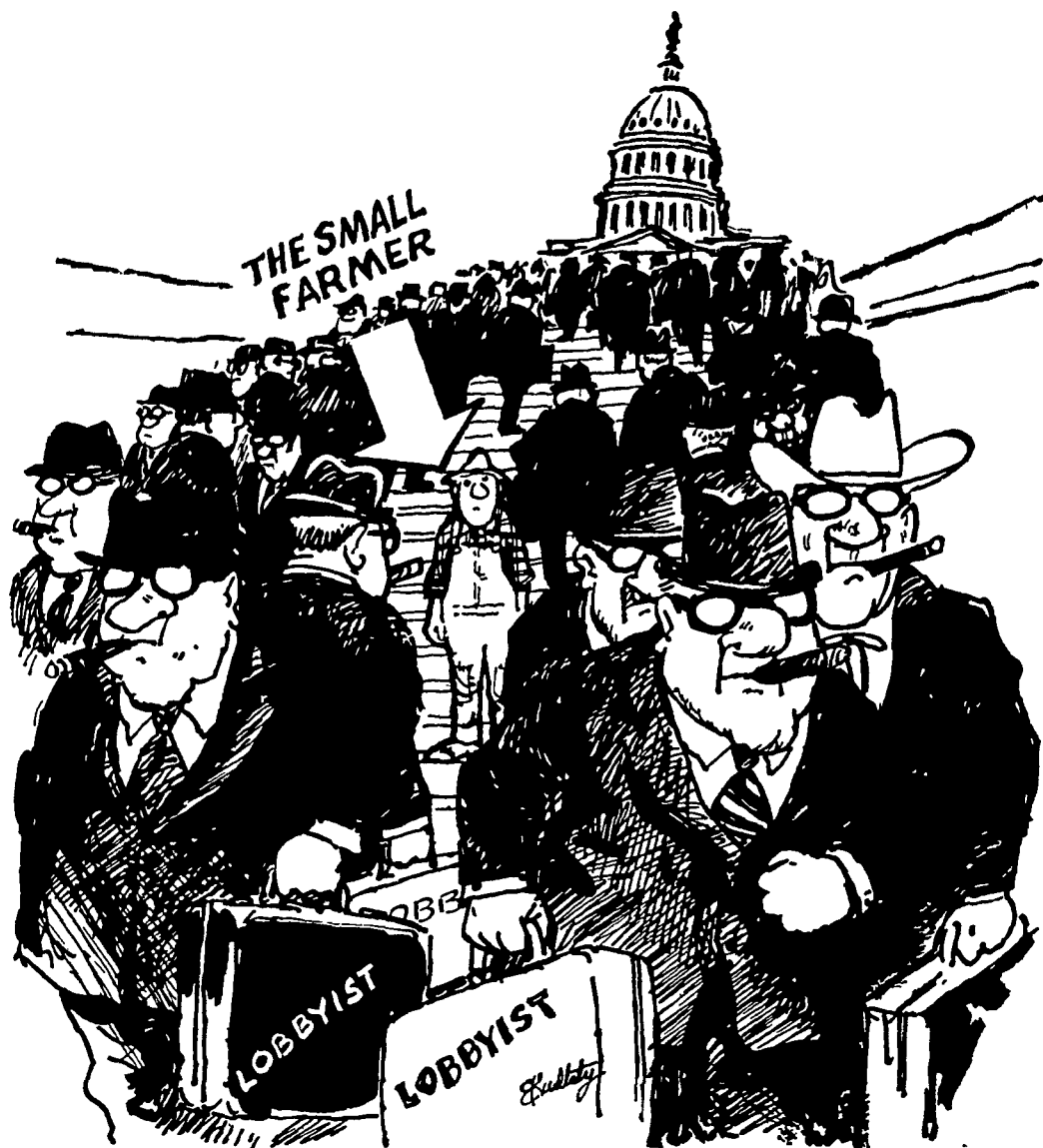


## Lost in the Shuffle



## Getting Worse So It Can Get Better? or Eggs—A Glimmer of Reality?

It's quite often true that things have to get worse before they can get better. This is presently the situation with the egg industry.

The December Penn State University Extension poultry marketing report points out that the U.S. chick hatch for the laying flock was down 20 per cent from a year earlier in October and eggs in incubators were down 14 per cent on November 1. With a major egg bust still in full steam, this is very good news for the egg industry, right?

Wrong, dead wrong. The eggs that aren't being hatched are simply being added to the already oversupply for consumers.

In other words, as the industry moves to cut back sharply on the number of eggs going into incubators for layers in the future, this merely adds to current marketing problems.

Of course, the cutback now, particularly if it continues for the next several months, will almost certainly result in stopping the egg glut. But the solution from reduced hatch takes at least six months, probably nine to 12 months. That's how long it takes

for eggs being hatched now to become a significant factor in the total egg production picture.

In effect, the egg industry is finally beginning to take the kinds of steps which will stop the egg bust from lasting forever. Let's hope that the reduced hatch continues. It will need to continue for several more months before it will solve the problem.

This is the type of solution, a sharp cutback in egg-type chick hatch, which was very badly needed early in 1970. The type of cutback then that is being started now would have saved the industry two years of financial depression.

But while some egg producers and allied industry men, who have been around long enough to see previous busts, saw what was happening in early 1970, not enough people in the industry were willing to use their knowledge to avoid two years of financial losses.

Despite the lower hatch, there are other trends in the industry which are disturbing. Forced moulting is up from 10.3 per cent; hen mortality is down by a similar amount, probably as a result of progress in controlling Marek's disease; frozen and shell egg storage, which represents future market supply, is up 42 per cent; military purchases are down.

A bright spot is that feed prices are lower as a result of the record corn harvest, but lower costs are not expected to offset a very poor egg market projected for the first half of 1972.

Still, the present egg hatch situation would indicate that reality is finally beginning to take over and that there really is hope that the bust will end — even though the end is still some time in the future.

## NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith  
Lancaster County Agent



### To Be Careful With Space Heaters

Various types of space heaters are used during the winter months and if not properly installed and used they can be both a fire hazard and a health hazard. The portable types should be used only in emergency and if needed regularly, it should be connected to an effective flue. Fresh air ventilation should be provided when the heater runs for any length of time. Headaches or dizziness in a room or building where the heater is running is a sign of dangerous fumes and immediate ventilation or attention should be given. If heat lamps are used, they should be securely fastened and out of the reach of children and livestock. Safety measures are necessary at this time of the year.

### To Beware of Pollution Through Runoff

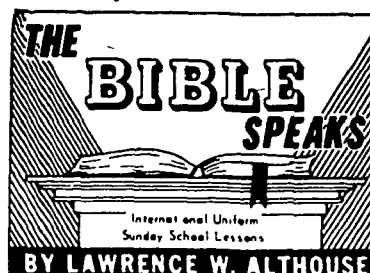
Stream pollution by manure runoff is not only bad for the local water supply, but many valuable fertilizer elements are lost. All livestock producers are urged to spread manure on fields away from streams and with the least amount of slope during the winter months. This is especially true on snow or frozen ground. If the storage pit is built large enough to hold at least three months supply, then there will be less need of having to spread manure on snow or frozen ground. Land covered with a sod or some vegetation will also help reduce the amount of runoff. Manure is still a useful fertilizer to the farmer, and should be kept on the land and not in the streams and waterways.

### To Be Cautious With Moldy Grains

The feeding of moldy grain to any type of livestock is not a good practice; however, if the farm supply is not up to top quality, there is always the need of trying to utilize it to the best advantage. Livestock authorities all agree that moldy grain should not be fed to breeding animals, because it may cause breeding problems or abortion. The limited use in rations to fattening hogs or cattle might be the best place to go with unsound grains. This should be done on a trial basis at first with a few animals to observe the reaction. In many cases the grains are not moldy enough to cause them to be discarded entirely. On corn that had the southern leaf blight last fall, feeding trials still do not show any ill effects from feeding this kind of corn to most any type of farm animal.

### To Respect Stilbestrol Regulations

On January 8 we are informed that a Certificate will be required by the seller of beef cattle and sheep certifying that the animals have not been fed the stilbestrol hormone for a least 7 days before slaughter time. The farm press has previously carried this stipulation about the length of withdrawal time, but only recently have we learned of the effective date. This means that many feeders should stop feeding stilbestrol for the last several weeks of a feeding period since the exact day of sale is not known. We urge feeders to respect the regulations because some tissue tests will be made at the packing plants.



## "BLEEDING HEARTS"

Lesson for January 9, 1972

Background Scripture Luke 5:27-32,  
7:11-23, 36-50, 10:25-37  
Devotional Reading Luke 10:25-37

I am weary of the scorn heaped upon so-called "bleeding hearts"! Although I realize this term "bleeding hearts" is intended to be a criticism of foolish sentimentality masquerading as love, still I find many of the people who are pegged with this label to be the very people with whom I would identify myself. I would not hesitate joining many so-called "bleeding hearts" and their concerns, because what I know of the teachings of Jesus Christ would lead me to expect to find him sharing these same concerns.



Rev. Althouse

### The trouble with "the righteous"

Nothing saddens me today so much as the realization that, not only are many people lacking in Christian compassion, but there is, on the part of many, an absolute hostility towards the practice of this virtue. It is equated with weakness and moral indifference. It is frequently suggested that the "bleeding heart" is more concerned with the evil-doer than the righteous who suffer from his sins. Christian compassion, say

many, is a misplaced concern; it is an unmerited love given to the wrong person.

There is some truth of a kind in this charge. Jesus frequently seemed to be the victim of a "misplaced concern." He was constantly loving the "wrong person," the sinner who did not merit his love. The same charges levelled against "bleeding hearts" today were made against him too.

This is what happened the day when he went to the house of Levi, the tax collector, for dinner. Any tax collector in Jesus' day was a "wrong person." Tax collectors were hated because they collaborated with the Romans in collecting their taxes, they were forced by their work to associate with all classes of people who did not faithfully live by the Jewish ceremonial laws, and they frequently exacted more from the people that was thought to be honest. There could hardly be any greater social and religious error than sitting down at the table with a group of tax collectors!

### Who needs the doctor?

"Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" the Pharisees demanded. As far as they were concerned, the tax collectors deserved punishment, not compassion. But Jesus stunned them with his reply: "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:31,32). It's the sinner who needs compassion, not the righteous man.

I don't like labels, but if I must bear one, let them call me a "bleeding heart." I don't mind, for that's what my Lord was and is.

### LANCASTER FARMING

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