

Please Use SMV Emblems

We notice a report in the daily press this week that state police will begin enforcing the Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) law on Amish buggies by February 12.

This law actually went into effect and was supposed to be enforced on all vehicles travelling under 25 miles per hour in October, we were previously informed.

But it takes time for everyone to become aware of new laws such as this and to get around to locating and putting on the new triangular fluorescent yellow-orange and red emblems.

Lately, we've seen some farm vehicles and buggies which have the SMV emblems, we've also seen many without them.

In the name of safety, we can't urge too strongly the need for these emblems.

It wasn't too many years ago that 50 miles an hour was a very fast speed travelled only by drunks and fools. But today, the roads and autos are built for speeds much faster. Interstate roads commonly have speeds of 65 and 70 miles per hour, with minimum speeds of 40 miles per hour.

Unfortunately, motorists used to driving at very fast speeds often are lulled into assuming that everything else on the highway is going at the same speed. The distance between the fast moving vehicle and the slow moving vehicle is bridged all too rapidly. Rear-end collisions are all too frequent.

Actually, we understand that a recent rash of collisions involving buggies and autos is the reason for the recent decision to begin enforcement of the SMV law on

buggies. Police will give some warnings before making any arrests, it is reported.

Today, the only safe way to drive is the technique known as defensive driving. This technique assumes that every other motorist on the highway may make a wrong move at any time and that the incorrect move of the other driver will require a defensive maneuver in order to avoid a wreck. This attitude involves doing everything possible to help the other guy avoid having a wreck.

This attitude can be nerve wrecking. But it can also avoid a lot of accidents.

When it's realized that more than 50,000 persons in U.S. die each year on the highways, including from 50 to 75 per year in Lancaster County alone, the importance of defensive driving begins to become clear. This death loss doesn't include the fantastic toll in terms of injuries, medical costs and property loss.

We think the SMV emblem is an easy, clear-cut way to warn all to today's speed demons.

Look out! Slow down! There's a vehicle ahead which is travelling at less than 25 miles per hour.

It won't stop all rear end collisions. It won't eliminate the frightful highway accident toll.

But we're convinced the SMV emblem is a simple, inexpensive way to stop some slow moving buggies and farm vehicles from getting clobbered on the road.

We believe that every vehicle which travels on the highway at speeds less than 25 miles per hour should carry this SMV emblem—for everyone's protection and safety.

Remember Investment Credits

A tax point made in the January issue of Top Op magazine and being called to the attention of local farmers is

You'll welcome back the 7 per cent investment credit on new and used production and office equipment made in the U.S.A. and on some storage facilities on the farm (corn cribs, grain bins, silos, apple and potato storage, etc.) And for the first time investment credit will apply to livestock—recent additions to herds used for breeding or dairy purposes.

This credit is far better than a business

deduction, because it directly decreases the tax you owe Uncle Sam. It reduces your tax by 7 per cent of your "Qualified investments" in these depreciable properties with useful lives of 7 years or longer. The "qualified investment" is scaled down by a percentage formula for properties having a shorter life, with 3 years as a minimum. You will claim investment credit on Form 3468 for eligible properties delivered on August 16 or thereafter in 1971, or on deliveries prior to August 16 if you ordered the items no earlier than April 1, last year.

On Corn Field Management

Penn State University Extension agents and many agri-businessmen are urging farmers to chop, disc or plow under this year's corn stalks.

We think it is very good advice.

The debris on the surface of the ground can enable both insects and diseases to survive through the winter. But experience has shown that if this material is chopped

up and brought into contact with the soil the debris will be rotted and the disease and insects mostly destroyed.

These practices do not rule out the use of no-till corn. Among possible procedures for no-till, disc the corn stalks and plant a fall cover crop, using the cover crop in the spring for the no-till corn cover.

We notice that many farmers are going back out in the field after corn harvest to harvest the stalks, chopping them for bedding. As straw becomes increasingly scarce and expensive, we expect to see more and more of this done. But a word of caution—the more you take out of the field, the more you need to put back in order to continue to get top yields in the future.

While it is believed that the planting of almost all N cytoplasm corn in 1972 will eliminate the southern corn blight, farmers should not forget that many other potential problems are lurking. These include yellow corn blight and northern corn blight, as well as various other diseases and insects.

Little steps and practices now to keep these problems to a minimum will be amply rewarded at harvest time next year.

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent



To Recognize Manure Value

Manure has fertilizer values and should be recognized as livestock by-product on the farm. The proper use of manure can greatly affect your fertilizer needs. Although manure contains many plant nutrients, it is most valuable for its nitrogen content. Therefore, manure is best suited for those crops that require large nitrogen applications and where the manure can be incorporated into the soil. The problem of how to handle the manure supply on the farm seems to be getting more complicated because of the possibility of pollution along with the efficient use of the fertilizer nutrients. Various forms of storage are being used and are satisfactory as long as the fertilizer nutrients are not permitted to leach away. Spreading on the fields just prior to plowing, or incorporating into the topsoil, is also getting considerable attention.

To Deal With Reliable Concerns

The unknown salesman offering a special bargain should be accepted with caution. During the winter and spring months, most farmers are confronted with many salesmen promoting large variety of products. The policy of dealing with reputable individual representing a well-founded concern is usually good advice. This individual may not be making the cheapest offer, but it might turn out to be the best.

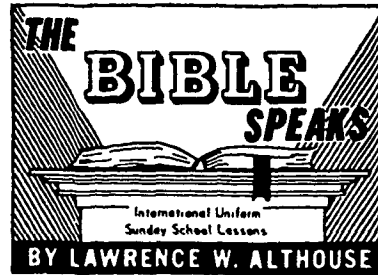
To Do Farm Planning

Farm planning is a very vital

part of good farm management and should be done prior to the cropping season. During the winter months, it is strongly advised that commercial farmers do some "pencil-pushing" in order to get organized for the coming year. Farm records should be evaluated in order to locate the most profitable enterprises and to try and plug the financial loop-holes. The needs of each crop should be listed and arrangements made for the materials needed. The early ordering of materials will give a better chance to get the variety and quality needed.

To Control Livestock Parasites

All kinds of livestock are getting additional attention this year because through livestock is the best way to market the cheaper 1971 grain crops. This means that larger profits will be realized if the animals are healthy and produce efficiently. Both external and internal parasites will reduce the thrift of any animal and make him less profitable. Stomach worms are quite common in most species of livestock and can be eliminated quite readily with modern pesticides. Body lice make the animals uncomfortable and permit them to make poorer gains and efficiency. Any type of parasite will eat into the profits and should be eradicated from the start of any feeding program. Good sanitation is also needed along with chemical treatments.



EXPENSIVE DISCIPLESHIP

Lesson for January 23, 1972

Background Scripture Luke 9:1-6, 23-25, 57-62
Devotional Reading Matthew 19:16-22.

By now you are probably receiving in the mail the Christmas bills that seem as inevitable as the twenty-fifth of December itself. If you are like many of us, you may have spent too much again. Strange, how in December it seems so right to spare no expense. Holiday extravagance seems to have become the norm.



Rev. Althouse

No marked-down discipleship

If only we could carry that same sense of abandon into our Christian commitment. Many of us are not opposed to discipleship, but we often beg-off because the cost seems too high. May be another way of putting it would be to say if only we were as prudent with our holiday spending as we are with our Christian discipleship!

In some things we are accustomed to sparing no expense, but we are careful to avoid extravagant acts and promises. Yet, not in Christian commitment. Jesus makes it quite clear that extravagant discipleship is the norm for all of us, not the act of the gifted few.

Look at the itemized bill. For one thing it costs us our sense of self-sufficiency. "Take nothing for your journey . . ." (Luke 9:3) Jesus told his twelve. He wanted them to acknowledge from the very beginning their dependence upon God and their faith in his goodness. Trust God to get you through, he was saying.

Secondly, they would have to give up their erroneous ideas about success. "And wherever they do not receive you . . ." (9:5) They were called to preach and heal and let the concern about results to Jesus. They would be successful if they were faithful to their mission, the question of statistics they were to let to the Master. Too often we worry about numerical success when all God wants of us is to do the job which he has called us. It's hard for us to let that in his hands, isn't it?

Letting-go and picking up

One of the biggest costs of discipleship is letting-go of self. "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself . . ." (9:23). To relinquish our ideas, our will, our desires seems almost impossible for some of us. Yet, God can do little with us until, in a sense, we are willing to get out of his way, to step aside so that he can do what he wants.

We not only lay down our self-interest, but we also take something upon us, too. " . . . and take up his cross daily and follow me." We must be willing to pick up a burden, to carry some responsibility just as Jesus bore the weight of a heavy wooden plank to Calvary.

There is no marked-down discipleship. It is always expensive and it requires nothing less than an extravagant response.

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