

Milk-Part I

Milk marketing in Pennsylvania is a subject being hotly debated these days. And there's no cooling off in sight.

Harry Kapleau, chairman of the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board is reportedly working very hard to be fair to everybody "Everybody" includes milk producers, dairies and consumers. Each group has its own special interests. Obviously, in being fair to everybody, it'll be difficult to please everybody. It might even be impossible to please anybody Kapleau and the Board have a difficult job ahead of them, and we wish them luck and success in the months ahead

There are many questions, many sides to each question, and it's difficult at times to

tell which group is on which side of which question. For example, the Board approved a reduction in milk prices for the Pittsburgh market. This action is being contested by, of all people, a consumer group.

Quite frankly, we don't know what to expect. But in this column we hope to take a look, now and then, at developments in the milk marketing situation. We will try to present opinions and facts from all sides. As developments occur, we will try to appraise their effect upon the dairy industry in general, and Lancaster County dairying in particular.

To that end, we welcome comments from all concerned.

Guest Editorial

Editor's Note: The Guest Editorial for this week was prepared by Nick Ferrant, Jr, crop specialist with Agway, Inc.

Soybeans Get a Good Stand

Every crop has its most critical period, and for soybeans, it's getting a good emergence. If we get a good stand, we have an excellent chance for a good crop.

The soybean is a warm weather crop and should not be planted until the soil is good and warm. Planting in a cold soil means a slow germination, giving soil disease organisms plenty of time to invade and rot the seed. Seed treatment will help some, but not enough. Most growers are aware of the need for seed treatment this year, though, but for other disease reasons.

Probably most soybean stands are lost due to a crusting soil than any other reason. If beans are planted too early, an early rain, followed by a drying period, allows a crust to form before germination. The bean plant must pull its head up with it when it germinates, and a hard crust results in broken necks and poor emergence. The sharp grower will be watching carefully, and if a crust forms, move in at once with a rotary hoe or spike tooth harrow. One day's delay could lose a good part of the stand.

Later planted beans can crust, but the chances are less, since they emerge in four to five days. But if a crust does form, move in a break it fast.

Reduced stands can be caused by other factors too. If your seed has a low germination and you did not increase seeding rate, you are in trouble. In many fields seed corn maggot or seed corn beetle can do



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damage, but seed treatment will control most of them. Some growers plant too deep, and the bean just can not struggle the long distance to the surface. Plant at one-and-one-half inches in normal soils and no more than two inches in dry soils.

On many farms, a poor stand is often caused by the farmer not planting enough seed. We think a good planting rate is 140,000 to 150,000 seeds per acre. If you change row spacing, change size of seed, or your planter is not calibrated correctly, wrong seeding rates can occur.

The name of the game is profit, and it's no profit with no plants. So plan on the population you want, and get it, by being attentive to all details.

Double Burden

The statistics say that the federal government is now a larger dispenser of fringe benefits than private industry. In 1970, fringe benefits in private industries amounted to 26.6 percent of basic wages and salaries while the figure for the federal government was 27.8 percent. This contrasted with the last survey made by the US Labor Department in 1968, when private employer expenditures came to

25.1 percent and the federal government's were 24.3 percent.

The image of government as a progressive employer compared to private enterprise should be tempered by the fact that private enterprise carries a double burden. It must pay for its own fringe benefits as well as put up the taxes that go to support the fringe benefits of those who work for government. It is hardly a fair comparison.

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

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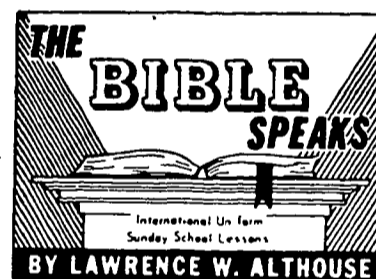


To Be Alert for Armyworms
We have had a few reports of armyworms feeding on corn grown under the no-till methods. This was experienced last year on fields that had considerable mulch or cover. The most severely infested fields were the ones with winter rye being killed by a herbicide, then planted to corn. These worms will appear suddenly and may consume several acres in a few days; they may be more severe near woodlands. The control requires a cover spray with Sevin or Dylox as soon as worms are found; one spraying is usually sufficient to remove the problem. Growers are urged to be on the alert for these worms in corn fields with heavy mulch or vegetative cover.

To Cultivate Carefully
In many crops the modern method of weed control includes the use of a herbicide and little, if any, cultivation, however, when the cultivator is used growers are urged to respect the roots of the crop and not get too close to them. The shearing of roots of any crops will surely do more harm than good. When cultivating it is best to dig around several plants by hand to become aware of the root zone and then set the cultivator to stay out of that area. In flower and vegetable gardens with hand cultivation it is also very important to stay away from the root zone. Plant roots have a very important function and should not be cut off or disturbed during the growing season.

To Prepare Grain Bins
Small grain harvest is approaching and we notice that the barley fields are well headed and will soon be changing color; winter wheat will soon follow. Growers that are going to harvest their crop and store as grain should now be cleaning out their grain bins and spraying with an insecticide; old grain should be removed before the new crop is stored. Numerous grain insects may be harboring in the framework of the grain bins and should be eliminated before the new crop arrives. All bin surfaces should be sprayed with either Malathion or Methoxychlor. A thorough cleaning of the bins should precede the spraying of the insecticide. Stored grain insects reduce the feed value of the grain and may cause extra heating and spoilage.

To Spray Those Rose Bushes
Roses are one of the most common shrubs in this part of the country and need constant attention during the growing season if they are to be kept insect and disease free. The first blooms are now appearing and with the liberal amount of moisture during the past month, we should experience some beautiful roses this spring. Weekly spraying with a fungicide such as Folpet or Maneb, and with an insecticide such as Malathion or Sevin, will help keep the flower vases full of perfect roses. If the rose bushes were not fertilized earlier this spring, it is not too late to give them a complete rose fertilizer. Weekly watering during periods of dry weather will also keep the new blooms developing and result in more healthy bushes. Lancaster is known as the "Red Rose County" and we should experience magnificent blooms this year.



KEEPING THE HOUR

Lesson for June 5, 1972

Background Scripture: Psalms 63:1-8,
Acts 10:1-8, 30-33
Devotional Reading: Psalms 63:1-8

Every evening at nine o'clock hundreds, perhaps thousands of people throughout the United States and even beyond join together observing at least five minutes of silent prayer and meditation. They are people, for the most part, who are either seeking healing or help for themselves or for others. There is nothing sacred about nine o'clock in the evening except that it is a time mutually agreed upon by those who participate.



Rev. Althouse

A devout man

Whenever someone comes to me for counseling help, I usually suggest that they "observe the nine o'clock hour" for spiritual help and power. Frequently people will return saying how much they have been aided through this simple observance. Healing, help, guidance, comfort have come to those who have joined with us. There is nothing miraculous about this observance. The healing and help results are the normal consequences of a directed life of devotion. Too many people never pray except when they are in the midst of an emergency.

There is nothing wrong with praying then—Jesus himself prayed in the garden and on the cross. But his prayers there were not for the purpose of establishing a new relationship with God, but of building upon a relationship that was already firmly established.

The same principle applies to his followers. If we want to be able to pray effectively in a crisis, we need to establish a strong life of prayer before the crises comes. "Keeping" some hour of prayer each day may provide just the pipeline we need to receive God's power when we need it most. This, apparently, was the strength of Cornelius, the centurion in Acts 10. He was "a devout man who . . . prayed constantly to God" (10:2).

About the ninth hour

It was in the keeping of the ninth hour of prayer one day that Cornelius received an experience that both deeply affected his own life and the life of the early church as well. A vision came to him that eventually was to bring Simon Peter, the great Apostle, into his life. In observing a regular life of daily devotion he received revelation from God.

In George Bernard Shaw's play about Joan of Arc, the Dauphin (heir to the throne) is disturbed because the heavenly voices come to a poor peasant girl instead of the royalty of France. "They do come," says Joan, "but you do not hear them because you are not listening." So, many of us would both hear and see more of God's revelation if we kept some daily hour of prayer and listened for his voice.