

One on a Tractor

Summer visitors this year will be guests on many local farms. If you're hosting cousins from Cleveland (or even paying guests), we hope you have a ball. We also hope you keep them away from farm machinery.

A guest who doesn't know the difference between a baler and a forage harvester doesn't even belong in the same field with one of them. The more distance you can put between guests and equipment, the better.

Guests should neither operate nor ride on tractors. Too many things can happen.

Accidents can cripple and kill, and they can result in mountainous lawsuits against a farmer.

And, while we're on the subject, let's remember to keep everyone but the operator off farm equipment. Even experienced farmhands can bounce off a tractor fender.

As with every summer, things are bound to get pretty hectic. But remember your safety rules, and you'll make it a good summer for everyone.

Letter to the Editor

Editor, Lancaster Farming:

This is in response to your editorial which appeared in the Saturday, June 3, 1972 Lancaster Farming Newspaper. Farmers have and always will fear the dropping of State Retail Price Regulations. It has been reported that all Pennsylvania farmers are protected by the Farmer's Milk Marketing System.

First, 20 per cent of the milk supply in Pennsylvania has no federal milk order protection.

Secondly, in the past year and a half, dairy farmers producing milk for sale in New Jersey have lost in excess of one million dollars because of no payment for the milk delivered to their dairies. This milk was under the FM Order System. Two dairies, namely Raritan Valley and White House, declared bankruptcy and farmers have always absorbed the loss. October 1, 1971, our sister cooperative in New Jersey, the United Milk Producers of New Jersey, go out of existence. Ask any of these dairy farmers about protection. Inter-state Milk Producers Cooperatives 3,000 members have always supported "Market Tools" that protected farmers and consumers - Retail Milk Producers does both.

Thirdly, a close look at price facts. With 1967 equal to 100 to retail prices of non-food items rose 22 points in 1971. Food prices increased 6 points less.

Does Celery Really Have a Heart

Hamlet soliloquized about the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. And apt poetry it was, for the tragic, beleaguered king of Denmark, who was, you know, a person. Of course, if Hamlet had been a chickweed or a giant plantain, he might have lamented, instead, the dics and harrows of outrageous fortune. And if he had been a dandelion, the immortal bard might have had him saying, "Oh, that these too, too succulent leaves would wither. . ."

But wait! you say. Plants don't have feeling. A chickweed can't soliloquize. A plantain can't kill its mother. A burdock can't be in pain, it can't communicate, it can't react.

Cleve Baxter, a lie detector specialist from Washington, disagrees. Baxter, you see, connected his lie detector electrodes to a plant in his office. Describing the results of the experiment, Baxter said:

"Surprisingly, the contour lines on the charts were similar to typical reactions of a human. I thought about testing its reac-

tions and decided to burn it with a match. At that very instant the recording pen bounced off the top of the chart. The initial result indicated that plants have some sort of perceptive ability."

Plants evidently know what's happening. We don't recommend that everyone become a meatarian, but the next time you bite into a juicy red tomato, you might at least say "Excuse me."

And if plants can sense the evil you're planning to do them, they might also be able to perceive the concern you feel for them. A corn plant that feels wanted might produce a bigger ear than one that feels neglected.

As an experiment, you might want to stand in the middle of your cornfield and tell your plants that you love them. We recommend performing the experiment late at night. Not that darkness would enhance the experiment, but it might save your reputation.

Grassroots Opinions

WILSON, N. C., TIMES: "Driving drunk is going to cost money. It is largely responsible for traffic accidents and deaths, so government is pushing the states to punish the repeaters, to take away their licenses for a long time, and to see that they take a cure. Everything else has been tried and with little success. Now just about the most precious thing a man has, his driver's

license, must go. And it will stop the highway killing, the sooner the better."

VINCENNES, IND., THE VALLEY ADVANCE: "Relations are reported to be so good between mainland China and the U.S. that the Chinese no longer have to smuggle the sayings of Chairman Mao into this country in fortune cookies."

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
Telephone 394-6851



To Control Canada Thistles

One of the most common weeds in this part of the state is the Canada Thistle; this weed is now maturing and soon the white cotton-like seeds will be blowing over the area. Land owners are urged to mow their fields before the thistles mature. I do not know of any weed that irritates people in a community more than to have the thistle seeds blowing over their property. In many cases the thistles grow on vacant property or on land not being farmed. Some real estate developers are guilty of not mowing their weeds several times during the summer. However, some farmers are also guilty of permitting patches of thistles to mature in their winter barley or wheat fields. It is not good weed control to permit them to mature and then spread them over the farm with the combine. We suggest that grain producers with these patches of thistles go in there and cut them before they ripen. Don't be guilty of broadcasting thistle seeds to other parts of your land or into your community.

To Rotate and Clip Pastures

Permanent pastures should be clipped several times during the season and the first clipping is over-due; this will control the weeds, get rid of mature grasses, and permit the new growth of the desirable forage grasses. In many cases it is advisable to rotate the livestock from one area to another every three or four weeks and mow the pasture after each period of grazing. This is very important in good sheep management to reduce the danger of worm re-infestation. If there is an excess of the old

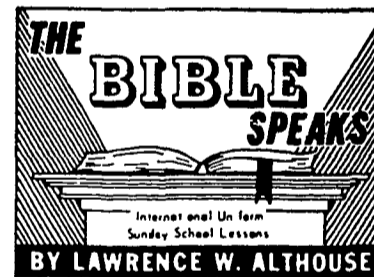
pasture, it will dry and most animals will eat it along with the new growth when given the opportunity.

To Use New Grain Slowly

Small grain harvest is approaching when it might be possible to start using some of the new barley or wheat in the grain mixtures. This should always be done gradually in order to reduce the danger of digestive disorders such as scouring or bloating. New grain should be allowed a period of curing or "sweating" before going into the grain rations. When the new grain is introduced gradually from 10 to 20 per cent up to the desired 40 to 50 per cent of the entire ration, there should be little digestive disturbances. The old grain should be cleaned out of the bin, if there is any left, and the bins thoroughly cleaned and sprayed with an insecticide (malathion or methoxychlor) before the new grain is introduced. If possible some old grain and some new grains may be used in the mix at first as a means of changing over to the greater use of new grain.

To Insist Upon Farm Pond Safety

Warm weather brings swimmers to local farm ponds and we are concerned about the safety measures at these ponds. Owners are urged to have rescue equipment handy for emergency use. Items such as wooden ladders, boards, rafts, inflated inner-tubes, a rope, and other rescue equipment should be available. Swimmers should not swim alone and children should be warned of the dangers of cold water in hot weather. Liability insurance should be carried on the farm pond in order to protect the owner.



"AND WHEN YOU PRAY"

Lesson for June 18, 1972

Background Scripture: Matthew 6:1-15.
Devotional Reading: Isaiah 55:1-6.

Jesus was unimpressed with the quality of prayer that he observed wherever he went. When he saw men pray, he found negative illustrations for his disciples on "how not to pray." Hypocritical religious leaders, he observed, made a great show of praying in public places. But, though they called it "prayer," it was not.



Rev. Althouse

Your father knows

Perhaps Jesus would not be too impressed with what passes as "prayer" today in many places. Prayer, for many people, is, as it was for the hypocrites and Gentiles of Jesus' day, a pious form rather than a vital transaction. Many people may "say their prayers," but they do not pray, they do not do anything more than "go through well-rehearsed motions."

The problem may be that we do not understand any better the nature of prayer than the people of Jesus' own day. Jesus told his disciples: "... your Father knows

what you need before you ask him." Too many people seem to think that the object of prayer is to persuade a reluctant or inattentive God to bless us in some way. Thus our prayers may be attempts either to get his attention, or to persuade him that we've got a legitimate request.

Jesus, however, always prayed with the assumption that it was already God's will and intention to give him what he needed. His purpose, thus, was not to persuade God to give, but to open himself to be able to receive. Jesus did not mean that it is wrong or useless to ask, but asking is for our sake. Its purpose is not to inform or persuade God of our needs, but to enable ourselves to receive what God already wants to give to us.

Pray then like this

The problem with prayer, then, Jesus was indicating, is not a reluctant Giver, but an unreceptive receiver.

Jesus gave his disciples a model prayer after which they should fashion their own prayers. It is the style or the attitude of what we call "The Lord's Prayer," not the words themselves that are most important. In the model prayer God comes first. The prayerer puts himself completely in God's hands and trusts his grace. He does not hesitate to ask specifically for his daily food or for forgiveness or from the power of evil, but he does this out of an attitude that presupposes that this is precisely what God desires to give him . . . and will give to him if he will but humbly and expectantly receive it.

What Jesus said on prayer to his disciples almost two thousand years ago, he says also to us.

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