

After The Flood

It was very difficult this week to assess farm damages and to find out, specifically, what, if any, relief funds local farmers are entitled to. One problem was the sheer quantity of damage. Another was that everyone was tremendously busy with immediate problems.

There seemed to be barely enough time for reaction, much less action to add up the figures and to see what's going to happen in the months ahead.

There may be some relief available for damaged crops. Damaged waterways, terraces and other conservation practices might be eligible for relief funds which could pay up to 80 per cent of repair costs.

However, no farmer will get any relief unless he asks for it. And it should be

pointed out that the act of asking is no guarantee funds will be forthcoming. Approval of requests will be based upon individual cases and the nature of the damage.

Farmers who wish to apply for relief from crop or erosion damage should call the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service at 397-6235, or the Soil Conservation Service at 394-0681.

Emergency loan funds may be available. The nature of the loans and the amounts available were not available at press time. We hope to have a fuller report on this situation next week. In the meantime, information can be had by calling the Farmers Home Administration at 394-0681.

It Could Have Been Worse

Most Lancaster County farmers can look forward to a relatively normal harvest season. Many farms were damaged, but none appear to have been really crippled.

Everyone, naturally, feels badly about the losses that were incurred. But we can all be thankful they weren't much, much worse.

Farmers everywhere, but especially hereabouts, have a tradition of helping

each other in troubled times. We're sure that there were many instances of people helping neighbors who were hurt badly by Agnes.

In some other areas of the state, everyone was hit. Quite possibly they'll need help not from neighboring farms, but from neighboring counties. We're certain that if the need exists, and if farmers in the state's number one farm county can help, they'll do so!

Conservation vs. Agnes

Some farms were virtually washed away in the past few weeks. Floods quite often weren't the problem. Rain was the apparent villain. The real villains, though, were their own unfortunate victims — farmers who haven't instituted good conservation practices.

Torrential rains ripped gullies into many a cornfield last week and washed tons of topsoil away. The rains were so strong that

even farms with fully implemented conservation plans suffered some loss.

Conservation-minded farmers, though, fared many times better. They'll be able to get their crops and lands into shape at a minimum of expense and bother.

If you aren't practicing conservation on your farm, it's too late to do anything about Agnes.

But have you thought about Beulah, Carlotta and Dorothy?

Meat Quotas Off - So What?

President Nixon this week lifted import quotas on meat, and raised an instant flurry of protest from packers, producers and meat associations. We feel there was no better time to lift quotas.

The rhetoric of the meat groups was based on gut reaction to any real or imagined price threat. It certainly doesn't appear to have any basis in logic.

Everyone is agreed that lifting the ban is going to have very little impact on prices. There's a world wide shortage of meat. The American Meat Institute said that at the present time, only seven per cent of the U.S. meat supply is imported.

Countries which sell meat here are, like us, faced with shortages at home. They simply can't send us enough meat to appreciably affect prices.

The administration says it's lifting the

quotas because it hopes to reduce the price Mrs. Housewife pays at her supermarket. That sounds a lot like election-year rhetoric.

The real impulse behind the action could be the further lowering of international trade barriers. Whether or not this was the administration's real intent, this is the real effect.

With rising standards of living in other countries, this lowering of trade barriers can only be beneficial to U.S. agriculture as a whole. Chances are we won't lose anything in meat sales or prices.

Chances are we stand a lot to gain in the sale of other agricultural commodities. Perhaps by lifting the ban, we've created a small reservoir of good will for in international trade.

Maybe it'll become a big reservoir.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir

You are to be commended for your editorial of June 10 entitled: "Milk, Eggs and Propaganda". We wish other editors of our nation's great news media would recognize the situation as you have done so well.

The egg industry has been the victim of the "selective truth", as you have outlined. But in our case, the "selectivity", more times than not, has been more opinionated or based on one side of much conflicting

research information. But when used by the highly reputable associations in fund-raising campaigns, is almost impossible for an industry such as ours to rebut.

Thank you for giving your readers an inside look at propaganda. We hope your message gets to the Heart Association.

Sincerely,
James F. Fleming
Director of Public and Governmental Relations
United Egg Producers

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
Telephone 394-6851



To Use Fungicides

The prolonged wet weather of the past several weeks has been very favorable for the development of fungus diseases on all kinds of plants and crops. This has been especially true on fruit trees, lawns, and ornamentals. Hot dry weather will be one natural remedy for this problem; however, to protect these plants from the many kinds of rots and fungus diseases it is suggested that several applications of fungicides be made at this time at weekly intervals. The commercial fruit producers have already been sent a special letter stressing the importance of regular spraying. Property owners with spots in their lawns, many of which may be caused by fungus diseases, should spray several times with a good turf fungicide. Poor drying conditions in recent weeks favors the development and spread of many of the fungus infections.

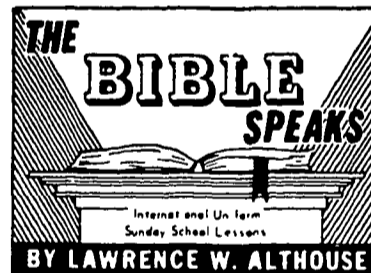
To Inspect Pastures

Livestock producers who have animals on pasture in woodlots, or along fence rows with trees, are urged to inspect their areas at once for fallen wild cherry trees. The wilting or wilted wild cherry leaves are usually poisonous to livestock and should be removed from the area. Livestock will eat these leaves in spite of having sufficient other good forages to consume. Also, pasture areas along streams that

have been out over the surrounding areas may have deposited debris containing poisons or chemicals. These should be removed from the area before the livestock are allowed to graze. All tin cans, bottles, and containers should be removed even though they are empty.

To Establish Conservation Practices

The record rainfall of the recent storm was a real test for the best conservation establishments. Needless to say, not many of them were constructed to handle 10 inches of rain in a 48-hour period; therefore soil erosion may be one of the major losses in agriculture from this storm. Now would be a good time to evaluate the soil erosion losses on the farm and to plan what should be done to prevent similar losses in the future; it may be a long time before we get so much rain at one time but there will be times of heavy rains when erosion will occur if practices are not installed to prevent it. Diversion terraces or ditches around buildings or feedlots need more attention; this will prevent damage to the foundations of buildings and prevent manure pollution of streams. The use of contour strips on slopes and hillsides certainly is very much in order. All farmers are urged to evaluate their erosion control practices and try to improve them.



TO SEE GOD

Lesson for July 2, 1972

Background Scripture Job 23, 42 1-6,
Hebrews 12 5-11, 1 Peter 5 6-11
Devotional Reading Job 40 3-14

A few days ago a hospital patient confessed to me that there are times when he can't help but wonder where God is while he suffers. "Just sometimes," he said, "my hope seems to fade—I'm so ashamed."



Rev. Althouse

I tried to help this man understand that all of us experience our doubts about our faith sometimes. We believe, but we can feel our belief slipping away and there are few of us who cannot sympathize with Job's anguished cry: "Oh, that I knew where I might find him!"

A mouth filled with arguments

When at first he was afflicted, Job refused to abandon his faith or question what was happening to him. His friends assumed that his misfortune was the result of sins that were unknown to them. But Job knew better: there was nothing in his life that deserved the tragedy and hardship that had come upon him. He knew he was innocent, even if his friends suspected he was not.

The attitude of his friends should not surprise any of us today because we are still likely to hear people ascribe the cause of this calamity or that to some wrong-doing on the part of the victim.

Because Job knew that he was innocent, he wanted to argue with God to prove that he was right and that God had misjudged him. If he could find God, Job says, "I would lay my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments!" (23 4)

Many of us are like that. We find ourselves in a situation and we try to find the reason behind the experience. Often we can do this, but there are also many times when we cannot. We must not make the mistake of thinking, as Job did, that if we cannot figure it out it is therefore irrational or unfair. Later in his own experience, Job came to realize how foolish he had been to try to argue with God. "Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know" (42 3).

"I had heard . . ."

Job never did understand exactly why he suffered as he did, but he came to the conclusion that there was a reason behind all this that was simply beyond his understanding. He had been brash in thinking that his reason was on a par with that of God. Instead of continuing to complain about how unreasonable and unfair his situation was, Job came to realize that there are some things which go beyond the intellect of man.

Job had discovered something far better than reason, in the depths of his suffering and despair, he had discovered the God whom previously he had known only second-hand. Sometimes, like Job, it is necessary for us to see the "bottom of the pile" before we can see God.