

Good Job, FFA

Lancaster County FFA groups have a right to be proud of their performance last week during FFA Activities Week at Penn State

The youngsters brought home 67 medals and 15 honorable mentions, a record which has to be the envy of practically every other county in the state.

This area's dominant position in state-wide FFA activities was also attested to by the election of Nelson Martin to the office of state president, and Joseph Lefever to the office of eastern region vice-president.

To Nelson, Joseph and all the other FFA young people, we extend our heartiest congratulations and thanks for a job well done

Organic Fad

Organic gardening could be an interesting hobby. It could also be a profitable hobby. A growing number of consumers willingly pay premium prices for foods which are organically grown, or which they think are organically grown.

People buy organic produce, it seems to us, for two reasons. One is that they think the nutritional value of foods is enhanced if they're allowed to grow "the way nature intended them to grow." Another is that they simply want to turn the clock back to an earlier era, when technology was less of a factor in farming.

It should be pointed out first that a nutrient is a nutrient. The nutritional value of the vitamins, minerals, sugars and other goodies in a strawberry, for instance, is not enhanced by organic gardening methods. The organic strawberry is probably smaller and buggier than the commercially grown strawberry, but it isn't any better for the human body. Unless, of course, you want to count the protein content of bugs.

There've always been people wanting to

return to an earlier, golden era. If they want to buy food grown just the way it was grown in 1900, and if they want to pay a premium for it, we feel they should be able to buy it. But they should realize that it's just not possible to turn the clock back for all of agriculture.

As J. Phil Campbell, Under Secretary of Agriculture, told a farm group last week, "Some well-meaning but uninformed persons in the environmental movement are urging that all food in America be organically grown, eliminating the use of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals which have contributed to America's current ability to produce an over-abundance of food."

"But this will bring us face to face with the stark question of which 50 million people in America we must allow to starve, for this is what we firmly believe the elimination of fertilizers and other chemical helps the farmer has from food production will eventually bring about by reducing food output."

Blight - A Battle Won

Last year at this time, southern corn blight was news. It was a serious menace to every corn grower in the county. This year it's not.

A concerted effort by farmers, extension people and seed suppliers has apparently wiped out the disease for this year. It's an

excellent example of the cooperation that has made agribusiness the success story it is.

In a year when it sometimes seems that nothing is going right, we can all at least be thankful that the battle against blight is won.

Grassroots Opinions

FLORENCE, ALA., HERALD: "A visitor to the United States from abroad had become deeply impressed by the very important political campaign now in progress throughout the country. In conversation with a distinguished officeholder he stated that he was much impressed by the extreme generosity displayed mutually by the gentlemen who designate themselves as Democrats and Republicans. Being somewhat surprised at the visitor's comments, the politician said, 'I don't quite see where you get the generosity idea.' 'Why my friend' the visitor began, 'I am surprised that you should fail to note how industriously each party points out to the other exactly where it is making its most serious mistakes.'"

AURORA, NEBRA., NEWS-REGISTER: "While it seems in this day and age everyone is quick to condemn youth, we should remember there is probably no more than 2 percent of the entire youth population causing today's 'turmoil' in the eyes of society. That's a pretty good percentage when you figure the remaining 98 percent are left to carry on the American way of life. The young people of today have accepted more responsibilities, solved many problems and shown more initiative than many of their critical elders."

STINNETT, TEXAS, HUTCHINSON COUNTY HERALD: "There are only two ways to be quite unprejudiced and im-

partial. One is to be completely ignorant; the other is to be completely indifferent."

HARRISONBURG, VA., NEWS-RECORD: "Not everyone was discomfited when the factories closed down and the lights and heating plants went out in Britain during the . . . coal strike. West German candlemakers did a booming export business. One firm sent more than eight million candles to Britain. Its workers gave up a holiday weekend to fill the demand. From these examples comes a better understanding why one country in Europe's largest trader and the other sinks into economic distress."

THERMOPOLIS, WYO., INDEPENDENT RECORD: "We have another important election-year fact. The city of New York has a special department that is charged with the responsibility of cleaning up after 'relieved' dogs. In 1969 the budget for that department exceeded one million dollars. Some of you politicians might keep that in mind."

MIDDLETOWN, PA., JEDNOTA: "The men and women who have reached a high degree of success in the great things of the world have been people who have studied themselves. They learned how to strengthen their weak points, cultivate their capabilities, and arouse their efforts to become something worthwhile in life, they have developed strong characters which enabled them to reach the top of the ladder in their particular line."

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
Telephone 394-6851



TO HARVEST STRAW FOR BEDDING

The barley harvest is progressing very slowly due to unfavorable weather conditions and winter wheat is also getting ripe. Both of these crops have had a hard time this year because of the cool, wet weather. However, producers should realize that the straw will be in strong demand even though the color and quality may not be of top quality. Most livestock and dairy farms have been short on bedding for several years and the outlook is for more of the same. Under these conditions it is suggested that every bit of the straw be harvested for home use or for sale. The demand for all kinds of livestock bedding is strong and the effort should be worthwhile. Having the straw entirely dry before baling will prevent heating and resulting musty straw.

TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE

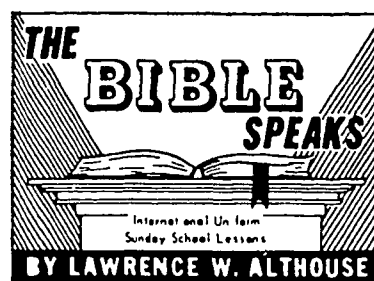
Flood damaged farmers should keep in mind that the farm owner or tenant farmer should take the initiative in making the request for financial assistance or information regarding flood damages. In addition to the regular Flood Information Offices, nearly all of the agricultural agencies are in a position to render some help. If conservation installations have been torn out or damaged, then the ASC office and SCS Service should be informed. If funds are needed to repair or replace buildings, supplies, machinery, and etc. then the Farmers Home Administration are in a position to help. Don't hesitate to make the request. If help is needed.

TO USE NEW GRAINS SLOWLY

The winter barley crop is now being harvested and the wheat crop will soon be ready. Many farmers use both of these grains for livestock feeding; barley is commonly known as one of the best substitutes for corn; in recent years wheat has been used for feeding since the market prices have been rather low. This year, due to the wet weather and the lower quality of the barley crop, it might be best not to start feeding the barley until it is thoroughly dry; then it is advised to introduce the new grain gradually in order not to cause scouring or bloating. After the grain is dry and cured, some producers will use barley instead of corn in the rations; this is especially true in cattle feeding. Winter wheat may be used in most rations but should be limited to 20 to 30 per cent of the ration with the exception of hogs who can handle larger amounts of wheat.

TO PREPARE FOR ALFALFA SEEDING

Within a month it will be time to be getting ready for that early August seeding of alfalfa. If this is to be done this summer, the ground should be plowed as soon as possible and a complete soil test made on the soil. The needed lime and fertilizer should be worked into the top soil prior to the early seeding of alfalfa. Summer seedings of alfalfa do best on well prepared soil that is worked down fine and firm. Disease resistant strains of alfalfa should be ordered in order to reduce that problem in future years. Certified seed is a definite part of a good alfalfa growing program.



FLUCTUATING FAITH

Lesson for July 9, 1972

Background Scripture: 1 Kings 19:9-18, John 16:7-15
Devotional Reading: John 16:7-15

"I feel so ashamed!"

This is what a woman said to me recently as she confessed that in a time of great suffering she had found her faith trembling under the strain. Seeds of doubt about God's love had been planted in her heart.



Rev. Althouse

She had begun to lose hope. As I have done with others before who have had similar experiences, I reminded her of some of the great figures of the Bible who also in stress had experienced doubt and despair. One of the best illustrations of this is the experience of the prophet Elijah. He was a great man of faith, a spokesman for God, yet he had known the reality of fluctuating faith in his own life.

"Sometimes I'm down . . ."

To really appreciate the 19th chapter of 1 Kings, we must also be familiar with the 18th chapter. In 1 Kings 19 we see a man hopeless with despair. Queen Jezebel, in a rage, had threatened his life and the writer tells us: "Then he

was afraid, and he rose and went for his life . . ." (19:3) Fleeing to the wilderness, he sinks in weariness beneath a broom tree and asks that he might die: "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life . . ." (19:4) Elijah had given up hope, he was throwing in the towel.

If we read 1 Kings 18, however, we can't help be amazed at his attitude. His despair in the wilderness follows close on the heels of a tremendous victory against the heathen prophets and their gods on Mount Carmel. What an hour of triumph it had been! What a vindication for this man of God! Now, how, after that mountain-top experience, could Elijah be so down in the dumps?

Elijah's change of heart is reminiscent of the old Negro spiritual, "Nobody Knows The Trouble I've Seen":

Sometimes I'm up,
Sometimes, I'm down . . .
Sometimes I'm almost to the ground . . .

Let us not despair over our occasional experiences of fluctuating faith if even so great a man of God as Elijah fell so low, so fast.

Looking in the wrong places

Elijah heard God's voice, not in the impressive earthquake, wind, and fire, but in "a still small voice" (19:12). Often, we too look for God in the wrong place. We look for him in the great and impressive experiences of life, only to find that we may hear him best, like Elijah, when we're at the bottom of the heap.

"What are you doing here, Elijah?" (19:13b), God wants to know. What are you doing here wringing your hands and crying, when I have work for you to do. "Go, return . . ." (19:15).

This is also what he says to us in our experiences of fluctuating faith, when, at last, we are willing to listen to his still small voice speak to us.