

Earl Stauffer - Lancaster County's American Farmer

Earl Stauffer has been singled out to receive one of the FFA's highest honors - the American Farmer Degree.

Only one in a thousand FFA members may receive the degree every year. This year, Earl is one of ten Pennsylvanians to receive the degree.

The American Farmer Degree is conferred annually upon the most outstanding members of the Future Farmers of America. Any FFA member over the age of 18 may apply, but only one out of every thousand FFA members can be chosen.

This year, Earl is one of only ten Pennsylvanians to receive the Degree.

It takes a lot of work and a lot of time to win an American Farmer Degree. Successful candidates have to demonstrate farm management expertise, community leadership, and a high degree of service to agriculture.

Earl Stauffer has proven all of these qualities. We congratulate Earl, and applaud his outstanding contributions to Lancaster County's farm community.

The DES Ban

Life is fraught with dangers. From the moment we awaken, we're threatened by hurtling automobiles, and endangered by criminal elements. We risk our lungs with every breath we take. Our minds are bombarded with horrid, depressing news, pernicious propaganda and brain rotting mass entertainment. We're told that our eyes are subjected to too much ugliness, our ears to too much noise, our hearts to too much stress. A myriad of dangers, seen and unseen, surround us, bombard us, threaten our individual and collective existence.

Then, there is diethylstilbestrol, DES, which in massive doses causes cancer in mice or rabbits or some other rodent.

The Food and Drug Administration this week declared a halt to the practice of feeding DES to beef animals. The chemical, a synthetic female hormone, had been shown to increase gain rates in beef animals by an average of 17 per cent. DES helps farmers because they can produce beef faster. It helps consumers because they can buy beef cheaper.

The FDA, as explained in our page one story, had no choice but to declare the ban. The Delaney Amendment to the Food and Drug Act allows absolutely no detectable residue of any known carcinogen (cancer-causing substance) in any human food.

However, detection techniques have improved a thousand-fold since the Delaney amendment was passed. Then, tests were designed to detect one or two parts per million of foreign substances in foodstuffs. Now, one or two parts per billion can be detected.

No one is now asking that the Delaney amendment be repealed. It is time, however, to decide upon the criteria for determining what constitutes a menace to human health. A decision has to be made not about whether a substance may be allowed in human food, but how much of a given substance is acceptable. And the decision must be made soon.

Remarkably Silent

The agri-business system of agriculture in this country is a combination of technology, mechanization and scientific management. The food and fiber production miracle it has wrought has produced an abundance of food and fiber for our own growing population as well as a surplus that has staved off starvation in other lands.

When Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz went to Moscow last Spring, one of his objectives was working out long-term agreements by which the USSR will pur-

chase sizable quantities of U.S. grain in the years ahead.

It appears the Soviets are interested in importing certain grains because, as one Soviet official expressed it, "climate conditions in our country are not favorable for soybeans and corn." No doubt this is true. But, aside from weather, the climate in Socialist countries is rarely conducive to productivity. Capitalistic American agriculture has no equal as a food producer. Critics of capitalism are remarkably silent on this point.

Researchers are working on devices that will detect parts per trillion. When these techniques are perfected, we may find that people are consuming carcinogens in foods that were never even suspected. Suppose a cancer-causing substance were detected in milk? Or wheat?

The Delaney Amendment is so worded that the FDA cannot base its decisions on how much of a carcinogenic substance is found in food, but only that it is found. Any quantity of any carcinogen, no matter how minute, in any food, is considered grounds for taking that food off the market. And there's a mistaken logic to the law.

Too much of some things can harm people. Too much water and one may drown. A few tablespoons of pepper, taken straight, can finish off a person about as well as arsenic. Ordinary household cleansers, used in certain proportions, can liberate deadly chlorine gas.

We can't outlaw big bodies of water, we won't outlaw pepper and it would be silly to outlaw household cleansers. In each case, the benefits outweigh the risks.

It's quite possible, and many feel definite, that the benefits from using DES do indeed outweigh the risks.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz commented on the action by FDA Commissioner Charles C. Edwards. Butz said, "The law forced him to take such action even though he found that the use of DES in animal feed constituted no known hazard to human health after two decades of use."

"What we need is to evaluate the Delaney Amendment coolly and calmly in light of new residue detection devices. We must permit some leeway for the 'rule of reason' of men, and scientists, to prevail. Otherwise, we will blindly abandon many very useful things in society because of the rigid dictation of a 'zero tolerance' that completely rules out any risk, and consequently and benefit."

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
Telephone 394-6851



TO TEST FORAGE

All livestock producers and especially dairymen should keep in mind that the grain feeding program should be developed according to the amount and quality of the roughages fed. We should not leave anything to chance. Due to the poor weather conditions this summer for making hay, it's important to know what it will take in the grain ration to have a balanced ration. We've heard the comment that "my hay isn't good enough to test this year" and the cows are fed more of it. In this case we would like to suggest that the testing of the hay and the silage will pay big dividends. Get the forages tested during the early fall and use that information to build a sound feeding program. Forage test kits are available at any of the Penn State Extension Offices.

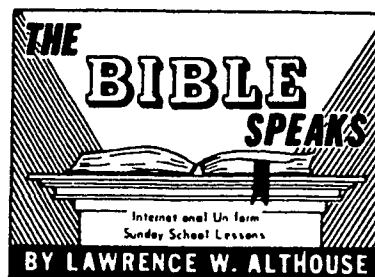
TO PROTECT STREAMS

I'm sure that all farmers recognize the value of high quality water for their families and for everyone. Pure water supplies are vital to all of us and we urge everyone to do all they can to keep the water of top quality. Livestock and dairy farmers who are building feedlots, or placing feeding areas, are urged to keep them away from streams as far as possible, and in many cases a diversion ditch may be needed to carry the water out into a sodded area before it reaches the stream. No doubt farmers will become acquainted with more strict pollution regulations set up

and to be enforced by The Environmental Protection Agency; the stream that runs through a property is not the possession of the land owner; the land owner may use the water and claim rights to his share of the water as long as the purity of the water is not decreased. Special care against water pollution is necessary at all times.

TO CONTROL HORNETS AND WASPS

Many property owners report the problem of having a nest of some of the larger insects that can inflict serious bee stings; some folks are allergic to these insect stings and can have serious problems. We suggest that owners use extreme care in working around these areas and use a strong insecticide such as chlordane or Lindane to spray into the nest. This should be done at night when all of the "family" is in the nest. Some cases we know of the large carpenter bees that will drill holes into wood and then be a pest for weeks; these are large black and yellow insects about a half inch long and resemble a bumble bee. Most of the carpenter bee infection can be prevented by keeping the wooden parts of the building well painted; eradication is difficult but the holes and the area may be sprayed with Sevin several times in order to kill the bees; suggest that this spraying be done at night.



Background Scripture John 17:1-20, John 15:1-11
Devotional Reading John 14:12-21.

"Dynamic" . . . "Mystic" . . .

There are two words that just don't seem to go together. The mystic, the man of prayer and meditation and deep devotion, seems anything but "dynamic." The dynamic man, the man always in action, doing something, pursuing some goal, never appears to have time for the deeper life of the spirit.

There is a disturbing tendency to separate Christians into these two categories today. On the one hand there are those who believe the essence of Christian discipleship is found in a life of doing battle with all the problems that surround us. On the other hand, there is the camp that seems somewhat irrelevant, content to seek an ever-deepening life of the spirit.

The false dichotomy

Although very pervasive, this is a very false dichotomy. One does not have to be one or the other. In fact, to be quite accurate, a Christian must be both. If he is only one and not the other, he is not a true disciple of Jesus

Christ. For Jesus is the true blending of both these aspects of man's religious nature. Jesus was a man of prayer and a man of action. He was a mystic, plumbing spiritual depths unimaginable to most of us, yet he was a dynamic man who is best remembered because of something he did on a cross.

A friend of mine decided to leave her church and devote her time to working with poor people in a nearby housing project. She had become disillusioned with a church that only talks about helping the helpless. Today, however, several years later, she is disillusioned. Her sincere desire to help others has burned out, the victim of countless disappointments and defeats.

What she has found in her own experience is an age-old truth: nothing is dissipated so quickly and painfully as our desire to help others, because the reality of working with people is less romantic than the idea. We lose our motivation because people do not turn out to be as lovable as we had imagined.

Another way of looking at this is the analogy of the vine in John 15. It is true we must do something, we must bear fruit, but we cannot continue to bear fruit very long unless we are drawing our power from the vine. The branch that is cut-off the tree soon withers and becomes useless. So it is with Christ's disciples. They can not continue to be of service to others, unless they are drawing strength and power from a deep spiritual relationship with Christ. To try to bear fruit without being part of the vine is hopeless.

Jesus was and calls us to be both.

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