

Future Farmers of America

The 1973 observance of National FFA Week will fall during the period of February 17-24. The theme this year is, "FFA Unites Youth With Opportunities."

In coming years, young people will find agricultural careers more personally satisfying and more rewarding and productive in terms of providing the food and fiber for the nation than ever before. In FFA, young people gain experience in modern agricultural techniques and prepare themselves to explore and take advantage of the vast, varied and exciting career opportunities today. Within the national FFA organization, 432,000

students study vocational agriculture in 8,000 public schools. FFA members learn by doing, and they are encouraged to develop their individual potentials, interests and skills in agricultural work. From this experience, they are able to choose their courses of study and activity to best prepare themselves to be the agricultural leaders of tomorrow.

The United States has the most productive agricultural system in the world—the work of the Future Farmers of America helps assure that it will stay that way.

The Protein Shortage

A meat industry publication points out that most Americans don't even understand what the term "world protein shortage" means. The observation is made that, "Despite record-breeding U.S. production of meat, demand here is for more at lower prices." In other parts of (the) world, shortage of protein of all types—plant as well as animal—is a matter of life and death, not price."

In the United States, meat and other protein foods are available in any quantity desired. For the overwhelming majority of our people, the problem is not one of availability but rather one of choosing which product to buy at what price. The essentiality of protein in the human diet is made starkly evident by Agency for International Development figures indicating that 30 percent of developing countries' children die before age five, largely due to inadequate levels of protein, calories. It is estimated that around two thirds of the

survivors fail to reach full physical and mental growth. Irreversible damage can be done at a very early age since 90 percent of normal brain structure is accomplished by the age of three, and protein is necessary for that development. Obviously, the food industry in the United States has made an immense contribution to human health, well-being and enjoyment of life.

We have little to complain about as regards the nation's food supply. We might well express gratitude to the industry responsible for the bounty we enjoy. But, as the meat industry publication points out, it might be more helpful if we sought to use our agricultural know-how and technological skill in food production in the most effective ways possible to help hundreds of millions of people in other nations who live on the edge of starvation and in the gray world of malnutrition throughout all the days of their foreshortened lives.

Degrees are Oversold

The Great American Dream of a college education automatically followed by a prestigious, well-paying career for the graduate is history now. No longer does a sheepskin on the wall guarantee a higher status, economic security and greater personal satisfaction. In the past, when college was only for the wealthy or very ambitious, a degree was a magic key to the door of success. But times have changed, for on the heels of World War II came a flood of GI's returning to school, a skyrocketing birthrate, more minority groups seeking a better education and an affluent society that could afford to send millions on to college - all of which resulted in a subsequent lowering of entrance standards and bloated enrollments.

Thus, the specter of joblessness has arisen to haunt today's college graduates, many of whom cannot find employment in the fields for which they were trained and must take jobs at what they consider to be lower levels of prestige and pay than they had expected. The question is, how serious is the problem and how do we solve it? At the darkest end of the scale, some predict a generation of embittered youths who have invested four years of time and money in a college degree, only to find they possess skills for a job that does not exist. True, there are many of these situations, as witness the unemployed teachers, mathematicians, aeronautical engineers and others. But most young people should be adaptable enough to aim their skills in some other related direction instead of sitting around in disillusionment indefinitely, waiting for exactly the right niche to appear. Still, an initial period of frustration is to be expected when the job market is glutted with college alumni.

The present unemployment rate among recent college graduates is close to 8 percent, compared to 5.6 percent for the

nation's entire labor force, according to a Business Week magazine article entitled, "The job gap for college graduates in the '70's." But the jobless rate among non-college educated young people is running close to 15 percent. The matter is put into perspective in the Business Week article with the observation that, "The pay is higher and job security better for the college graduate who can find work, and it will still take a degree to get to the very top in the future. But no longer is a college degree a guarantee of employment."

Change is the answer to this dilemma. First of all, society must stop overselling a college education. Our economy can't absorb unlimited millions of college graduates in the white collar work force. The concept that blue collar work is honorable has been underplayed, and says one labor leader, "A lot of young people would be much happier learning a skill, using their manual dexterity, than going to college." Secondly, coordinated planning by education and business to try matching the flow of graduates with what the economy can use is desperately needed. Business Week reports that, "Some of the more grandiose expansion plans of colleges and universities will be abandoned, and courses in some of the most overpopulated fields will be dropped. There will be far more stress on job retraining and on vocational, as opposed to academic, education, with more and more corporations getting into the business of training people for a fee. The educational system of the future - academic and vocational - may be designed to turn out fewer specialists and more generalists, young people able and willing to shift among a number of different professions."

**NOW IS
THE TIME . . .**

**Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
Telephone 394-6851**



To Buy Legume Seeds

The spring growing season is approaching and some alfalfa and red clover growers will be making plans to broadcast the seeds in winter wheat late this month or early March. If a broadcast seeding is to be made in winter grain, it should be done very early rather than late March or April. The seed supply may not reach, so get your order in early; the seeds should be inoculated and be of top quality, certified seed. Hay is getting to be a more valuable crop and warrants the best of care and planning. Early spring straight seedings without any nurse crop are strongly advised if the ground is open; this method of establishing alfalfa is one of the very best in this part of the country.

To Evaluate Soybeans

We are aware of the great interest in growing soybeans due to the high price of soybean oilmeal and of proteins in general; no doubt there will be an increase in the acreage again this year. However, I'd suggest that local livestock and dairy producers take a good look at the expected production from an acre of soybeans as compared to an acre of corn. Both are important in a feeding program but corn is still the background of the livestock and poultry feeding programs. It is doubtful if an acre of soybeans will match the cash income or the number of feed

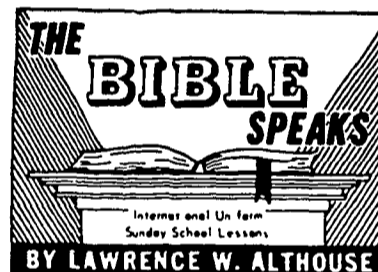
nutrients per acre that most farmers can get from an acre of corn.

To Transfer Silage

Many producers did not have sufficient storage for all of their silage in the permanent storage silos, and used bunker or above-ground storage units. These have worked satisfactorily but we suggest that the silage be moved into the upright structure while the temperatures are below 50 degrees; there will be less heating when transferred in cold weather. No water should be needed because the silage will have already heated and molded if it was too dry at the time of ensiling. Rapid transfer into the upright silo is suggested.

To Invest in Equipment

Many cattle feeders are operating without satisfactory equipment to handle and restrain their cattle. The ease of loading and unloading through a chute should not be overlooked. A narrow chute (26 to 28 inches wide) with a head-gate at the end is very useful for treating sick animals, implanting, or doing other work on a beast. The less excitement and confusion caused the better it will be. Several small pens for sick animals are very important for good herd health. This would be a good time of the year to build this equipment or buy it from an equipment dealer. Proper handling equipment will repay the owner because of less excitement, stress, and injuries.



A BAG WITH HOLES

Lesson for February 11, 1973

Background Scripture: Haggai
Devotional Reading: Hosea 5:15 through 6:6

Augustine is said to have prayed once: "Lord, make me pure—but not now!" He knew what God wanted him to be and had accepted the fact that he would, in fact, ultimately fulfill God's expectations. But first, there were things he

wanted to do, experiences he still wanted to try. He would make that big step upward, but later.

"Not yet come . . ."



Rev. Althouse

This is typical of human nature. As the old saying goes we want "to have our cake and eat it, too." We want to do God's will, but we don't want to bypass anything valuable along the way. What we really want is to "have the best of both worlds."

This is the way it was in Judah in those early days when the newly-returned Jewish captives had returned to Jerusalem. They found their beautiful temple in ruins and all agreed that it would have to be rebuilt—someday. So from one generation to another ran the conviction that the temple would have to be rebuilt, but no one believed it should be done now.

In time, however, God spoke through one of his seers and cut through their rationalization. "This people say the time has not

yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord. The prophet reminded the returned exiles that God knew all their excuses and he saw through them. "Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?" (Naggai 1:2,4)

The people were playing the old "double-standard" game: one set of values and priorities for God's concerns and another, quite different set for their own. God's "time" had not yet come because they were too busy making it "their time." Isn't that what happens with us today, too? We comfort ourselves and take the cutting edge off his challenges to us, by thinking of the big things we will do for him "some day." When we have satisfied our needs, then we will put ourselves at his disposal.

Never enough

Speaking through Haggai, however, God takes aim at their balloons of rationalization and shoots them down in flames:

"You have sown much, and harvested little, you eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill, you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm, and he who earns wages earns wages to put them in a bag with holes" (1:6)

To wait for that day until your own needs have been met, is to wait for a time that will never come. The more we get, the less satisfied we are. Somewhere I read that the per capita giving to churches was higher during the depression of the 1930's than it is today. In other words, when we are affluent as we are now, we are less satisfied with what we have and less willing to share.

Take a good look at your life. Has it become a matter of fulfilling a bag with holes?"

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