



...let there be no shortage on true thankfulness...

Tourism Heresy?

(Editor's Note: Lancaster County isn't the only farm area beset with the problems of tourism. The whole state of Michigan, according to Richard L. Milliman, has a problem. Milliman is editor and publisher of the Farmer's Advance, published weekly in Camden, Michigan. We felt his comments in a recent editorial on tourism were interesting enough to be reprinted here in their entirety.)

What's that strange sound heard a few weeks back?

It sounded as if the tourist industry was suggesting there may be some better philosophy than "Big is good, and more is better."

But that would be heresy, wouldn't it? I mean, coming from someone like Wesley B. Tebeau, president of the West Michigan Tourist Association, who is supposed to tell everybody about how many and how big and how good our tourist attractions are in Michigan.

But that's what Wes Tebeau said — that controls on expanding Michigan's tourist industry may become a necessity.

"Currently overdevelopment in places such as Orlando, Fla. Hawaii and the coast of Spain have caused great hardships for the resort industry," Tebeau told Saugatuck Douglas Chamber of Commerce, which is one of many Michigan

resort areas which certainly don't want any hardships.

Bankruptcies can be averted if communities do not permit unbridled expansion of their tourist facilities," Tebeau said.

A "protectionist policy" is being studied, which would control development of new motels and hotels in a community.

Tebeau said a licensing regulation based on economic, environmental and aesthetic considerations might be necessary for orderly growth of Michigan's tourist industry, which is a \$1.5 billion a year business.

Local communities would have a major voice in granting motel and hotel building permits, coupled with advice from state regulatory agencies.

Controlling entry into competitive business may be a bitter pill to swallow by those of us who favor the competitive enterprise system; but it's a lot better than a string of empty, boarded-up motels & gas stations & pizza shacks.

Tourism, like any other business (including newspapering) must have profit to survive.

It sounds to me like the tourist industry, if Tebeau is representative, is taking a realistic approach to what could be a big problem.



C'mon, carry your share...

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

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To Check Ventilation Systems

The proper ventilation of a barn or building for livestock is very important for the most efficient production. Also, the life of the structure can be lengthened when condensation problems are corrected. Dairy barns may need one or more electric exhaust fans to bring in fresh air and remove foul, moisture-laden air. Good air and proper temperatures will result in healthier animals that will give greater returns on the input dollars. Automatically controlled thermostats will be worth the investment rather than manually controlled equipment. Plans for proper dairy barn ventilation are available in a special Penn State Circular.

To Reduce Livestock Stress

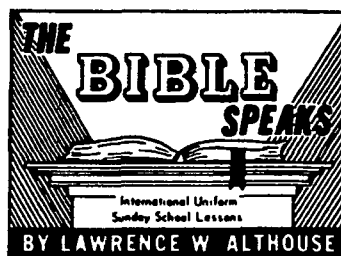
The handling of any type of livestock will be more successful if the animals are handled quietly and carefully. Proper equipment is needed to make this possible. With freshly purchased cattle it is very important to allow them to be quiet and rest for the first several days. Animals to be treated should be restrained easily with chutes and head gates rather than roped to administer the treatment. Plans for proper equipment are available from all Extension Offices.

To Do Forage Testing

Now is the proper time of the year to do forage testing. The winter feeding program is ahead and dollars may be saved when the operator knows the exact feeding value of his hay and silage supplies. Test kits cost \$6.25 and will include a feeding recommendation when requested. Many dairy and livestock feeders have saved hundred of dollars with this small investment. Additional tests for minerals and other elements are available at nominal additional costs. We urge more local livestock producers to recognize forage testing as a means of more efficient livestock feeding.

To Provide Outside Exercise

The practice of keeping animals confined to barns or sheds is to be discouraged; most animals desire the freedom of the outdoors and will go there many times a day if given the chance. With total confinement, as intended with some operations, controlled ventilation is essential and usually built into the program. However, with most breeding animals and many beef feeding operations, the animals should get daily outdoor exercise. Dairymen with their milking herds and their young stock should make an attempt to provide daily outside exercise. Herd health will be improved and young stock will respond with stronger feet and legs and require less labor.



DEBATING GAME

Lesson for November 18, 1973

Background Scripture: Romans 14; 1 Corinthians 8:1 through 11:1. Devotional Reading: Romans 14:13-23.

An elderly man was dying and the pastor was summoned. Bending low over the failing man, his daughter said quietly: "The minister is here to pray for you." For a minute returning to his cantankerous self, the old man exploded: "Confound it, daughter, I don't want him to pray for me, I want to argue with him!"

Believing rightly

Most pastors know people who would rather argue with them than pray with them. In fact, for many people organized religion is little more than a "debating game," a constant disputation on what people hold to be "the right way to believe." For them the key to being a Christian is knowing and subscribing to the right doctrines, creeds, or interpretations. Errors in belief is regarded as the worst of all sins. Christian unity is looked upon as doctrinal or creedal uniformity.

The saddest chapters in the history of the Church are those that deal with what has happened when churches have expelled those whose beliefs and practices seemed to lie outside the popular pattern. Sometimes we are amazed when we learn of what seemingly inconsequential matters were responsible for great rifts

and divisions in Christendom.

I, as a pastor, am blessed with a congregation that maintains a free pulpit. Several years ago after a service in which I had preached a highly controversial sermon, one of my lay people stopped to shake my hand at the door: "Pastor, I didn't agree with what you said this morning, but I'm going to think about it." Because of attitudes like this on the part of my lay people, ours is a congregation where people of differing points of view and practices can comfortably worship and work together. There is Christian harmony, but not the false harmony of conformity in belief.

Doing rightly

The reason is that we place a higher premium on doing rightly, than on believing rightly. This does not mean beliefs are not important, but that the way we verbalize and declare our beliefs is not nearly so important as what we do about them. It is what we do about our beliefs that is usually the most persuasive.

In Romans 14 and 1 Corinthians 8 the issue seems silly to us: what is right for a Christian to eat? Yet many of the disputes over which Christians divide today are equally ridiculous. The problem, as Paul points out, is that too many of us think a Christian's primary calling is to "pass judgement" on the religion of others. Judging other people often becomes a substitute for real discipleship which involves doing our Lord's work and following his commands. Likewise, the church is intended to be a center for action, not an arena for playing the debating game.

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Rev. Althouse