



## Farm and Home Center - Ahead of Its Time

A news release from the U.S. Department of Agriculture tells us that the department is launching an all-out effort to "modernize the USDA's outdated field office system by establishing local U.S. Agricultural Service Centers to provide farmers, ranchers and rural citizens up-to-date one-stop service."

Plans are to consolidate area offices of Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), Farmers Home Administration (FHA), the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), and the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC). Presently, these agencies are, in many areas widely scattered so that if a farmer

wants to deal with more than one of them he's got to do a lot of driving. "It's time we brought our field delivery system forward into the 1970's," Secretary Butz has said about his department's Service Center Program.

In other words, the rest of the country is going to be striving mightily to catch up with Lancaster County where the one-stop service center has been a reality for years. Along with our county extension office, ASCS and SCS are all operating out of the Lancaster County Farm and Home Center. It's a convenience we can't too easily take for granted.

## A Calendar of Fact and Opinion

"They're dependable, conscientious, and competent according to most surveys," notes the National Association of Manufacturers, "yet women over 40 have difficulties getting jobs. A study by the Ohio State University for the Labor Department's Manpower Administration revealed that the employment situation for mature women is discouraging. The unemployment rate for women 40 through 64 in 1972 was one third higher than for men of the same age. Employers discriminate against older women for several reasons, mainly because they are falsely regarded as difficult to train, inclined to absenteeism, and are apt to quit. A Civil Service Study shows, however, that older women do stick to their jobs. Turnover rates for women in their early fifties are about one sixth that of women in their twenties. The study also shows that women over 40 take less sick leave than younger women."

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Ice cream has tantalized the taste buds of the likes of George Washington, Dolly Madison and King Charles I of England. Many are the guises and nicknames of ice cream, but Americans—as diversified a people as the dessert they love—are agreed upon this: ice cream is here to stay. Americans aren't alone in their love of ice cream, the whole world gulps down 10 billion ice cream cones a year. And to think

that the ice cream cone was created only 69 years ago at the World's Fair in St. Louis.

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"The Interstate Commerce Commission believes a six percent rate of return is necessary for the railroads. Our own industry economists say it should be 10 percent. Last year the American railroads again failed to average even three percent. Clearly these low earnings—deficits on some railroads—are a deplorable drain on the ability of carriers to give adequate transportation service. Thus the public loses."—Mr. Louis Menk, chairman of the board, Burlington Northern Inc.

## Letters to the Editor

Editor,  
I want to commend you for your editorial, page 10, December 1, 1973, LANCASTER FARMING, entitled, "McHale's Paper Bullets".

I concur with your editorial and thank you for the unique presentation of this bullet-riddled subject. I only wish I knew how to get Mr. McHale to do the job he was appointed to do.

Boyd C. Gartley  
Director  
Member & Public Relations

## NOW IS THE TIME . . .

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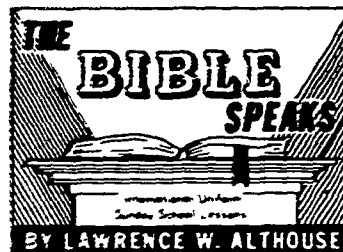
**To Reduce Feed Waste**  
On most livestock and poultry operations the cost of feed is one of the major items. In too many cases there is considerable waste of feed through holes in the troughs, or a self feeder that permits too much down at one time. I have seen a number of feeders that waste about as much feed as the animals consume. Farmers are urged to check their feeders and feed banks to be sure that the feed is getting into the animals or birds. Rats can also waste tremendous amounts of feed. Special effort to eliminate all feed wastage is strongly recommended.

**To Provide Salt and Minerals**  
Most kinds of livestock prefer to have free access to salt, minerals, and fresh water. We realize that these salt and mineral elements can be mixed into the grain ration to some degree but in addition the animals should have a change for additional salt and minerals if desired. These containers should be placed under cover and should be before the animals at all times. The consumption of water will usually be increased when animals have sufficient salt and minerals. Maximum water consumption is needed for efficient high gains and milk production.

**To Test Home-Grown Seeds**  
If supplies of certified seeds

are not adequate this spring it may be necessary for some growers to use home-grown seed supplies. I'd like to stress that we strongly suggest the use of certified seeds at all times, if they are available; they may cost more but will usually out-produce other seeds and give greater returns for the dollars invested. However, if certified seeds are not available, then home-grown seeds may be used. In this case it is strongly suggested that growers get these seeds tested at the State Department of Agriculture Seed Testing Laboratory at Harrisburg. The cost is nominal and the results will be a guide regarding the merits of the seed to be used. To use local seeds without a test is too big a gamble.

**To Prepare Farm Show Entries**  
State Farm Show is less than a month away and exhibits should be getting some attention. Livestock needs to be fitted and trained. Crop and vegetable exhibits need to be well selected, matched and stored safely until show time. Premium Lists are available at our Extension Office giving full details. Entry blanks are also available. Potential exhibitors are urged to obtain a Premium List and prepare their exhibits according to regulations. Most livestock will need one or more injections to comply with health regulations.



## THREE COMMON FAILINGS

Lesson for December 16, 1973

Background Scripture: John 3:16-21, 5:30-47, 12:37-50

"What do you find in that old book?" someone once asked me of the Bible. My reply surprised him: "Oh, a lot of stories about people today!"

What I meant, of course, was that many of the Biblical characters are quite like people today in terms of their problems and concerns. What the Bible tells us about these characters is often very helpful in understanding people and life in our own time.

For example in John 12 we find Jesus encountering three types of people who are not strangers to our contemporary religious scene.

"Yet they did not believe . . ."

The first of these is the person who is determined not to believe regardless of what man or God does to convince him. The late educator and philosopher Claude Ducasse noted that in many people the "will to disbelieve" is one of the controlling factors of life. As blindly as some people cling to superstition, these people, perhaps irrationally, cling to their disbelief.

Jesus acknowledged this kind of person in his parable of "Dives" and "Lazarus." Noting that Dives wanted Lazarus to return from the dead to warn his brothers against disbelief, Jesus observed that some people would not believe even if they saw a man rising from the dead. Thus, too, John tells us: "Though he

had done so many signs before them, yet they did not believe in him . . ." (12:37).

No matter how many dramatic works Jesus might perform, some people are determined to remain unconvinced. Many of us come into contact with that type of person every day. In them, disbelief is nothing less than an act of will.

"They loved the praise of men . . ."

A second contemporary type is the person who believes in Christ but does not acknowledge it except privately. John tells us of this type of person: ". . . many even of the authorities believe in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it . . ." Why? The answer: ". . . lest they should be put out of the synagogue" (12:42).

It is often amazing to me what people will do to persuade you that, although they have a religious affiliation, they do not take it seriously. Nothing seems to unnerve them so much that someone will think they are serious about their faith. John knew the reason: "For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God." (12:43). That's not so ancient an emotion, is it?

The third type of person is probably even more common: the person who acknowledges his faith, but fails to put it into practice. Jesus warns those people: "If any one hears my sayings and does not keep them . . ." (12:47). The consequence, Jesus says, is not that Jesus will judge that person, but that the person will deny himself of the most precious of all God's gifts: "He who believes in the Son has eternal life . . ." (3:36).

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