

Farm Commentary

Meat Outlook Pessimistic

After experiencing nearly 18 months of disrupted market conditions, the cattle industry this summer faced widespread drought conditions in the West, Southwest, and parts of the Corn Belt. Stockmen are especially vulnerable to drought this year because the cattle inventory has been increasing rapidly in recent years and had topped 138 million head by mid-1974 according to the USDA's August Livestock Situation Report. Over 90 percent of these cattle were on ranges and grassland on July 1. Movement of cattle from the range due to drought, if the recent rains haven't broken it, will likely result in larger than normal increases in slaughter of cows, steers, and heifers directly from grass for the rest of 1974.

Drought conditions affecting the cattle industry will not be limited to pasture and range conditions. Reduced corn and soybean crops with sharply higher feed prices will have a substantial impact on the livestock and poultry industry and could set off a chain of events that may reverberate through the livestock industry for several years.

Summer cattle slaughter is expected to be substantially larger than last summer's low level, with most of the increase due to slaughter of cattle direct from the range rather than through the feedlot. Choice steer prices may average in the mid-\$40's, \$4-\$7 higher than in the spring. But prices of cows and grassfed steers and heifers are not expected to fully share in this price strength.

This fall, fed cattle will be in short supply but larger slaughter of cows, steers, and heifers directly from grass could boost total slaughter slightly higher than a year earlier, and weaken the fed cattle market. Choice steer prices in October-December may average in the low \$40's, greater price weakness is likely for cows and calves.

But if moisture conditions improve soon, forced movement of cattle to slaughter could be slowed and cattle prices this fall would be influenced much more by the expected low level of feedlot marketings. In this event, Choice steer prices could move higher, approaching \$50. Further range deterioration, however, resulting in much larger cattle slaughter could put considerable downward pressure on cattle prices.

The European Common Market will lend a hand to American consumers in the coming year by taking less U.S. grain for its own production of meat, milk and poultry, one of the bloc's top officials said Wednesday.

Moreover, there was an indication of larger European responsibility for food aid to needy countries and of what Agriculture Secretary Earl L. Butz called a multinational approach to satisfying world hunger.

Petrus Lardinois, the Common Market commissioner of agriculture, estimated the nine-member community would require about 10 percent less corn and other feed from the United States in 1974-75.

"We think that when you have to cut back in your own consumption, especially of corn, that it is normal that we try to do in our agricultural policy about the same," Lardinois told

a news conference.

Lardinois said he did not think the cutback would have much effect on European consumers. Retail food prices in the United States are expected to rise at least 15 percent this year and Butz has predicted they may slow to less than 10 percent in 1975.

"Generally speaking, I don't expect that the consumer prices in Europe will go up more than in the United States," Lardinois said.

Lardinois said he would urge the Common Market to take steps aimed at reducing pork and poultry production in the coming year. A cutback in cattle output already is occurring, he said.

"What we can influence in our policy is the consumption of different items," Lardinois said. "How much we could afford to import also depends on price."

As a result, the community's U.S. corn purchases might drop about 1 million metric tons or more from 10.4 million bought in the fiscal year ended last June 30.

However, Lardinois and Butz pledged that farm trade would continue and that the cutback induced by the drought-shortened U.S. corn crop this year - was by no means a signal of a general decline.

Lardinois said improved European crops this year could make more grain available for world food relief and that market officials would be watching exports closely.

"The European Community is giving food aid of about 300 million this year and we have a policy to double that in about two years," Lardinois said.

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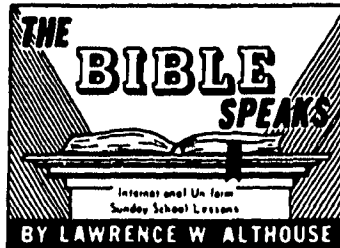
AUBURN, NEBR., PRESS-TRIBUNE: "Passing laws as a remedy for just any problem has become something of a habit, it would seem. But the futility of legislation, either in changing human nature or focusing attention on potentially better ways to achieve, keep slapping supporters down. In looking back, we may note that the strength of the nation is mainly dependent on the ability of ordinary citizens to respond to problems, individually and collectively. With so much confusion in the air, hopefully most residents will want to help reach a solution, rather than add to the problem."

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LENNOX, S.D., INDEPENDENT: "The pollsters seem to keep busy these days asking people if they approve or disapprove of the President's performance of his official duties. This may serve a good purpose, but we wonder if they couldn't ask a new question for a change, like do you or do you not approve of your congressman or senator's performance in office? If we supposedly have three equal branches of government, why not give equal attention to the actions or inactions of the legislative or judicial, along with the executive?"

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DUKE, OKA, TIMES: "I thought when young that when I got to be grown I would make decisions for myself. It was a low blow when I grew up to discover that most decisions are influenced by many circumstances, over which we have little or no control."



MAN'S "WHY?"

Lesson for September 1, 1974

Background Scripture: Genesis 1 through 3

Psychiatrist Viktor Frankl says that if a man has a "why?" for living, he will find a "how?"

That's another way of saying that "Where there's a will, there's a way." If life has a purpose, we can meet its challenges. If a man has some idea of why he is here, he can find a way to survive and prevail.

Recent medical studies indicate that there is a significant jump in the mortality rate of men within the first eighteen months after retirement. It is believed that the loss of purpose has a direct relationship and effect upon their will to live.

In his own image

A psychiatrist decided to test this idea and hired a man to participate in an experiment: he was to work for several hours, swinging an axe against a tree in the yard, but with the blade of the axe turned away from the tree! The hired man thought it would be a simple job, but after a while he quit, saying: "I've got to be able to see the chips fly!"

So it is with most of life. We have to "see the chips fly!" We have to have some purpose, some goal to achieve, some plan to fulfill. Working or playing aimlessly soon takes a heavy toll of us. Life has to have a goal and a direction.

The Bible begins with the purpose that man is given by his Creator. In Genesis we find that man is, first of all, created "in the image of God" (Genesis 1:27). No other creature was so endowed. No other aspect of creation receives this divine heritage.

But Genesis tells us, not only of man's divine heritage, but also of his purpose. The divine image of God is given to man, not just to enjoy, but to employ in a God-given task: "Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion..." (1:28).

Have dominion

Man has a purpose: to be God's steward of the universe. God places man in his garden and asks him to tend that garden so that it will be fruitful. The writer of Psalm 8 expresses this same thought:

For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet... (Psalm 8:5, 6)

Man has always been at his best when he has been aware of and responsive to that divine heritage and purpose. At his worst, he has forgotten his purpose and squandered his inheritance. He has abused the earth and its resources. He has abused God's creation and rendered to him a poor stewardship. Society always suffers when man forgets his God-given purpose.

As Frankl puts it, when we find our purpose in life, our

NOW IS THE TIME...



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To Stop Cutting Alfalfa
Agronomy experts generally agree that the first two weeks of September is the time that alfalfa plants are developing rhizomes and root strength for next year's crop; to remove the top growth during this period is expected to weaken the plants for the future. Therefore, we would suggest that local producers refrain from cutting alfalfa from the first to the fifteenth of September in Lancaster County. After that time the crop may be cut with little damage to future crops. A healthy alfalfa stand should be the goal of every grower. One or more fertilizer applications per season and good insect control are essential for good alfalfa management.

To Make Corn Silage

When corn reaches the full dent stage it is ready to be made into silage. Most of the early plantings of corn in this area will soon be in the dent stage of maturity. To make the corn crop into silage is the very best way to harvest the maximum amount of total feed nutrients per acre. Corn silage is one of the most economical feeds for both dairy and beef cattle. When corn is cut at the full dent stage it should not need any preservative to make it ferment. Additives to increase the protein content or the mineral content are suggested in order to make corn silage a more complete feed.

To Beware Of Silo Gas
Silo filling time brings the

additional hazard of dangerous silo gases in and around the silo. The development of these gases varies from year to year but is always a threat from 1 to 10 days after the silo is filled. The gas may be yellow or colorless, but in all cases it is heavier than air and will settle to the bottom of the silo or silo chute. The general aroma is of laundry bleach and is irritating to the eyes and the respiratory system. All silo filling operators and the entire farm family should be warned about this danger. Too many folks have suffered lung damage from one or more of these silo gases.

To Plan For Winter Cover Crop

More output per acre is being expected each year from our land; many acres are in a cultivated crop for several years consecutively. Most of our Lancaster County soils are low in organic matter and these practices continue to break down additional organic matter more rapidly. On farms with ample amounts of livestock manure the organic matter content is improved with each application; however without manure applications it is suggested that a winter cover crop be planted in the late summer or fall and plowed down or used to keep more organic matter in the topsoil. This may be one of the winter grains, ryegrass, or field brome grass. The winter cover crop will also help control both wind and water soil erosion.

Farm Calendar

- Monday, September 2**
2-7 P.M. Mountain Fair at Arendtsville, Pa.
- Tuesday, September 3**
Lancaster County Poultry Association Meeting at the Farm and Home Center 8:00 p.m.
- 7:00 p.m. - Alfalfa variety demonstration meeting, Mark Wolfskill Farm, Robesonia R1.
- Wednesday, September 4**
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Rae Hix dairy bull beef open house, Mohrsville.
- 8:00 p.m. - Lancaster Co. Conservation District board of directors meeting.
- Pa. Simmental Association Field Day at Beechdale Farms at Bird-in-Hand.
- Friday, September 6**
7:00 p.m. - Buck Tractor Pullers, Buck.
- Saturday, September 7**
7:00 p.m. - Buck Tractor Pullers, Buck
- Sire Power NEBA Open House at 10:30 a.m. Tunkhannock, Pa.
- Strasburg Heritage Society Third Annual Flea Market 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Lancaster Farming Photos for Sale

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The photo I want appeared in the Lancaster Farming dated _____ It was on page _____ and the caption begins _____

I would like to order the following prints

Number of prints	Size each	Cost of	Total
_____	4x5	\$1.50	_____
_____	3x7	2.00	_____
_____	8x10	2.50	_____

Total order (Please add 6 pct Pa Sales Tax) _____

Please send remittance with order. Allow 10 days for delivery.

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reason for being, we will find a way.