

Farm Commentary

Reader Urges 1056 Adoption

The Pennsylvania State Grange has urged prompt action on House Bill 1056, now in the Senate, that would provide a tax break for Pennsylvania farmers.

The measure, which was passed by the House last spring, will provide a method of taxing farmland on the basis of its use for food production, and not on its potential value for other purposes, Readinger said. It is the method proposed for implementing the Clean and Green Amendment to the State Constitution that was approved by voters in May 1973.

"We realize that land is needed for housing, business and a host of other purposes necessary for a growing population," Readinger said. "But it is time now to face reality; to recognize that the prime purpose of our best land is food production."

"We must do everything possible to encourage and help farmers keep their land in production. The present

legislation pending in the Senate is but one step in this direction, a step that dare not be delayed any longer."

Drought in the Midwest, he explained, has drastically reduced feed grain crops that are vitally needed for dairy, livestock and poultry production. Present indications are that the total U. S. production of these grains will be approximately 15 percent less than last year.

The result, Readinger said, will be sharp increases in grain and feed prices and a tighter cost-price squeeze on Pennsylvania farmers, especially dairy farmers. Some, whose finances are already strained, will be forced to sell cattle to keep going. Others may have to sell out . . . both land and livestock.

The situation, Readinger said, emphasizes the need for preserving every possible acre of productive farmland for the good of all Pennsylvanians.

Prices Received Index Up Second Straight Month

The Index of Prices Received by Farmers moved up 6 points (3 pct.) during the month ended Aug. 15, USDA reported last week. At 181 (pct. of its Jan.-Dec. 1967 average), the index was still 27 points (13 pct.) below the record high set in Aug. 1973.

Meanwhile, the Index of Prices Paid by Farmers also moved up 5 points (3 pct.). At a record high 173, this index was 22 points (15 pct.) above a year

earlier. The Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid moved up 1 point to 105. It had stood at 138 a year earlier.

Under the old 1910-14 formula, Prices Received advanced from 444 to 461 during the month, and had been 529 a year earlier. Prices Paid advanced from 573 to 590 and were 517 a year earlier. And, the parity ratio advanced one point to 78. It had stood at 102 a year ago.

Butter Output Continues Up

U.S. butter production, estimated at 78.4 million lbs. during July, was up 16 pct. from a year earlier. This marks the second straight month output has been above that of a corresponding month a year earlier.

Prior to this, butter output had been below that of a corresponding month a year earlier every month since Feb. 1972. Despite the June-July increases, butter output for the first 7 months totaled only 585

million lbs., down 5 pct. from a year earlier.

Meanwhile, output of American cheese totaled 165 million lbs. for the month. That's 8 pct. above a year earlier and the highest July output on record. This brings the Jan.-July American cheese output total to 1.2 billion lbs., up 16 pct. from a year earlier. It was also the 10th straight month output has exceeded that of a corresponding month a year earlier.

Price Boost Pushed Ag Imports Up

Volume of U.S. agricultural imports in 1973-74 about the same as a year earlier. But, higher prices boosted the value of those imports 30 pct. above the 1972-73 total -- to \$9.5 billion -- USDA reported last week.

Some examples: Though coconut oil imports, at 562 million lbs., were down 23 pct. from a year earlier, the value of those imports, at \$128 million, was up 118 pct. from 1972-

73, and though dry form crude rubber imports, at 1.4 billion lbs., were up only 13 pct., the value of those imports, at \$466 million, was up 122 pct.

Of course, there were other reasons. Dairy product imports, at \$461 million, were up 131 pct. mainly because expanded import quotas helped boost butter, cheese, and nonfat milk import totals.

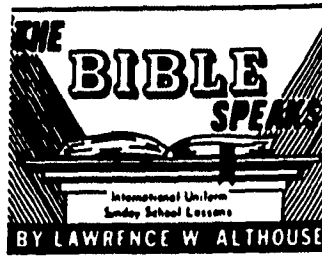
Meat Output Up Sharply During July

U.S. red meat production up sharply during July. At 30 billion lbs., it was 14 pct. more than a year earlier, 14 pct. above that for July 1972, and 3 pct. more than that produced in June of this year.

Beef production, at 19 billion lbs., was up 15 pct. from a year earlier, and 15 pct. above that for July 1972. Veal output, at 34 million lbs., was up 42 pct. from a year earlier. Pork production totaled 10 billion lbs., up

14 pct. from a year earlier, 13 pct. above that for July 1972. Lamb and mutton output totaled 36 million lbs., down 16 pct. from a year earlier.

July totals brought red meat output for the first 7 months to 214 billion lbs., up 7 pct. from a year earlier. Beef, at 130 billion lbs., up 7 pct.; veal, at 201 million lbs., up 3 pct.; pork, at 79 billion lbs., up 8 pct.; and veal, at 264 million lbs., down 11 pct. from a year earlier.



THE MEANING OF 'CHOSEN'

Lesson for September 8, 1974

Background Scripture: Genesis 12 through 17.
Devotional Reading: Genesis 15:1-16.

There's an old piece of doggerel that goes like this: **We are God's chosen few; All others will be damned; There is no place in Heaven for you; We can't have Heaven crammed.**

Many people have comforted themselves with the conviction that they were "God's chosen few." It is understandable—if not accurate—because at the heart of the Old Testament there is the concept of a "chosen people." Modified, this concept reaches on into the New Testament and Christianity itself.

"God Said: . . . Go!"

The concept of being "chosen," as far as the Bible is concerned, is valid, but what does it mean?

The story of Abraham furnishes us with some insight in attempting to answer that question. First of all, we find that in being "chosen" by God, Abraham received "a call" from him. In the Bible "a call" means a direct challenge from God to do something. In Genesis 12, for example, we read: "Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you' (12:1). Again and again in the Bible we find God making this "call" to men whom he has chosen: Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Samuel, Elijah, and others. Each time, as with Abraham, God comes with a challenge to perform some missions or task for the Lord.

The "call" God gives Abraham is no small request: he is to leave behind his homeland for a country utterly alien to him. Put yourself in Abram's shoes: wouldn't you find this first aspect of his call rather unnerving? Maybe being "chosen" isn't as great as we thought it might be?

"...I Will Bless You"

Yet, along with the disturbing "call" there is also a promise: "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you . . ." (12:2). God always equips those who embark on his challenging missions with a promise of some kind. The challenge is always conditional on the promise, just as the promise is dependent upon a response to the challenge.

Unfortunately, too many people have looked only upon one side of the covenant agreement. They have ignored the challenge and focused upon the promises. They have thought in terms of what "is coming to them" as "God's chosen," and ignored what is expected of those whom God chooses and blesses. They have concentrated upon the "honor" to the exclusion of the "responsibility."

To be sure, there is a sense of "honor" in being

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

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To Treat for Cattle Grubs

To Top-Dress Alfalfa Stand
The fall application of phosphorus and potash to alfalfa is strongly recommended to improve the yield for the following season. This is usually done after the removal of the last crop; this can be late in September or anytime in October and should give good results. It is doubtful if the application of any nitrogen is a good investment for established alfalfa at any time. If animals are grazing on the final stand of alfalfa, there should be a good rain between the application of the fertilizer and the return of the animals to the area.

To Treat for Cattle Grubs
Some local dairymen and beef cow producers may be interested in controlling the grubs in their cattle. This is often referred to as "warbles" in the backs of cattle. Good control of these grubs may be obtained by treating the animals in September. The application of insecticides such as Warbex, Co-Ral, or Ruelene to beef cattle or to non-milking dairy cattle is suggested. Do not treat milking cows. The treating of cattle this month will remove the warble problem next spring. Producers are urged to recognize the time of treatment in relation to slaughter times.

To Get Winter Grain Supplies

The seeding of winter barley and wheat is coming fast and seed supplies may not be adequate. We strongly urge that growers get their supplies on hand of the amount and varieties wanted. Certified seed is the place to start because the cost of inputs is high and the chances of a better yield are greater with certified seeds. In addition, top quality seed should contain less disease and less weed seeds. Feed grains are in strong demand and market prices very high; local growers are urged to plant the maximum acreage and strive for maximum yields.

To Ventilate Tobacco Sheds

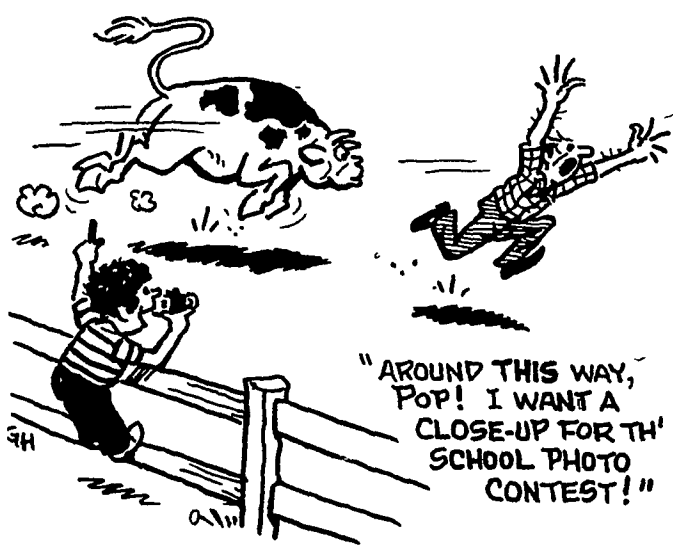
The current tobacco crop is developing into a very heavy crop with extra large leaves and stems. Unless we get better drying weather, there could be some shed drying problems. We need dry weather, with clear days and low humidity to get the moisture out of the tobacco plants after they are placed in the sheds. Growers with large fans are urged to use them to get air moving through the shed. Special attention to this heavy and high-moisture tobacco crop will be needed in the next few weeks. Some growers may want to hang some of their crop on scaffolds for a few days to help eliminate the chances of shed problems.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, September 7
Sire Power - NEBA Open House 10:30 a.m. at the Headquarters in Tunkhannock.
Strasburg Heritage Society Third Annual Flea Market 9:00 - 6:00.
Buck Tractor Pull at the Buck 7:00 p.m.
Monday, September 9
9-11th National Barrow Show in Austin, Minnesota

Tuesday, September 10
10-14th York Inter-State Fair
Thursday, September 12
Merrill Lynch Seminar on Hedging farm products, Lancaster Stock Yards Auction Pavilion.
Friday, September 13
Buck Tractor Pull at the Buck 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, September 14
Buck Tractor Pull at the Buck 7:00 p.m.

LAFF OF THE WEEK



"chosen" by God, but his purpose in calling a person is much more a matter of the

task that is to be performed. That's what it means to be "chosen."