

# Farm Commentary

## Crop Report: Encouragement And A Warning

USDA's September Crop Report issued last week contained some encouragement - and a warning. The encouragement was in the form of slight gains seen in the corn and soybean prospects. The warning was that the season's first freezing temperatures over the Labor Day weekend in the Dakotas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nebraska and Iowa caused some damage, but that the damage was NOT reflected in the report.

CORN prospects now seen at 4.995 billion bu., up 29 billion bu. from the August forecast, but 11 pct. below a year ago; SORGHUM GRAIN at 645 million bu., up 4 pct. from a month earlier, though 31 pct. below a year earlier. And, FEED GRAIN (corn, sorghum, oats, barley) out put at 176 million tons, up 1 pct. from the Aug. forecast.

SOYBEAN production forecast at 1.316 billion bu., up fractionally from a month ago, but 16 pct. below 1973's total. WHEAT production now seen at 1.792 billion bu., down 3 pct (48 million bu.) from a month ago, but still record high (CROP PRODUCTION).

## Milk Production Up For Second Straight Month

U.S. milk production, at 9.6 billion lbs during August, up 12 pct. from a year ago. This marks a second straight month output has been above that of a corresponding month a year earlier.

July's output, at 10.1 billion lbs., exceeded that of July 1973 by 2-10 of 1 pct. Prior to that, production had been below that of a corresponding month a year earlier for 20 successive months.

Reason for the gain: Higher output per cow. Though cow numbers, at 11,135,000, were off 2 pct. from a year earlier in August, output per cow, at 860 lbs., was up 3 pct. from that of a year earlier.

Another reason: Higher output in 4 key States that account for nearly 39 pct of the Nation's total. It was up 3 pct (to 1.5 billion lbs.) in Wisconsin; up 5 pct (to 956 million lbs.) in California; up 6 pct (to 788 million lbs.) in New York, up 5 pct. (to 566 million lbs.) in Pennsylvania.

Despite the July-August gains, output for the first 8 months, at 78.9 billion lbs., was still off 1.5 pct from a year earlier.

## Hog Imports Are Going Hog Wild!

Hog imports continue to zoom! At 53,005 head during July, they were 6-times that of a year earlier. Heading for a new record? Forget it. The record high for a full calendar year was 89,032 head set in 1972. That was passed as of June.

Through July, U.S. hog imports stand at 151,033 head. That's more than 3-times the Jan.-July total of a year ago. All are from Canada.

Meanwhile, imports of both cattle and sheep and lambs were up slightly during July, but both are still running well below 1973's pace for the first 7 months. July cattle imports totaled 35,186 head, up from 33,488 head a year earlier. Imports of sheep and lamb totaled only 61 head, up from 46 head a year earlier. The Jan.-July totals: Cattle imports 508,445 head, down from 20 pct.; sheep and lamb only 221 head, was 3,949 a year earlier.

## Wheat Bountiful in Argentina

Wheat may be in short supply in most grain producing countries, but it's straining Argentina's storage facilities, according to USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. Though wheat acreage was cut 24 pct. from a year ago, the harvest is now seen at 6.7 million tons, down only 3 pct. from last year. Moreover, bumper sorghum, corn and rice crops are in or coming in this year.

## Cattle On Feed Down Sharply From Year Ago

There may be cattle being raised for slaughter out there, but fewer and fewer of them are on feed. Those on feed for slaughter market in the 7 major feeding States totaled only 6,855,000 head on Sept. 1. That's down 25 pct. from a year earlier, 21 pct. below the Sept. 1, 1972 total.

Cutbacks ranged from 30 pct. below in Iowa, to 18 pct. below in California. In between they were down 29 pct. in Nebraska, 28 pct. in Arizona, 24 pct. in both Kansas and Texas, 23 pct. in Colorado.

A further check shows August marketings totaled 1,140,000 head, down 22 pct. from a year earlier, while August placements, at 1,292,000 head, were down 8 pct. from a year earlier.

# Letters to the Editor

Enclosed please find a small story that would be of interest to some farmers in regards to conserving water around their springs, a very important item on any farm in Lancaster County. I farmed a place near Eden for eight years before I sold it to Ernest Miller of Lancaster in 1925.

day or two of flooding, the spring must be cleaned out. But that's a small item for a farmer.

Sincerely,  
Chester Paes.

We all Enjoy Lancaster Farming! The pictures are fine, the special articles by Mrs. McSparran are always

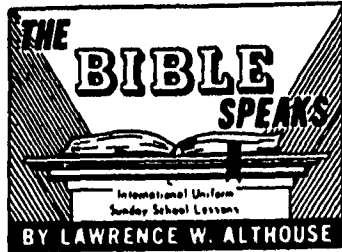
interesting, the public sales coverage is easy to read. I turn first to mail box market and the classified ads to search for items I need.

We would like to thank you for the ads you printed for us in mail box market. No other paper has been such a help to the country folks.

Mrs. Siegrist.

There was a spring on the farm which I had had tested, and found that it was 99 percent pure. Miller built a wall around the spring in 1925, and it cost him \$2500 to do it.

There is one bad fault about this spring. It is along the Conestoga River, and when the river gets too high, it covers the spring. After a



Lesson for September 22, 1974

Background Scripture: Joshua 24  
Devotional Reading: Deuteronomy 5:1-6.

What, you may wonder, is the need for another covenant at Schechem (Joshua 24), when the people of Israel have already made several covenants with the Lord. First God made the covenant with Abraham, then to Isaac, then to Jacob, then with Moses. Why should Joshua have to take the people through all this again?

The answer is not that God did not keep his promise or that he had cancelled the covenant. In fact, at Schechem, a frequent gathering place for the Israelites in the period during and following the conquest of the Promised Land under Joshua, they were reminded of God's faithfulness in performing his part of the agreement. He had fulfilled his promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and Aaron. As he had promised, he brought them out of the wilderness of Sinai and Negev and brought them into the Promised Land. One by one God has kept his promises.

"Now Therefore..."

The reason for a new covenant or the re-establishment of the old one was to be found, not in what God had done, but in what the people of Israel had done. They had not renounced their faith in him, they had not overtly refused to obey him. Yet, their failure, though more subtle, was no less damaging than if they had.

The key to their failure is found in these key words by Joshua: "... serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness" (Joshua 24:14). They were still going through the motions of serving the Lord, but they were really quite insincere, for Joshua goes on to specify: "... put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River, and in Egypt, and serve the Lord" (24:14). Their problem is that they are trying to serve God plus other deities. They have not discarded their religion, but they have watered it down.

Make Your Choice

Joshua knows that a people cannot serve God if, at the same time, they try to serve others. The ways of the Lord are constantly in conflict with the religious practices of other gods. A man trying to serve two gods at the same time is a divided man, just as a nation trying to serve several gods is a divided nation. If a man's life is to be whole, he can serve only one God and if a nation is to be unified it must serve one God alone. Thus, Joshua challenges the people of Israel to make their choice: "... choose this day whom you will serve" (24:15).

from man's perspective, one covenant is never enough, for, having made them, we drift away from our promises, we water-down our commitments, and from time to time we need to make them anew. Though

# NOW IS THE TIME...



Max Smith  
County Agr. Agent  
Telephone 394-6851

## To Beware of Silo Gas

Silo filling is going at full tilt now and many acres of corn will be made into silage in the next few weeks. We support the making of corn into silage in order to get the maximum pounds of milk or pounds of weight gain from an acre of corn. However, there is some danger in and around the silo at filling time. The formation of various kinds of gases can take place from one to 10 days after the silage is cut. Most of these gases are dangerous and all members of the family should be warned to stay away from the area. We urge more attention to this possible danger because we have had some injuries here in Lancaster County.

## To Graze Legume With Care

A number of phone calls at our Extension Office reflects some interest in the practice of grazing alfalfa and clover fields this fall. This is a common practice and one good way to utilize the late growth on these fields. However, there is danger of bloating when animals are allowed to graze legumes when wet with dew, rain, or frost. The forage should always be dry when the animals are grazing and also, it is best to feed them some dry matter such as hay, straw, or silage before going to pasture. Dairymen should remove their milking cows at least four hours prior to the next milking time; this is to avoid off-flavored milk.

## To Soil Test This Fall

Planning ahead is part of good farm management and the testing of soil samples this fall rather than next spring is strongly recommended at this time. The needs of each field should be known far ahead of the planting season so that purchase arrangements may be made. When lime and fertilizer orders are placed months ahead of the time needed, then there could be some price adjustments and more assurance of getting what is needed. The accuracy of the needs of the soil tested this fall will be just as good as those tested next spring. Don't wait until the spring rush when services may not be as good and prices may be higher.

## To Segregate New Animals

This is the time of the year when many new cattle are brought into the county; shipping fever has been one of the major problems in getting new cattle; there are other infections about as bad. All of them require special handling in order to prevent the spread of any infection. To keep new cattle separate from acclimated cattle for at least 30 days is still good management. In breeding herds it is especially important to segregate new animals rather than to endanger the whole herd or flock. Buy from clean premises and be sure the new animals are free from infection before mixing with local animals.

# Farm Calendar

- Monday, September 23**  
Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg. Through Sept. 27.
- Oley Valley Fair, Oley, Dauphin County. Through Sept. 28.
- Bloomsburg Fair, Bloomsburg, Columbia County. Through Sept. 28.
- Ephrata Fair, Ephrata, Lancaster County. Through Sept. 28.
- Tuesday, September 24**  
West Lampeter Fair, West Lampeter, Lancaster County. Through Sept. 28.
- Wednesday, September 25**  
National Dairy Shrine Club annual meeting and banquet, Harrisburg.
- Maryland Poultry Servicemen's Conference, Interstate Inn, College Park, Md. Through Sept. 26.
- Thursday, September 26**  
Eastern National Holstein Show, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg. Through Sept. 27.

minimum tillage tour, sponsored by Berks County extension. Bus leaves Agway at Leesport. Reservations due by Sept. 23, cost \$1 per person. Lunch to be provided. Call Berks County ASCS office, 376-6119 for more information.

## Thought For Food



**Egg Salad Spread**  
Mix 1/2 teaspoon powdered mustard with 1/2 teaspoon warm water and let stand 10 minutes for flavor to develop. Combine mustard with 6 hard cooked eggs, chopped 2 to 3 tablespoons sweet pickle relish, 4 tablespoons mayonnaise 2 teaspoons instant onion powder 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper. Mix well. Add additional mayonnaise if more moist spread is desired. Yields 2 cups egg salad (sufficient filling for 4 to 6 sandwiches).

God faithfully keeps his side of the covenant, we do not. Yet, instead of cancelling his promises, God keeps the covenant open and gives us the opportunity to choose