

Farm Commentary

TREE SALE ENDS OCT. 19

Henry Hackman, Lancaster County Conservation District executive assistant, reminded landowners this week that the District's first annual tree sale will end on October 19. If you'd like to buy some vigorous, three-year-old trees for planting next spring, contact the conservation district and give them your order. Four varieties are offered - Norway Spruce, Blue Spruce, White Pine and Douglas Fir. Buyers will be able to pick up their trees next April at public high schools in their school districts. Trees will come in packets of ten, and each packet will cost \$1. Send your order, with a check, to the Lancaster County Conservation District, Room 4, Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, Pa.

PRICES RECEIVED DOWN 2 PERCENT

The Index of Prices Received by Farmers decreased 3 points (2 pct.) to 178 pct. of its Jan. - Dec. 1967 average during the month ended Sept. 15, USDA reported last week. Lower prices for livestock, potatoes, dry beans, soybeans and corn were mainly responsible for the decline, though higher prices for eggs, milk, broilers and wheat were partially offsetting. The index was 13 points (7 pct.) below a year ago.

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers increased 2 points (1 pct.) from mid-August. At 175, it was 25 points (17 pct. above a year earlier. Higher prices for farm machinery and fertilizer were mainly responsible for the increase.

The ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid was down 3 points to 102. It had stood at 127 a year earlier.

Under the 1910-14 indexes, Prices Received declined 10 points to 451 and were 485 a year earlier; Prices Paid increased 9 points to 598, up from 513 in Sept 1973; and the Parity Ratio declined 3 points to 75. It stood at 95 a year ago. (Agricultural Prices)

A BREAKDOWN ON PRICES

Here's a further breakdown on the Prices Received, Prices Paid Indexes from the Ag Prices Report for September. The Meat Animal index declined 9 pct. from a month earlier, was 29 pct. below a year ago. Poultry & Eggs, up 13 pct. from Aug, but down 22 pct. below a year ago. Potatoes, Dry Beans index, down 18 pct. from Aug, but up 28 pct. from a year earlier. Dairy Products up 3 pct. from Aug, but 1 pct. below Sept 1973. Oil Bearing Crops, down 2 pct. from Aug, but 23 pct. above a year ago. Food Grains, up 2 pct. from Aug, but 9 pct. below a year ago.

And, on the Prices Paid side, the Fertilizer index was up 19 pct. from April, 81 pct. above Sept 1973. In Sept., beef cattle prices dropped \$3.80 per cwt. to \$32.80 and were \$46.70 a year earlier. Calves were down \$4.40 per cwt. to \$29.90 and were \$61.20 a year ago. Hogs were down \$2.50 per cwt. to \$33.60 and were \$43.80 a year ago.

Wheat was up 8 cents per bu. to \$4.32. A year ago it was \$4.62. Corn was down 7 cents a bu. to \$3.30. A year ago it was \$2.15. Soybeans

declined 23 cents per bu. to \$7.32 and were \$5.81 a year ago. Dry edible beans declined \$6.80 per cwt. to \$21.50. A year ago they were \$17.90 and during Jan. - Dec. 1967, they averaged \$7.99.

And, fertilizer: Anhydrous ammonia averaged \$229 a ton in Sept., up from \$183 in April. A year ago, it was \$92.50. In Sept. 1972, it averaged \$80.80 per ton. Urea, at \$96.20 per ton a year ago and \$183 in April, was up to \$232 in Sept. Superphosphate, at \$94.10 per ton last Sept. and \$150 in April, was \$188 per ton in Sept. (Ag. Prices).

WORLD WHEAT, CORN, OATS CROPS DOWN

World production of wheat, corn and oats for 1974 all seen down, according to USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, but output of both rye and barley is expected to be up.

World wheat output is estimated at 352 million metric tons, down 15.6 million (4 pct.) from a year earlier -- mainly because of lower production in the USSR. Output there is seen at only 90 million tons, down 18 pct. (nearly 20 million tons) from a year earlier.

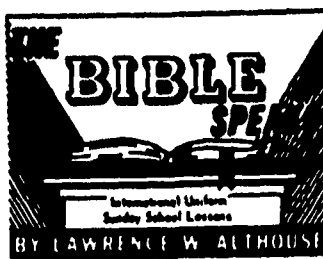
Corn production is seen at 297.5 million tons, down 15 million tons from last year -- mainly because of lower output in the U.S. Production in the U.S. is seen at about 127 million tons, down 16.5 million tons from 1973. The United States normally produces about 45 percent at total world corn output, but U.S. yields were down more than 14 percent in 1974 because of the severe drought in the Corn Belt. Corn production in South America, Western Europe, USSR, and Asia is expected to be up. African corn output is expected to be down about 2 million tons in 1974 with all of the decline being in South Africa. In 1973, weather conditions were almost ideal in South Africa permitting a record crop of over 11 million tons to be produced.

World oat output is estimated at 52.3 million tons, down 3 pct. from that of 1973 -- mainly because of decreased area and lower yields. Barley production is estimated at a record 157 million tons, up 1 pct. (1½ million tons) from 1973; rye production is now seen at 29.3 million tons, up 2 pct. (500,000 tons) from 1973, with a 15 pct. increase in area planted more than offsetting lower yields. (World Agricultural Production and Trade).

MEAT IMPORTS SEEN LOWER

Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz now estimates that imports of meats covered by the Meat Import Law will total 1.115 million (1 billion, 115 million) lbs. for all of 1975. That's 8 pct. below his estimate made 3 months ago and 18 pct. below the total for all of 1973.

Imports in this category totaled 101.4 million lbs. in Aug, down 35 pct. from a year earlier. Imports in this category for the first 8 months of 1974 totaled 717 million lbs., down from 855 million lbs. a year earlier. Meat subject to the Meat Import Law includes fresh or frozen beef, veal,



A HOLY PLACE

Lesson for October 12, 1974

Background Scripture: 2 Chronicles 5 through 7.
Devotional Reading: 2 Chronicles 6:12-21.

In Jerusalem today on a hill called Mt. Moriah stands the beautiful Mosque of Omar, the third most important Moslem shrine in the world. This spot is also sacred to Jews for it is also believed to have been the site of the Hebrew Temple.

Inside the mosque in the very center of that ornate place of worship is a large rock on which tradition tells us Abraham offered to sacrifice Isaac. Tradition also tells us that later this same rock served as the altar stone of the Temple.

People of all faiths usually find this spot one of spiritual significance. It seems a holy place, a place where in some way God is uniquely present.

God is somewhere

Of course, I know that God is not limited to specific geographical locations. Too long many Christians have assumed that the presence of God has been limited to the sanctuary of their churches. "I can worship God anywhere," we say and it is true.

A little boy asked his Sunday school teacher where God is. The teacher replied: "Why God is everywhere." "Yeah," replied the little boy, "but I want him to be somewhere!"

Without realizing it, the little boy was a theologian! He realized that it is not enough for God to be "everywhere." We need to find him in some specific places as well.

So there are "holy places," where God seems especially present to us. This doesn't mean that God is limited to geographical locations or that he is "more present" in some places than others. What it does mean, however, is that there are some places where, for one reason or another, we are more aware and receptive to his presence.

People will often say something like, "I can worship God just as well on the golf course," and it is true that they can. Yet, often, perhaps usually, although they can, they don't!

Glory filled the house

The Jews knew that they could worship God at many places - and they did. Still, they also believed that the most meaningful worship for them was that which took place in the Temple at Jerusalem. It was here that they found the ark of the covenant, a significant symbol of God's presence with them now and in the past.

It was here also that they found the two tablets of law that God gave to Moses, reminding them of the ethical and moral basis of their faith. Here also they were moved to sing praise and thanksgiving to their God, to celebrate his "steadfast love." And here they offered sacrifice and humble penitence, in return for which they received God's forgiveness and help.

NOW IS THE TIME...

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
Telephone 394-6851



TO BE ALERT FOR CORN EAR ROT

Some corn growers are reporting too many ears of corn with a pink rot on the end of the ear; this is known as Gibberella Ear Rot and is caused by cool, damp weather during the maturity period of the corn. The distinctive symptom is the development of a reddish mold that originates at the tip of the ear and progresses toward the butt. The suggestion is made to allow the corn to dry down to at least 25 percent before picking or shelling. Corn stored with too much moisture will continue to develop more mold. Corn with this ear rot should not be fed to swine because it is toxic to them and will make them sick and females may abort their litters. When over 5 percent of the ears are infected the corn may be fed to cattle or poultry but should be mixed with other grains. Growers are urged to be on the alert for this mold.

TO EVALUATE FEED GRAINS

It seems that modern agriculture includes more and more uncertainties. The use of feed grains in livestock rations needs close evaluation because of the changes from week to week. There was a time when protein feeds were the most expensive; now corn is the high priced ingredient. Feeding authorities suggest that we should evaluate the price of mixed feeds in comparison to grains with high corn content; the mixed feeds could provide the essentials cheaper than the corn. Dairymen should use maximum forage crops to provide the nutrients and

consider a reduced grain feeding program. A forage test on the silage and hay with the request for a feeding recommendation might save many farmers hundreds of dollars this winter.

TO CHECK

HEATING SYSTEMS

Cool weather has arrived and there's more to come. Stoves in tobacco cellars and other buildings should be checked in order to prevent fires. Flue pipes should be tight and chimneys should be inspected for broken mortar joints or other breaks where sparks might get out into the building. Many farm fires have been caused by the neglect to check and correct these problems. Replacement costs are extremely high and good fire prevention practices are extremely important at this time.

TO UTILIZE

FROSTED SOYBEANS

The recent freezing weather caught many fields of immature soybeans in this part of the state. Beans that were planted in May or early June should have been matured to the point that the frost will not hurt too badly. However, double-crop beans that were soft at the time of the freeze will not mature but merely dry up. These beans could have been made into silage with good feeding results. Also it is possible to let them dry, combine and dry them, and use for livestock feeding purposes. They may contain only about two-thirds of normal feed value but still can be utilized in dairy and livestock rations. For some species of animals they need to be roasted or extruded before being fed.

Farm Calendar

Tuesday, October 15
7:30 a.m. - Lancaster County Poultry Association, one-day tour. Bus leaves Farm and Home Center at 7:30 a.m.
1:00 p.m. - Midwest New Cattle Breeds Classic Sale. AR-SAR-BEN Sale Pavilion, Omaha, Neb.
7:45 p.m. - Ephrata Area Adult Farmers monthly meeting, vo-ag department, Ephrata Sr. High School
FFA 47th National Convention, Kansas City, Mo. Continues through Oct. 18.
Wednesday, October 16
8:00 p.m. - Preserving Lancaster County's Agricultural Heritage, speech and panel discussion at Lancaster

Farm and Home Center. Public invited.

Thursday, October 17
Dillsburg Community Fair. Continues through October 19.

FFA Alumni Association National Meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Continues through October 18.

Saturday, October 19
Last day for ordering trees from Lancaster County Conservation District first annual tree sale.
Farm Tractor Pull, Rough and Tumble Historical Association grounds, Kinzer.

Sunday, October 20
Northeastern Poultry Producers Council annual convention, Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Chestnut St., at 9th, Philadelphia.

Editor's Quote Book

Time is the most valuable thing a man can spend.
Theophrastus

Everyone, regardless of what they call their religion, needs "holy places" where they can experience that king of worship reality. (Note: Mr. Althouse will conduct a 15-day tour to Bible Lands, February 12-26. If interested, write: Box 115,