

Farm Commentary

FARM SHOW TIME

Last year we reminded our readers to fill up before they went to the Farm Show because they might not be able to get gas in Harrisburg. No need for that warning this year. You can have all the gas you want at 55-cents a gallon.

Farm show director Wellington Smith has high hopes for the revenue to be gained from the \$1 parking fee we talk about in our page one story. His only fear is a traffic jam resulting from folks who are a little slow about getting their dollar out. We hope everything runs smoothly. It's a cinch the Farm Show folks need the money, and it's sure a small price to pay for the biggest agricultural exhibit in the Northeast.

One of our favorite Farm Show highlights is that row of booths along the East wall of the main exhibition building. That's where you find some of Pennsylvania's finest eating.

Everybody gripes about the Farm Show weather, but honestly, won't you feel something's missing if you don't have to wade through three inches of slush to get to the arena?

Incidentally, you'll have to pay to park at the main parking lot, but parking's still free at the Harrisburg Area Community College campus.

CLEAN AND GREEN BILL

House Bill 1056 was finally signed into law the other week. This preferential farm tax measure had rocky going for awhile, with the Pennsylvania Farmers Association and the Pennsylvania Grange at odds over key provisions. The two groups, though, worked with legislators towards a compromise.

The law allows farmers to pay tax on actual farm value of their land, rather than its potential value for development. It also allows them to sell off some land each year, and it contains a rollback provision which requires farmers to pay back any tax savings if they sell for development.

Although the measure has been touted as a land use bill, many farm leaders think of it as a means of relieving tax pressures on farmers. The farmer who can't afford to pay taxes on inflated property values can't afford to stay in farming.

County boards of assessment will have the authority to decide on fair values for farmland in their individual counties.

HAPPY NEW YEAR - WE HOPE

Forecasters are predicting generally gray skies for the nation's economy in 1975, but many of them are saying that things aren't going to be as black as some people think.

In our page one prognostication this week, Lancaster County Agent Max Smith tells us that good managers should be able to weather the economic perils of the year ahead, so sharpen up those pencils.

TOBACCO MARKETING BEGINS

Tobacco buying got off to a roaring start this week, with A. K. Mann Tobacco Company paying 60 cents a pound for some of the 1975 crop. This price is up quite a bit from last year's average of about 53-cents a pound and the high last year 5-cent range.

The tobacco being sold at 60 cents was all Pennsylvania Type 41 top grade sorted binder tobacco. Maryland seed tobacco sold earlier

went for 75-cents a pound to out-of-state buyers. Most growers of the Maryland type tobacco are concentrated in the Eastern portion of the county.

A COOP THAT PAYS

With all the hoo-ha about failing cooperatives lately, we were cheered this week when we read about the Maryland Cooperative Milk Producers, Baltimore. The MCMP board of directors told their 960 members recently that the coop management would be returning a total of \$238,000 to members as a result of a \$589,000 savings on operations in the first ten months of 1974.

MCMP business manager R. L. Strock said the total savings for 1974 are expected to top \$700,000, with the balance of around \$450,000 being distributed to members this coming September.

CANADIAN CLAMPDOWN ON BEEF IMPORTS

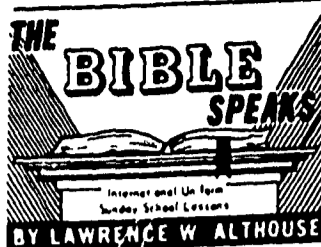
The recent unilateral decision by Canada to place quotas on its cattle and beef imports is expected to severely inhibit U.S. livestock trade with Canada - by far the largest foreign market for U.S. livestock and meat. Reflecting in part problems with Canada's new beef grading system which places a premium on lean meat over the traditionally preferred well marbled meat, the new quota could mean a total loss of over \$100 million in our livestock and meat trade.

CATTLE GAIN WELL ON WOOD PULP

Animal nutritionists with USDA's Agricultural Research Service report that wastes from paper mills may provide food energy for cattle in the future. Researchers have found that cattle grow well and gain weight rapidly on diets consisting of up to 75 percent pulp fines - the tiny wood fibers which sift through the screens used in making paper. An estimated 17 million tons of wood pulp and papermaking fiber residues are produced annually in the United States and currently these waste products are burned or used as landfill. The USDA researchers fed beef heifers a diet consisting of 50 percent pulp fines for 99 days and found that these heifers gained weight more rapidly than heifers fed a control diet of hay. When nine pregnant heifers were fed a diet of 75 percent pulp fines, weight gain, calf birth weight, and calving problems were no different than with heifers fed the hay.

HIRED FARMWORKERS

About 27 million persons age 14 and over made up the 1973 hired farm working force. The group's profile reveals most were young white males who lived in nonfarm areas. About half - primarily students and housewives - were not in the labor force most of the year and only 27 percent were engaged chiefly in farm work. The number of migratory workers has been rising slightly since 1971, but the nonmigratory group showed a 6 percent drop during 1973 after increasing during the 2 preceding years. Last year's decrease in the number of hired farmworkers was greatest in the South and among seasonal workers, reflecting the reduction in cotton acreage and in the production of poultry.



THE MASTER TEACHER

Lesson for January 5, 1974

Background Scripture: Matthew 5:17-48; 7:24-29; 10:24,25a, 13:33-52.

Devotional Reading: Psalms 78:1-8.

One of the most beautiful afternoons of my life was spent on a lovely hillside overlooking the Sea of Galilee. Having visited this spot, the traditional Mount of the Sermon, with a tour group in December of 1973, I determined last May on a second visit to Israel that I would spend some time at this place alone.

I sat in the shaded garden next to the graceful Italian chapel and from my little red New Testament I read the Sermon on the Mount. The familiar words took on a new significance for me as the Master Teacher spoke to my heart.

"... These words of mine ..."

As many were drawn to Jesus because of his healing works, others were attracted because, as one of his disciples put it, "You have the words of eternal life." Men came to him, not only to be healed, but also to learn, to grow, mature.

They learned that the teachings of Jesus, new and different as they might seem, were neither of these. His teachings were linked to the teachings they already knew. What seemed different was both the intensity of these words and their tendency to make clear what before had been obscure. "I have not come to abolish them," said this Master Teacher, "but to fulfill them" (Matthew 5:17).

His intention, of fulfilling them, was to make clear their purpose and intention, to push them to their highest application. His teaching always pointed beyond the letter of the law to the spirit. "For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (5:20).

Hearing and doing. Something else that was significant about the teachings of Jesus was the imperative he set upon them as well as hearing them. Jesus was not dealing with "nice words," although one would often think today that that was their purpose. The words were for instruction as well as inspiration. Jesus had great disdain for "pretty words" that did not become deeds.

The writer of Matthew tells us two reactions to Jesus' teaching. "The crowds were astonished" and they regarded him as a teacher with real "authority." Unlike their scribes who were officially recognized authorities, this man taught them in a way that needed no certification. What he said touched responsive chords within their own minds and hearts. His words had the ring of truth.

One of the interesting things he taught them about truth is its pervasive influence. Holding up a parable, he said: "The



NOW IS THE TIME...

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
Telephone 394-6851

To Order Supplies

Farm planning for the 1975 season should be done soon. This will require evaluation of the farm records and major decisions regarding the enterprises to be expanded or stressed for the year. The ordering of supplies should take priority because many materials may not be available later in the spring. This is always good advice but more important this year. Dealers will appreciate advance orders in order to plan their work load and make agreements for their needs.

To Stress Forages

Feed costs are a major item in all livestock operations and every producer should make an effort to keep his costs as low as possible. Under present grain prices it is timely to get as many of the feed nutrients from quality roughages rather than from grains and concentrates. Gains and production may not break any records when forage crops are utilized more, but net returns from the enterprise could be greater. Under present feed costs prices, it appears that

both livestock and dairy operators will have to give more attention to feed nutrients from the forage crops rather than from the grain feeds. Therefore, farm planning to have a good supply of quality roughages for 1975 is very much in order.

To Beware Of Bargains

We are aware of considerable salesman traffic in the rural areas from strangers who may appear to be promoting "bargains." Our experience with these folks would suggest that farmers be very cautious about dealing with a stranger that is selling a product below the local cost. In many cases the product may be inferior and when adjustments are to be made, the salesman has traveled to another part of the country. We are blessed with many good dealers and concerns in this part of the state and most of them are reliable people in the community and deserve to be patronized. In far too many cases the dealing with a stranger may turn out to be very expensive.

Farm Calendar

- Mon., Jan. 1**
Pennsylvania Farm Shows opens, Harrisburg.
8:00 p.m. - Lancaster County Poultry Association monthly meeting, Farm and Home Center.
- Thurs., Jan. 9**
Last day of Pennsylvania Farm Show.
- Tues., Jan. 14**
Mid-Atlantic No-Till meeting, near Baltimore, Md. Sponsored by three-state extension group. Contact county agents for details.
7:45 p.m. - Ephrata Area Young Farmers dairy calf management meeting, Ephrata Sr. H. S. Ag department.
- 7:45 p.m. - Garden Spot Young Farmer dairy breeding management meeting, Garden Spot High School.**
- Fri., Jan. 17**
Ephrata Junior Ag Club annual field trip to Tioga County to cut browse for deer. Through January 19.
- Tues., Jan. 21**
7:45 p.m. - Ephrata Area Young Farmer meeting - new change in tax elections. Ephrata Sr. H. S. ag department.
- Wed., Jan. 22**
Farm Income Tax Workshop, Lancaster Farm and Home Center.
- Thurs., Jan. 23**
8:30 a.m. - Ephrata Area Young Farmer beef and poultry field trip. Leave from Ephrata Sr. H. S. parking lot.
12:00 noon - Inter-State Milk Producers Cooperative District 3 annual meeting, Quarryville Methodist Church.
6:30 p.m. - Farm and Home Foundation of Lancaster County annual meeting, Lancaster Farm and Home Center.
- 6:30 p.m. - Pennsylvania Winternational Tractor Pull, Farm Show Arena, Harrisburg. Through January 25.**

kingdom of heaven is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened" (13:33). A little bit of truth can change the whole world.

Mere words spoken on an obscure Galilean hillside, but with these words the Master Teacher has changed the course of mankind.

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- Tues., Jan. 28**
9:30 a.m. - Beef Cattle Feeders Day, Lancaster Farm and Home Center.
7:45 p.m. - Ephrata Area Young Farmers, second meeting on dairy calf management, Ephrata Sr. H. S. ag department.

(We invite farm groups to use our farm calendar. Send notice of your meeting or event to: Farm Calendar, Lancaster Farming, 22 E. Main St., Lititz, Pa. 17543.)