

Farm Commentary

Corn Price Slipping Back

The price of corn, both nationally and locally is coming down. This week's price in Lancaster Farming's local grain report stood at \$3.30 on Thursday afternoon, but many of the dealers we talked to said they expected that price to drop another nickel by Friday.

Part of the reason for the dip, of course, is the livestock men are cutting back their herds, thereby

weakening demand. Another factor, we were told by a seasoned grain buyer, is that the winter had been pretty mild in the Midwest. This meant a lot of cattle were out in the cornfields, grazing on stover.

The weather picture has changed drastically in the last week, however, which will increase some farmers' needs for corn. Of course, many of the cattle caught in the snow and freezing cold perished

McHale's Computer Does It Again

If past history is any indication, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Jim McHale is in for another round of hoo-ha's from the farm press and farm organizations. At the annual Pennsylvania Farmers Union meeting in Harrisburg this week, McHale said they planned to butcher a yield grade 3 steer and sell the top cuts at retail. The rest of the carcass will be ground into hamburger. McHale hopes to make the

point that with the profit from the top cuts, retailers could afford to pay consumers 10-cents a pound to take the hamburger

You'll remember a few weeks ago the secretary made headlines by "proving" that it was possible to produce hamburger for 28-cents a pound. His calculations, though, were said to ignore such things as trucking, packaging and normal retail markups

The Arabian Manure Deal

Who'd have ever thought that loaded barges would be leaving the U.S., bound for Arabian ports, loaded with liquid cow manure. Several thoughts, all beginning "Poetic justice..." spring to mind but they're probably better left unsaid

Apparently, the Arabs are moun-

ting a tremendous effort to attain a measure of self-sufficiency in food, just as we and other nations are striving for self-sufficiency in energy production. It will be something of a modern-day miracle if they really can make the desert bloom.

December Milk Production Off From '74

US milk production, at 90 billion lbs during December, down 3-10 of 1 pct from a year earlier, USDA reported last week. Though this marked the first month since June

that production had been below that of a corresponding month a year earlier, output for all of 1974 still totaled only 114.9 billion lbs., down 7-10 of 1 pct. from a year earlier

Turkey Growers Plan Cutback

US turkey output may be down this year. At least, turkey growers in the 20 major producing States say they intend to raise 6 pct fewer birds this year than they did either in 1974 or 1973

them last year. Light breed output totaled 153 million in 1973, 141 million last year. Intentions are to produce 105 million heavy breed, 138 million light breed birds in the 20 States this year

Turkey output in those States - which account for more than 95 pct of the Nation's production - is seen at 118.7 million birds. That's down from the 126-million totals produced in those States during each of the last two years.

Despite the over-all cutback, growers in Minnesota, the Nation's leader, say they intend to boost production 11 pct - from 21.9 million to 24.3 million this year. Those in North Carolina say they plan to up output 1 pct - to 15.1 million birds in 1975. But, California growers say they'll cut production 12 pct - from 17.9 million last year to 15.7 million

A decrease of 6 pct from both 1974 and 1973 is seen in heavy breed output, while production of light breeds is seen down 2 pct from 1974, 10 pct. from 1973. Growers in those States produced 111.4 million heavy breed birds in 1973, 112.2 million of

Turkey production totaled 132.2 million nationally in 1973, but declined 1 pct - to 131.4 million last year

World Tobacco Hits Record High

World tobacco acreage and production hit record highs last year. At 106 million acres, tobacco acreage was up 5 pct from 1973 and 8 pct above its 1968-72 average production, at 11.4 billion lbs., was up 7 pct from 1973's previous high, and 14 pct above 1968-72

it still ranks third in tobacco area. The People's Republic of China produced 2.2 billion lbs., the US 1.96 billion lbs. India, 973 million lbs. to lead the world producers. China, with 1.9 million acres, India, with 1.1 million acres, the US, with 957,000 acres, and Turkey, with 890,000 acres, were the leaders in the area devoted to tobacco plantings

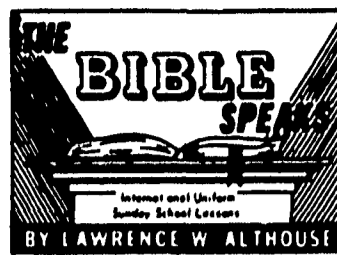
US held its position as the world's Number Two tobacco grower, though

Wheat Prospects - A Familiar Story

Encouraged by higher prices, farmers expanded their wheat acreage 20 pct - only to have their hopes for an abundant harvest dashed by severe drought

but it's the story of Argentina's 1974-75 wheat crop, the latest to be hit by weather. And, output is now put at 5.0 million metric tons, including Durum, and perhaps even less

Sound familiar? It certainly does,



LORD OF LIFE

Lesson for January 19, 1975

Background Scripture: John 6:35-51; 11:1-53.

Devotional Reading: John 6:35-51.

When Socrates was told that the time had come for him to prepare for death, he replied: "Don't you know that I have been preparing for it all my life?"

Quite unlike Socrates, many of us delay in preparing for this great life-event. Sometimes we procrastinate too long and then there is no opportunity to prepare for it. Frequently it is only when we are confronted by death that we begin to ask ourselves what we believe about this experience and its consequences.

He who believes in me

The story of Lazarus in John 6 is founded upon the conviction that Jesus Christ is Lord of both life and death and if we accept his Lordship we do not need to fear death.

In the story we find some of the common attitudes that still abound today.

First there is some petulance on the part of the two sisters. Martha, upon greeting him, seems just a bit accusing: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died" (11:21). In a similar fashion we sometimes complain meekly to God suggesting that if he loved us he would not have let a loved one die!

Next, we find Martha resorting to theological arguments. Told by Jesus that her brother would "rise again," Martha gives lip-service to her beliefs: "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day" (11:24).

But Jesus is not talking about theological beliefs: he is speaking of her trust in him: "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live" (11:25). "Do you believe this?" Jesus wants to know and Martha begins to understand at last: "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world" (11:27).

She really does not know what Jesus is going to do next. At the same time she knew that she trusted this man implicitly. Therefore, she would put herself and her brother Lazarus in his hands. Somehow, whatever happened, she knew that it would be all right because of Jesus.

Take Away The Stone!

Yet, it is not so easy just to put everything in his hands. We are too conditioned to doing things ourselves to trust another so fully. Thus, when Jesus approaches the tomb and commands the stone to be rolled away, Martha protests that there will be too great an odor from the decomposing body. Once again Jesus must remind her: "Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" If she will just trust him, she and her sister will be truly blessed.

So Jesus commands, "Lazarus, come out," and the dead man is restored to



NOW IS THE TIME...

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
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To Get Farmer's Tax Guide

The supply of Farmer's Tax Guides is in our Extension Office and farmers are urged to obtain a copy of this booklet in helping to file their 1974 tax returns. This help is also available from the Internal Revenue Office. Since there have been some changes concerning agriculture in tax reporting, all farmers and others who are working tax returns should study the Tax Guide before filing. These are free of charge to anyone interested.

To Be Interested In Pure Water

Modern civilization makes heavy demands on water supplies when we realize that we use about 75 gallons of water per day per person. Obtaining water is simple to most of us merely by turning a faucet or spigot. However, we all must realize that the supply must be there to start with. Water supplies must be preserved and expanded to meet the growing needs. Pennsylvania is in a favorable water situation compared to some states in the southwest such as Arizona; our observations there last October reflected their surface water supplies almost entirely exhausted. Each person should do everything to keep from polluting water and in conserving its use.

To Raise First-Calf Heifers

A recent release from the Dairy Extension office in Virginia calls attention to the

mistake of not keeping calves from a first-calf heifer. We are aware of this common practice in this part of the country. The Virginia study shows that many high producing cows and outstanding show animals have been from first calf heifers. One cow that sold for nearly twenty thousand dollars was from two generations of first calf heifers. In addition, the practice of breeding first calf heifers to a beef bull is to be discouraged. Many calves from first-calf are just as good potential herd replacements or show animals as a calf from older cows.

To Stress Quality Forage Crops

One way out of the high grain cost of producing milk or meat is to place more emphasis on nutrients from forage crops rather than from grains. This suggestion has been highly promoted for the past several months and continues to have considerable merit. Dr. Sam Guss at Penn State reports that many dairy cows will be in better physical condition at calving time if a larger part of their nutrients come from roughages rather than from grain. In the past many problems at freshening time have been caused by high grain consumption and little amounts of roughages. As livestock and dairymen plan their crop acres for this year, we continue to suggest that more importance on quality hay and silage could return greater profits.

Farm Calendar

Tuesday, January 21
Ephrata Area Young Farmers meeting concerning new changes in taxes. 7:45 p.m. Ephrata High School Ag Department.
Cedar Crest Young Farmers Meeting on Feeding Management at the Cedar Crest High School vo-ag classroom

beginning at 7:30 p.m.
Manheim Young Farmers Welding Class No. 3.
Twin Valley Young Farmer monthly meeting, vo-ag classroom, Twin Valley High School, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 22
Farm Income Tax Meeting at the Farm and Home Center 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 23
Ephrata Area Farmers Association Beef and Poultry Field Trip leaving the Ephrata High School parking lot at 8:30 p.m.

Friday, January 24
12:00 noon - Inter State Milk Producers Cooperative District 3 annual meeting, Quarryville Methodist Church.
6:30 p.m. - Annual meeting, Farm and Home Foundation of Lancaster County, Farm and Home Foundation of Lancaster County, Farm and Home Center.
Manheim Young Farmers Welding Course 4.

Tuesday, January 28
9:30 a.m. - Beef Cattle Feeder Day, Lancaster Farm and Home Center.
7:45 p.m. - Ephrata Adult Farmer Dairy Calf Management meeting.

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