

Farm Commentary

by Dick Wanner

New Brucellosis Law Explained

Dr. Samuel B. Guss, the Penn State veterinarian we quote at the end of our page one story, announced this week that a recently announced USDA regulation should help to protect Pennsylvania dairymen from brucellosis.

The new regulation, Guss said, requires that all cattle moved interstate must be tested and found negative for brucellosis unless they originate from certified brucellosis-free herds.

All cattle found to have brucellosis after a blood test must be branded on

the left jar with the letter "S". These animals may only be moved interstate to slaughter or to a quarantined feed lot. Their presence anywhere else poses a real hazard for Pennsylvania cattle. Guss warned farmers that such cattle have been moved into Pennsylvania livestock markets and farms illegally. Under no circumstances should they be bought, and the seller who offers them should be reported immediately to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Let it rain, let it rain . . .

A group of vegetable farmers in Delaware have just spent some \$45,000 for 30 small metal boxes, about the size of TV sets, which they hope will help them avert drought conditions which last year wiped out much of the state's vegetable crop.

"The rainmakers could mean the difference between 35 bushels and 140 bushels," said Charles H. West, a wealthy Frederica vegetable farmer who has tried for years to interest his neighbors in the arcane science of weather modification, better known as rainmaking.

For a long time nobody paid much attention to West's claims that modern cloud-seeding methods might increase rainfall from 20 percent to 35 percent during the hot, dry season, which usually lasts from mid-June to the end of August in this area.

Last summer, though, the farmers of the Delmarva Peninsula suffered a crippling drought that wiped out 60 percent of the corn crop and almost as much of the soybeans and vegetables.

Record High Tobacco Receipts

Americans spent a record \$14.45 billion on tobacco products last year, most of it — \$13.27 billion or more than 90 pct. of the total on cigarettes. This, according to the Annual Report on Tobacco Statistics, 1974 issued recently by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service last week.

Despite the record total spent (the previous high was \$13.5 billion in 1973), per capita use of all tobacco products by persons 18 years of age and older was (at 9.34 lbs.) the lowest since 1940.

Per capita use of cigarettes, at 4,150 cigarettes, was the highest since 1968, but the tobacco used in those cigarettes (at 7.80 lbs.) was the lowest since 1970. Use of smoking tobacco (at .88 lbs.) equalled that of

Suddenly West's notions about cloud seeding seemed attractive, and this year 225 area farmers have pitched in \$45,000 to pay for the services of Irving P. Krick Associates of Palm Springs, a leading rainmaking firm.

State Agriculture Secretary M. Martin Isaacs says that it will be the first rainmaking venture ever undertaken by farmers on the East Coast.

West said that, based on results in some of the western states, farmers in Delaware and Maryland could expect an additional two inches or more of rain during the dry season. That would be enough to save a dying drop.

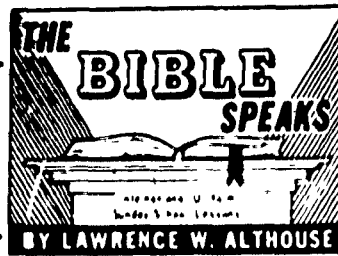
Many of the area's wealthiest farmers are participating, including Isaacs and several of Delaware's state legislators.

In all, the participating growers own more than 90,000 acres in Delaware's Kent and Sussex Counties and in Wicomico County in Maryland.

1973 and was the lowest on record, but use of chewing tobacco (at 1.13 lbs.) was the highest since 1961.

In the matter of State tax rates, Americans paid from 2 cents per pack (in North Carolina) to 21 cents (in Connecticut). Receipts from State taxes on all tobacco products totaled \$3.25 billion, up from \$3.1 billion in 1973.

Cash receipts to farmers for tobacco totaled \$2.077 billion (\$2 billion, 77 million), up 32 pct. from a year earlier and record high. They accounted for nearly 32 pct. of all cash receipts to farmers in North Carolina, nearly 30 pct. to those in Kentucky



EDIFACE COMPLEX

Lesson for May 25, 1975

Background Scripture: Isaiah 31:1-3; Jeremiah 1-15; 26; Micah 6: 6-8.
Devotional Reading: Mathew 6:1-8.

The ancient Egyptians had it.

The Greeks of old had it. The Romans and Jews had it too.

. . . not to mention many Christians!

What?

The Ediface Complex!

Deceptive Words

This complex is seductively dangerous to all religions, for it manages to divert our attention from the core of the religion (usually an invisible, intangible essence) to something very visible and very tangible: a building, a religious ediface.

With the Jews, of course, the "ediface complex" was centered on the temple at Jerusalem. To use the term "complex" does not mean that there was anything necessarily wrong with the ediface. In fact, the centralization of worship in the Jerusalem temple was a very unifying force in the nation of Israel. It was a constant, impressive, and very visible reminder of the presence and power of God. There was nothing wrong with the theology of temple worship.

But what was wrong is what always goes wrong when the "ediface complex" infiltrates a religion: the importance of the ediface is distorted way out of proportion. That point is reached when unwittingly the ediface becomes a substitute for God himself, when people look to the building instead of the spiritual reality the building is supposed to represent.

Whenever the people of Israel were threatened, says the prophet Jeremiah, they tended to look to the magnificent temple of Solomon as their security: "This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord" (Jeremiah 7:4). Nothing could be more deceptive than these words that reek of the "ediface complex." They are indicative of a false sense of security.

The Shiloh example

The prophet invited the smug people of Israel to remember the example God set for them at Shiloh, the first centralized site of Jewish sacrificial worship. This sanctuary in the Samaritan mountains was destroyed by God because the people who worshipped there were blithely immoral. No sanctuary is safe or secure simply because it is a place of worship.

So it could happen even to the beautiful temple of Solomon in Jerusalem. What angered God was the moral behavior of the people who worshipped in that temple. These people did not see any connection between their worship of God and their moral behavior. They had eyes only for the ediface, not that which lay behind it.



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
Telephone 391-6851

To Apply For Pesticide Certification
Application forms are available at our Extension Office to secure the Pesticide Correspondence Course from Penn State to meet spray applicator requirements. This application is to be used to order the information for the Correspondence Course booklet that will produce the various lessons and tests for spray certification. The form may be used for private applicators as well as for licensed Commercial Applicators. The present requirements suggest that all applicators be certified or licensed by October of 1976. The information obtained through this correspondence course should be very helpful in a practical manner in addition to qualifying a person to do spray work.

To Spray Alfalfa Stubble

We are aware of some alfalfa weevil infection in various parts of the county. With the recent hot weather the plants have matured rather quickly, therefore, it is suggested that the alfalfa crop be cut in the bud to early blossom stage and followed by the spraying of the stubble; if this is not done, the weevil worms may feed upon the young shoots and prevent a good second growth. Growers may refer to the 1975 Agronomy Guide for the various materials to use in spraying for alfalfa weevil.

To Control Weed Development

The control of weeds is everyone's job and especially the owners of land not being farmed or cultivated. Weed restrictions in some areas compel the control of weeds to keep them from going to seed. The owners of vacant lots and real estate developers should give special attention to the mowing of the areas in order to keep the respect of others in the community. Pasture fields should be mowed every 4 to 6 weeks for the rest of the summer and the first mowing is due at this time. The pasture mowing will not only stop weed seed development but encourage the new growth of the forage grasses. Don't be guilty of broadcasting weed seeds to other land in the area.

Jeremiah was not the only one to understand this: it was a constant theme of many of the prophets of Israel. The Prophet Micah, for example, put it this way: "With what shall I come before the Lord . . . Shall I come before him with burnt offerings?" (Micah 6:6). And his plain answer was that none of these rituals within the ediface itself were what God really wanted: "He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

To Recognize Proper Stage of Maturity

The mowing of forage crops if already underway and warmer weather is bringing faster maturity. Grasses have already headed out and should be cut for either hay or silage. Research work reveals the peak of feeding value in any of the grasses is at the heading stage of maturity; when the plant is allowed to blossom or mature, the feed value decreases. Alfalfa and clover are at their peak of feed value in the bud to early blossom stages. Small grains to be used for silage purposes should be cut in the blossom to early milk stage of maturity. As a rule, the older the crop gets after the above stages of maturity the less will be the feed nutrients and higher will be the fiber content. Growers are urged to use the stage of maturity as the time to cut their crops hoping that weather conditions will permit the crop to be stored.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, May 24
Pa. Sheep Field Day in Susquehanna County.
Lebanon Valley Expo Corp. Square dance at the Lebanon Fairgrounds 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 27
Meeting of the Lancaster County Extension Association Board of Directors at the Farm and Home Center 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 3
Lancaster County Manure Management demonstration starting at the farm of Jay Garber, Lancaster R6 at 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 4
Lancaster County Conservation District meeting at the Farm and Home Center 7:30 p.m.
Lancaster County Vocational Agricultural Teachers organization meeting at Brownstown 4:15 p.m.

Saturday, June 7
Entries for the Elizabethtown Young Farmers Corn Contest should be into the vo-ag department by June 15.

What it Takes to Produce Milk

The average cow gives about 350 pounds of milk a week. According to Extension specialists at The Pennsylvania State University, that means a cow must eat 315 pounds of silage, 105 pounds of hay, 118 pounds of grain, 14 ounces of salt, 14 ounces of food substance labeled "general" and she must have 175 gallons of water. All of this is eaten by one cow every week.