

Farm Commentary

by Dick Wanner

Toll Free Fruit Facts

Fruit growers now have a toll free number to call when they want an update on growing problems. By dialing 800-252-3807, they'll hear a recorded message telling them just what the Penn State fruit specialists are finding in their reports from the field.

We called Friday morning and

learned all about two of the biggest current concerns of fruit growers - peach leaf curl and pear leaf blister mite. The narrator also talked a bit about apple powdery mildew.

Growers with special problems are invited to leave their names and numbers so one of the Penn Staters can return the call.

OSHA Roll-Bar Regulations Available

Any farmer who hires a tractor driver should be acquainted with the new OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Act) regulations on roll bars. They become effective for farmers on June 1, 1975. That's Sunday.

Part of OSHA's new Standards for Agriculture appeared in the Federal Register recently. You can get a copy by writing either to your

Congressman or to Mr. J. Stender, Assistant Secretary of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Main Labor Building, Washington, D.C. 20210.

As for a copy of OSHA Part 1928, Roll-Over Protective Structures for Farm Tractors, per Federal Register of April 25, 1975.

Consumer Proposal Stirs Ag Groups In Washington

A proposed amendment to checkoff legislation for the cling peach industry caused a stir among agricultural groups in Washington. Rep. Fred Richmond (D.-N.Y.) offered an amendment which would require one-third of the proposed "Peach Board" to consist of consumers. If accepted, the amendment would be a precedent for agricultural marketing order legislation.

The legislation is currently being studied by the House Subcommittee on Marketing and Consumer Relations chaired by Rep. Joseph P. Vigorito (D.-Pa.) Rep. Vigorito is sponsor of the peach checkoff proposal. Observers said it was doubtful the bill would be reported out of Committee if the amendment was made a part of the legislation

Meat Consumption Down

During 1974, per capita food consumption rose about 1/2 of 1 pct. from a year earlier with a 2.2 pct. increase in livestock-related foods more than offsetting a 2 pct. decline in crop-related foods. This year, it's expected to drop as much as 1 pct. - reaching its lowest level in 6 years - mainly because of a sharp reduction in livestock - related products. Consumption of crop-related products will about match 1974's level.

Moreover, the drop in consumption of livestock-related products will come despite what is expected to be

an increase in per capita consumption of both beef and veal. Consumption of pork is expected to be off 7-9 lbs. per person, to 56-58 lbs. - the lowest in 40 years.

Consumption of poultry meat, up slightly last year, is expected to be down sharply this year - mainly because of reduced broiler and turkey production. Egg consumption, down from 294 eggs per person last year, is expected to be down again this year - mainly because of lower supplies. Consumption of dairy products is expected to be off nearly 1 1/2 pct. this year.

Chick Hatches Falling

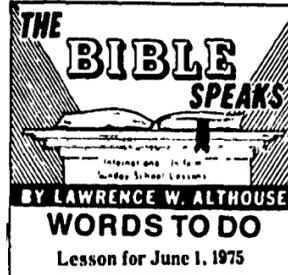
Chick hatches down during April Broiler-type hatch, at 274.4 million for the month, down 5 pct. from a year earlier, marking the 13th consecutive month that this hatch has been below that of a corresponding month a year earlier.

Egg-type hatch, at 48 million, down 12 pct. from the April 1974 total. This marks the 12th straight month that this hatch has been below that of a

corresponding month a year earlier.

The Jan. - April totals: Broiler-type hatch, at 1.0 billion, down 7 pct. from a year earlier. Egg-type, at 166.4 million, down 4 pct. from a year earlier.

More to come: Broiler-type eggs in incubators on May 1 totaled 228.4 million, down 6 pct. from a year earlier; Egg-type eggs in incubators on May 1 totaled 44.3 million, down 7 pct. from a year earlier.



Background Scripture: Exodus 24:3-8; Jeremiah 36; John 21:24, 25; Revelation 1:10, 11.

Devotional Reading: Psalms 119: 105-112.

We've all seen the Western movie scene in which a small crowd of mourners gathers on a forlorn prairie cemetery to "pay last respects" to a tragic victim of accident or gun play. Because the town is still without a clergyman, someone among the mourners is asked to "say the words" over the stark wooden coffin.

Religion has long emphasized the importance of saying some specific and hallowed 'words' in almost every occasion and event of life. Most religions have both their sacred scriptures and their ritualistic incantations. With the ancient Egyptians it was their "Book of the Dead" to procure immortality. For Hindus there are the Upanisheds and Vedas. The Moslem has his Koran, the Jew his Torah, and the Christian his Bible.

"In accordance with these words"

The words by themselves are instructive and inspiring. Yet the importance of the words is to be found in the actions inspired by the ideas. When Moses came to the people of Israel with the first ordinances from God, what he had in mind was not that the people would simply enjoy the words for their wisdom and beauty. The words were primarily indicative of something to be done: "... all the people answered with one voice, and said, 'All the words which the Lord has spoken we will do'" (Exodus 24:3).

Hearing "the words" would not be enough; they had to be obeyed. This was to be the basis of the relationship between God and Israel: "And Moses took the blood and threw it upon the people, and said, 'Behold the blood of the covenant the symbol of our relationship with God which the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words'" (24:8).

So the purpose of "the words" was to teach the people to live in harmony with God's will and purpose. To this end the words were passed on orally from generation to generation and at last with the advent of writing and writing materials, "the words" were at last written down and the scriptures were came into being. But the purpose was never in the hearing or the reading, but in the doing.

To hear and repent
In time, however, the words came to have yet another purpose, for despite the frequent admonitions to "read and do," many of the people both wittingly and unwittingly broke the ordinances which God had given them. When this happened, God gave still more "words" to one of his prophets so that the errant children might be called away from their folly and back to God.

When the nation of Israel had come to the point when they were only "hearing" and no longer "doing," God told the prophet Jeremiah:



NOW IS THE TIME...

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
Telephone 394-6851

To Cultivate Carefully

Even though many commercial farmers do not cultivate crops as much as in the past, there is still a need in many places for some mechanical or hand cultivation to kill weeds. When this is done it is very important to stay outside of the root zone so the small roots are not sheared off. When this is done the plants are stunted and will not yield as well. Cultivation should be done when the weeds are small in order to get a good kill. Before cultivating a crop, take your hand or a small trowel and find out exactly where the roots are and then stay outside of that area.

To Record Spray Applications.

Producers of food and fiber crops should keep accurate records relating to the chemical applications made to that crop. This is true with livestock as well as crops. In case there are spray residues found in the crop later in the year, it might be very helpful if the records will show exactly what was applied, the amount, and the date. Don't neglect keeping records on all chemical and antibiotic treatments. There may be a time when some financial assistance would become available if a producer got into residue trouble when following recommended practices.

To Control Weeds

We repeat the plea for all land owners to control weeds and prevent them from going to seed. This is not too ex-

pensive or difficult in most vacant lots or undeveloped real estate holdings. A recent picture in the press showed a child playing in several inches of what appeared to be snow, but was the white mature blossoms from dandelions. This is surely an example of neglect and no doubt means more dandelions next year. In all types of weeds, if the plant can be kept from maturing and yielding seeds, then there should not be an increase in the amount of weeds next year. Canada thistles will soon be maturing and should not be allowed to develop seeds. Local ordinances should be recognized and enforced in order to stop additional weed growth.

To Ventilate Buildings

The first touch of hot weather has been experienced with minimum livestock and poultry losses; however, the hottest part of the summer is ahead of us and warrants some special handling of livestock. When both the temperature and the humidity get above 75 some livestock begin to suffer. Fattening hogs and cattle will be the first to show signs of heat conditions. We urge cross ventilation in barns and the use of large fans to keep the air moving. In hog feeding barns the use of fogging or sprinkling devices will add to the comfort of the animals. Dairy animals can be kept in the barns and use the electric exhaust fans to move the air through the barn. Hot weather requires special attention in order to avoid losses.

Farm Calendar

Monday, June 2

7:30 p.m. - Lancaster County FFA meeting at the Solanco High School.

7:30 p.m. - Lecture on Cloud Seeding by Dr. Edmund Hill, Canadian Meteorologist, sponsored by Weaver's Natural Food Store, Manheim. The lecture will be held in the Union Hall, Manheim.

Tuesday, June 3

9:30 a.m. - Lancaster County Manure Management

Take a scroll and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel and Judah and all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah until today. It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I intend to do to them, so that everyone may turn from his evil way, and that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin. (Jeremiah 36:1-4)

"The words" are intended to tell us what to do, what not to do, and to call us back to the Lord. Our Bible is thus much more than beautiful and instructive words: it is a book to live by.

demonstration tour starting at the farm of Jay Garber, Lancaster R6.

Wednesday, June 4

7:30 p.m. - Lancaster County Conservation District Meeting at the Farm and Home Center.

4:15 p.m. - Lancaster County vocational - agriculture teachers association meeting at Brownstown High School.

Saturday, June 7

Entries for the E-town Young Farmers corn contest should be in to the vo-ag department by June 15.

Tuesday, June 10

7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Bucks Montgomery Wool Poll Sale at the Reading Freight Station in Doylestown.

Editor's Quote Book

Power is not happiness. Security and peace are more to be desired than a name at which nations tremble.

William Godwin