

# Farm Commentary

by Dick Wanner

## So Long - And Thanks

I've had a grand time working with our local farm community in the three years since I became editor of Lancaster Farming. I've enjoyed the people, the work and the country. Although this is my last issue with this newspaper, I won't be leaving the people or the country, and expect to continue, in one way or another, in

farm journalism. As we note elsewhere, Dieter Krieg, formerly farm editor of the Pennsylvania Mirror in State College, will be taking over as editor. I can only wish him the best of luck and hope that he enjoys working with our wonderful readers as much as I have.

## Costs Keep Pace With Better Prices

Farmers received an average of \$2.95 per bu. for their corn last year, up from \$2.55 in 1973 and well above the \$1.08 average for 1973. But, the high points of the year were in California, where they received averages of \$3.98 per bu. for corn in both Aug. and Nov.

They received an average of \$4.04 per bu. for their wheat, up from \$3.95 in 1973 and \$1.25 in 1969. But, in Ohio in February last year, they got \$6.37 per bu. for their wheat. That topped the \$6.25 per bu. in Michigan that same month.

And, California farmers received an average of \$6.62 per bu in November, \$6.55 per bu in December for their sorghum as the over-all sorghum price rose from \$3.82 per bu. in 1973 to \$5.00 for all of 1974.

But, weigh those prices received against some they paid. Prices for 90-99 h.p tractors jumped from an average of \$10,500 in March of 1973

to \$12,300 in March of 1974, then up to \$15,100 by December — and they were \$17,500 in Colorado that month. . . Combines hit a high of \$32,000 in Michigan in Sept., up from \$27,000 three months earlier. . . Egg-type pullet chicks averaged \$37.10 per hundred in 1973, hit \$49.20 per hundred in Iowa in April 1974. . . Broiler-type chicks averaged \$11.70 per hundred in 1973, but hit \$28.00 per hundred in Nebraska in April 1974 and stayed there the rest of the year. . . Ammonium Nitrate, which averaged \$60.10 per ton in Sept. 1969 and only \$77.30 in 1973, hit \$240 per ton in the New England States in Sept. . . Hammers (claw), at \$4.46 each in 1973 averaged \$6.62 last December, but were \$8.20 in both Oregon and Tennessee and only \$4.96 in Utah. . . Pitchforks (3-tine) hit \$8.23 in December, up from \$7.56 in June, but were \$9.68 in California, \$9.10 in Oregon

## Weather Continues To Plague Soviets

Dry weather in June may have caused some further deterioration in grain prospects in the Soviet Union, USDA reported last week. While pointing out that weather during July will still be very important in determining the final outcome of the 1975 crop, USDA's Foreign

Agricultural Service, noted that relatively dry, hot weather continued throughout most of June in most of the Soviet grain-growing areas. The crop, once seen at 215 million, had already been set at only 200 million tons by USDA earlier this year.

## Farm Prices Up For 3rd Straight Month

The Index of Prices Received by Farmers continued up during the month ended June 15. The 4 point (2 pct) boost left it at 182 (pct of its Jan-Dec 1967 average), the highest since last November. This also marked the third straight month it has increased.

Higher prices for cattle, potatoes, tomatoes, cantaloupes and peaches more than offset lower prices for wheat, barley and grapefruit to account for the increase. The index was 16 points (10 pct) above a year earlier.

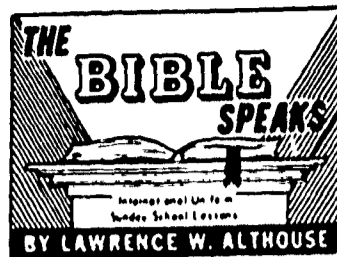
Meanwhile, the Index of Prices Paid by Farmers also increased during the month. At 185, it was up 2 points (1 pct) from a month earlier, 19 points (11 pct) above a year earlier. The Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid moved up 1 point to 98. It had stood at an even 100 a year earlier.

Under the old 1910-14 formulas, Prices Received moved up 11 points to 463, Prices Paid climbed 6 points to 633 and the Parity Ratio moved up 1 point to 73. It had been 74 a year earlier.

## Meat Output Off Sharply

US commercial red meat production, which has been running close to or above year-ago levels — mainly because of higher beef output — dropped off sharply during May. At 29 billion lbs for the month, it was down 12 pct from a year earlier, 6 pct below that for May 1973.

Beef output, at 18 billion lbs, was down 5 pct from a year earlier, pork, at 925 million lbs, was off 26 pct from a year ago. Lamb and mutton production, at 31 million lbs, was off 14 pct, veal output, at 59 million lbs, was more than double that of a year earlier.



### READY FOR SOLID FOOD

Lesson for July 6, 1975

**Background Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 3: 1-9; 2 Peter 1: 3-11.

**Devotional Reading:** 1 John 3: 19-24.

There's an old story about a brilliant corporation lawyer who was traveling across the country in a Pullman train.

That night as he was preparing to settle down in his berth for the night, he was overheard to pray: "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray to Lord my soul to keep . . ."

For all his accomplishments, the man had never grown-up spiritually. In his religious life, he is still a child, existing, as Paul puts it, "on milk."

"You Need Milk . . ." This was one of the problems to which Paul addressed himself when he wrote his second letter to the church at Corinth. There was a great deal of immaturity in the church there, Paul observed. Pulling no punches, Paul says pointedly:

I must speak to you as babes, I fed you with milk, not solid food; for you were not ready for it, and are not even now (1 Corinthians 3:2). In the Epistle to the Hebrews the same theme is sounded: You need milk, not solid food; for everyone who lives on milk is . . . a child. But solid food is for the mature . . .

Later, in the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians, Paul reminds the people there that when you are a child, it is all right to act like a child. But when we grow-up, he says, we are to give up our childish ways and act with maturity.

Dr. Harry Overstreet wrote a book some years ago entitled, *The Mature Mind*. The thesis of the book is that most of our troubles are the result of our failure to grow-up. A psychiatrist, Hugh Missildine, has written a provocative book about *Your Inner Child of the Past*. Immaturity, he says is the result of letting our "inner child of the past" continue to dominate our lives in the present.

#### Behaving like ordinary men

Paul indicated that the Corinthians were still not ready for spiritual "solid food." The evidence for the assessment was to be found in the jealousy and strife that continued in the Corinthian churches. You cannot be mature when you continue to be dominated by these emotions.

Actually, said Paul, when they behaved this way, they were really "behaving like ordinary men" (1 Corinthians 3:3). Apparently the Christian, as Paul sees it, it not supposed to be like "ordinary men." These is to be something special about him, something extraordinary. There is to be growth to a more solid type of spiritual food.

There are many Christians who are constantly fed a diet of spiritual milk. These are people who are spiritually "babes in arms," people who



## NOW IS THE TIME . . .

Max Smith  
County Agr. Agent  
Telephone 394-6851

#### To Buy The Best Sires

Many livestock producers change herd or flock sires during the summer months. Effort should be made to select the very best bull, ram, or boar to be placed in the position of producing the next crop of replacement animals. Performance testing is now being done with most species of animals which should indicate the transmitting ability of the sire. Since the sire has a part in the merits of every young animal produced, it is very important to select the very best. In many cases the sire that is bought for a "bargain" turns out to be the most expensive. Don't "pinch pennies" when buying that new herd sire.

#### To Read Spray Material Directions

Before any spray material is used, the directions should be read and followed exactly. In the past week we have been informed of several growers and gardeners who have put the wrong material on a crop or on the garden. In some cases this could do serious damage, such as a weed killer instead of an insecticide; many materials should be applied several days up to 14 days before harvest or being used. All of these items should be understood before the material is applied. Keep spray materials in their original containers and read the directions before using.

#### To Be Careful with Empty Pesticide Containers

Many times it is a problem

to know what to do with empty bags and other chemical spray containers. However, it is quite certain they should not be left around the barn or garage to become a hazard to children, pets, or livestock. In many cases we have known where animals got to the empty bags, chewed them, and were poisoned. In addition, bags in which treated grain has been stored or transported (treated with materials such as aldrin, dieldrin, or heptachlor) should not be used to hold feed or grain. Several cases of serious pesticide residues in the meat or milk of animals have been traced to this dangerous practice. Be careful with pesticide containers.

#### To Prepare For August Alfalfa Seedings

Early August continues to be a good time to make a late summer seeding of alfalfa. This is only a month away and the ground should be in the preparing process; a complete soil test is the place to start and apply lime and fertilizer according to the test recommendations. The ground should be disced or plowed several weeks prior to seeding in order to get a firm, weed-free seedbed. Certified seed should be used (wilt and anthracnose resistant) and the band seeding method of establishing the new stand is hard to beat. Good stands of alfalfa should be the result of good planning and doing all of the practices thoroughly and on schedule.

## Farm Calendar

**Thursday, July 10**  
Lancaster County Swine Breeder's Tour of the Jerry Rutter farm in York County. Leaving the Farm and Home Center at 6:00 p.m.

**Saturday, July 12**  
District III Jersey Breeders Annual Picnic at the Top-O-Hill Farm - Downingtown. Event will start at 12:00 noon. Bring covered dish and eating

utensils and folding chairs.

**Sunday, July 13**  
Elizabethtown Young Farmers Picnic - bring covered dish.

## Farm Credit Notice

Effective June 23, 1975 The Berks-Lehigh Valley Farm Credit Associations will be occupying their new branch office located north of Shoemakersville on the west side of Route 61 across from the Windsor Mutual Insurance Office. The new address and phone number is: P.O. Box D, Shoemakersville, Pa. 19555. 215-562-3866.

are not yet ready for the solid food of Jesus Christ.

Are You? (Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Released by Community Press Service.)



**PERSONALIZED** For the man who has everything, this white Leghorn hen presented her owner, Jay Weems, Vancouver, Wash., with a shiny egg personalized with the letter, "J". The egg came complete with a period after the initial. And the timing of the gift couldn't have been planned better, since it was Weems birthday. Now how can you top this gift?

#### Pork

For best results, use a low to moderate temperature when cooking pork—both in and out doors. Pork is a good source of all the B vitamins. It is the richest known food source of thiamin (B1), so necessary for a healthy nervous system.