

Farm Commentary

By: Dieter Krieg

Life on the farm

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Boy, it was hot! It was the kind of day that was good for making corn grow or for dipping into the pond. Wearing no shirt, the sun sizzled on my tanned, perspired back as I walked up the long slope towards where the cows were loafing. The tall grasses of the pasture made walking a chore whenever I decided to get off the narrow cowpath which tended to follow the base line of the hiss rather than go straight up. Bugs hopped from stem to stem as I disturbed their feeding and frequently protested by buzzing within inches of my face.

While it was exceptionally hot in open areas, especially on this slope which faced south, the summit, with its many trees, offered abundant shade, a gentle breeze, and a splendid panoramic view of our southern York County farm. Pausing for a few minutes to admire the beauty of the day, I sat down on an old tree stump beneath the trees, not far from where the pasture, woods and a big corn field met. A few cows lazily got up and joined me, possibly appreciative that I was sparing them the long walk to the barn for a while.

This was a truly peaceful setting, with trees whispering in the breeze, cows loafing contentedly while chewing their cud, and the bright afternoon sun giving a special warmth and brilliance to the entire day. Below us, the silver-colored roofs of the farm buildings reflected the sunlight as would so many mirrors.

What caught my attention as much as anything, however, was the field of corn on the other side of the rusty fence and briars. The gracefully-curved, broad leaves of corn, "knitted" together to make a lush, deep green carpet for as far as the eye could see, was an inspiring sight.

Fertilizer industry weakened

The multi-billion dollar U.S. fertilizer industry which for decades had led the world in production will soon give up its No. 1 position to the USSR and the Eastern Bloc according to Gordon L. Berg, editor of Farm Chemicals, published by Meister Publishing Company, Willoughby, Ohio, in his July editorial.

American and other western capital has been used to build Russia into the No. 1 fertilizer-producing nation in the world - "in the spirit of detente." USSR is being granted long-term loans on terms that make US businessmen drool. Rates on these loans vary, but are lower than the prime rate. One deal involving the US Export-Import Bank and a consortium headed by the Bank of America extended \$180 million of credit to the USSR to help finance a giant fertilizer complex. The Soviets will put up only \$40 million in cash.

The editorial pointed to a possible oversupply of fertilizer in the years ahead as "a mass transfer to technology, investment capital and production equipment to the Eastern Bloc takes place."

"This is being done on promises to pay at some future date," the editor stressed. One of the most publicized

Not only does such a field of corn stand as a symbol of the height of summer, it offers a magnificent tribute to the miracles and wonders of nature. And it gives the farmer a special feeling of satisfaction, joy, appreciation and pride.

Since shortly after the kernels of corn were placed into the soil, I, like most farmers, used to pace up and down the rows each day to check on the progress of the crop. Often I'd come back amazed by the rate of growth I was observing.

While I admire good crops no matter where they are, the fields at home were always my favorite. Nature's beauty is evident everywhere, but the crops I planted, cared for, and eventually harvested were special. They represented goals, hopes, an investment, and lots of work. The swallowed dust, long hours, breakdowns of equipment, stone picking, and aching muscles were not forgotten. It was a pleasure to overlook the farm and see the crops grow where only a few months earlier there were bare fields.

This year's crop looks better than any I have ever seen before. In the 10 weeks since it was planted, corn has in some fields raced towards the sky at the rate of one foot per week. What was a nursery of tender shoots in mid-May, has turned into a thick forest of 10-foot tall stalks by the beginning of the third week in July.

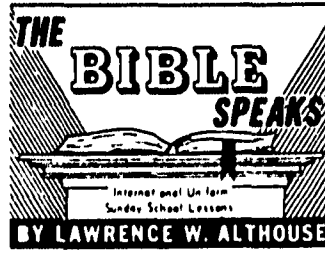
But all of this doesn't come cheap, and could quickly be destroyed by drought, flooding, insects or frost. The cost of planting 100 acres of corn is roughly equivalent to the price of two brand-new full-sized Cadillacs. And there aren't even any buttons on corn the farmer can push to make it go into the silo automatically.

American deals is the one expected to go into effect in 1978. Dr. Armand Hammer of Occidental Chemical Company made the headlines when he announced that company's plans for USSR several years ago.

"Occidental will literally help locate markets for the Russia giant. The company will also assist in finding suitable American companies to bid for supply technology, materials, equipment and services in connection with terminals, ammonia and urea plants, rail tank cars for superphosphoric acid (SPA) and an ammonia pipeline, all for installation in the USSR," Berk explained. "Occidental has the phosphate rock which Russia needs. The former will convert this strategic, unrenewable resource into sale to Russia of 1 million tons of SPA per year for 20 years! In return, for the next 20 years Occidental has agreed to buy yearly 15 million metric tons of ammonia, 1 million metric tons of urea, and 1 million metric tons of muriate of potash."

To provide funds for the USSR to repay the Export-Import Bank and consortium of bank loans, Occidental Chemical Company will buy 600,000

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WHO'S GOT THE SPIRIT?

Lesson for July 27, 1975

Background Scripture: Acts 10; 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5; 2 Corinthians 4: 7-16.
Devotional Reading: Acts 10: 34-38.

The Holy Spirit is in the headlines once again. Some Christians speak of the Holy Spirit as if he were a rather recent discovery. For others, it is not only a recent discovery, but a parochial one as well.

Many Christians today are in the position of the little boy who charged the kids in the neighborhood to come in to his backyard to see the eclipse! This same "backyard" mentality is to be found with many religious groups today. They speak of the Holy Spirit as if he were a personal possession, limited to followers of one sect or cult.

"He will guide you . . ."

The implication is often very simple: "I've got the Spirit; you do not." So, how do we know if we've "got the Spirit"?

First of all, the above question is all wrong. It is not so much a matter of who's got the Spirit, but whom does the Spirit have? We do not "get the Spirit," so much as the Spirit "gets" us. We cannot control the Spirit of God, we cannot manipulate the Spirit's presence or performance. This is what Jesus told Nicodemus: "The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes, or wither it goes: so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit" (John 3: 8).

I am always rather skeptical of those who sound as if the Spirit were under their beck and call.

Secondly, the Spirit is not narrowly confined to the chosen few. The Bible makes it clear that God's Spirit can be found at work in all men, even when they do not recognize or acknowledge the Spirit's presence. The Holy Spirit is the presence of God at work within us and there is no one on the face of this earth who is without God's Holy Spirit.

"Walk by the spirit" Much more to the point is, not whether we all have God's Spirit in us, but whether we respond to that presence within. As Paul puts it in Galatians, "walk by the Spirit" (5: 16). We may have the Spirit within us, but totally ignore the guidance he would give us. Or, we may allow the Spirit to help us in times of need. Paul assures us that "the Spirit helps us in our weakness" (Romans 8:26) and "interceded for the saints according to the will of God" (8:27).

Finally, the real proof of who's got the Spirit is to be found, not in doctrines, nor in demonstrations of prowess, but in the practical results found in our lives. "By their fruits shall you know them," said Jesus and when he himself was accused of working miracles by the power of Satan, he pointed to the results of his ministry as the verification of the work



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To Be Careful with Herbicide Equipment
There are many kinds of weed killers being used today by the farmer and the home owner. Many of these materials are very hard to wash out of the equipment and may injure the next crop that is sprayed for other purposes. We urge growers to recognize the danger of herbicides such as 2, 4-D sticking in the spray tank or lines for years unless it is removed by special materials such as household ammonia and hot water. Items such as sprinkling cans and small tank sprayers will hold the weed killer and carry some of the material to the next crop. The safest method is to have separate equipment for weed killer materials.

To Prepare for Corn Crop

The corn crop looks very promising and additional storage space may be needed on many farms. This is especially true for those making corn silage. The trench or horizontal silo will provide good storage for extra corn with careful management. Many producers use the horizontal silo for temporary storage and then move the silage to the tower silo later in the winter for automatic feeding. Extra corn cribs may be needed for ear corn storage. The method of shelling the corn in the field at harvest time and then drying before storage is getting more attention on some larger corn growing farms. Plans for corn cribs are available at our Extension Office.

To Clip Pastures

Weather conditions have been very favorable for lush growth of all forage crops and weeds. If the grass has gotten ahead of the livestock, the field can be mowed at this time and the extra growth used for grass hay or for bedding purposes. The mowing at this time will encourage new growth and increase the carrying capacity of the area. Also, if sudan grass or one of the sudan-sorghum hybrids have been grazed by livestock, this field also should be clipped in order to get more uniform growth of the new forage. Good pasture management suggests frequent clippings during a good growing summer.

of the Holy Spirit within him. If he defeated the powers of Satan with his works of healing, let no one call the power by which he did these things the "power of Satan." That would be the worst blasphemy of all.

So, how do you know who's got the Spirit? Paul makes it clear: "... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22). Let no one claim that he has the Spirit until he has also those fruits in his life.

To Recognize Safety Practices
Many producers are not giving sufficient attention to farm and home safety measures; too many hazards are not corrected. Unfortunately, we have not had much of an educational program on farm safety and most farmers are not interested in giving much attention to the various suggestions of caution. The use of hard hats, ear plugs, respiratory equipment, safety glasses and goggles, gloves, and safety shoes is not very common on most farms. As farming becomes more mechanized with greater hazards, it might be proper to give more attention to some of these things that may cause serious injury or death. More attention to the prevention of farm accidents and correcting the hazards is in order.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, July 28
Ephrata Young Farmers Stream Improvement project at the Cocalico Creek ¼ mile north of Ephrata behind the St. Clements Mission. Project will begin at 8:00 a.m. with lunch at noon.

Monday, July 28
Manheim Young Farmers field meeting on the mechanics of corn breeding.

Tuesday, July 29
Lancaster County 4-H Dairy Shows at the Guernsey Barn Pavilion.
FFA Hog Show at the Lancaster Stockyards beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday, July 30
Herbicide Field Day at the Southeast Research Center in Landisville at 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 31
Lancaster County Holstein Show at the Guernsey Barn pavilion.
Black and White Holstein Show at the Goshen Fair.

Friday, August 1
Entry deadline for the South Central Pa. Dairy Show.

American Viewpoints

The highest compass we can make with our fellow is... "Let there be truth between us two forevermore"
Ralph Waldo Emerson