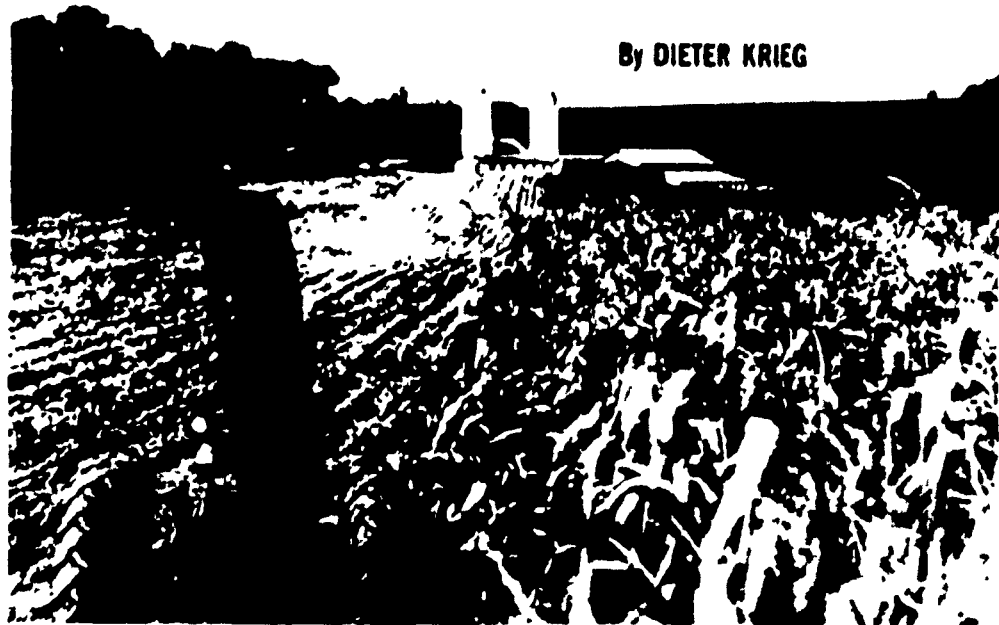


# LIFE on the farm

By DIETER KRIEG



By Dieter Krieg

I was a happy young dairyman when Phyllis arrived. She was one of six cows I had purchased at a sale.

The first of the group to come fresh, I was pleased with her production on the first test, over 60 pounds of milk with a 4.4 per cent butterfat content. That's no record-breaking performance, but it was a good start for a cow which had been fresh for only 12 days.

Phyllis, a gentle animal with an appetite for both feed and affection, received both. She had a topline which was straight as a ruler, good feet and legs, and a nearly perfect udder. Her registry papers were received with pride and she was beginning to make a fine place for herself in the herd.

"Get up, Phyllis," I said one morning, tapping her gently on the rump with the end of the milking machine strap. "It's time for you to get up." She just looked around at me and made no effort to get up. "Oh, alright, go ahead and loaf a while longer, I'll come back to you," I told her.

About twenty minutes later I was at the end of the row and it was Phyllis' turn to be milked, whether she wanted to get up or not. I ordered her to get up and tapped her rump once more. Phyllis continued to be "lazy." Friendly persuasion didn't work, and

All rights reserved by Dieter Krieg

neither did force. She managed to prop herself up on her front legs a time or two but seemed to be paralyzed in the rear.

My mind searched her brief history on the farm for a possible reason for this condition. The only thing I could think of was that the largest cow in the barn, Joyce, — who had been in heat — may have injured Phyllis while "riding" her. The diagnosis from the veterinarian was a cracked pelvis.

We managed to get the injured animal up and Doc gave her a good chance of recuperating. We worked with her several times a day, always fearful that she might lose her balance, fall, and go down permanently. Much of the sweat protruding from our faces and arms wasn't from the physical strain, but from the worrisome thought which occupied our minds.

Phyllis did fall one day, and she never got up again. We moved her to the end of the barn and worked with her — hoping that a miracle would take place. She looked at us with sad eyes from day to day, and we who worked with her returned her sad expression.

The dollar loss would be missed. So would her friendly personality. She was the kind of cow whom any dairyman could be pleased with. Her loss was one of those unfortunate things which no dairyman is immune to.

## Farm Commentary

By Dieter Krieg

Last week it was suggested in this column that a long-term agricultural trade agreement with Russia would be of benefit to this country because it would allow for some advance planning rather than highly erratic marketing changes.

However, it was also suggested that the United States should be very cautious in signing any agreement with the Soviet Union. Some reasons for that will be presented today.

To begin with, I'd just as soon suspend all trading with the Soviet Union to bring some economic pressure on their government, but if we must have trade in order to keep our country's financial ledgers in the black, then let's have it with some regularity to avoid the disasters which were a direct result of the infamous 1972 wheat deal.

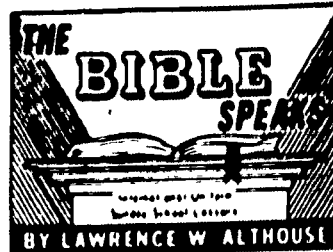
"When the most productive nation in the world reaches the point where its economy is so out of control that traditional abundance becomes scandalous scarcity, then I think it's a

disgrace equal to Watergate . . . the communists got our grain, the administration got credit for the sale, the speculators got the profit, and the rest of us got the bill."

That quote comes from an address two years ago by Lt. Gov. Lester Maddox of Georgia, and I think it accurately describes the turmoil the US economy experienced after the ill-planned wheat deal in 1972. Senator Henry Jackson of Washington called the deal a "monumental blunder."

In short, we were taken — farmers and consumers alike. American farmers, whether they realize it or not, are the ones who have kept this country's trade balance tipped in our favor. And they've done so to the tune of billions of dollars. Meanwhile, however, industry has been unable to keep up. We import cars, radios, clothing, meat, dairy products and just about everything else because of inefficiency and unwillingness

[Continued on Page 11]



### THE SIGN!

Lesson for September 28, 1975

Background Scripture: Genesis 6 through 9:17.

Devotional Reading: Isaiah 49:1-16.

The Great Flood is a theme that is found in the ancient literatures of many eastern peoples. The ancient Sumerians and Babylonians shared the Hebrew belief that at one time a great flood had covered the earth and almost extinguished the human race. There are reports that some cultures in the Southeast Pacific also have legends of a similar catastrophe.

#### The Wickedness of Man Was Great

The Hebrews interpreted this great event with religious significance. It was not something that "just happened," but an event that could be traced to the relationship between man and God.

First of all, the cause.

The Hebrews saw the Great Flood as a consequence of the evil of men. The writer of Genesis tells us: "The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (6:5). So God tells Noah: "I have determined to make an end of all flesh; for the earth is filled with violence through them: behold, I will destroy them with the earth . . ." (6:18).

Evil was rampant in the earth and it would have dire consequences for mankind. There would be many times in the history of Israel when the people of that land would interpret all kinds of disasters as the result of human sin.

So, secondly, the consequences.

Initially it seems as if God is going to wipe out all mankind, but it is soon obvious that that is not his intention. There will be a remnant: Noah, his family, and an arkful of animals. For God finds worth in Noah; and he will rebuild on that foundation.

The idea of "the remnant" would also be a continuing theme in the story of the people of Israel. Again and again there was massive destruction, but God always spared a remnant with which to rebuild.

#### The Grace of God Was Greater

Then, finally: the divine "However" . . .

So, although the evil of man was monumental, and although the consequences that would result were catastrophic, nevertheless there would be an even greater reality than these: the grace of God!

God had every good reason to wipe man off the map, including Noah. Justice demanded that humanity be obliterated. But beyond both reason and justice there was God's redeeming grace, given to the remnant and beneficent to succeeding generations of men.

"Behold," said God to Noah, "I establish my



## NOW IS THE TIME . . .

Max Smith  
County Agr. Agent  
Telephone 391-6851

#### To Prepare Corn Cribs

The new corn crop will soon be ready to go into storage; on many farms there is some old corn left in the crib or in the storage facility. The old corn should be removed from the storage and then the area cleaned and sprayed with an insecticide to eliminate possible grain insects. Reports indicate considerable amounts of weevil and other cereal insects in stored corn. It is not a good practice to place new corn on top of old corn. The use of a Malathion spray in the bin or crib should be a "must" before storing new corn.

#### To Control Rodents

Weather conditions will soon turn colder when rats and mice will be migrating toward buildings. If they find a suitable place to set up house-keeping, they will stay and be a menace for the rest of the winter. I'd suggest that the premises be cleaned up and all possible nesting places be removed. Stone walls or foundations should be repaired and "pointed" with concrete; Broken floors or piles of junk or other materials offer nesting places. Rodents do considerable damage to feed supplies, are a fire hazard, and may carry contagious disease. Poison bait stations should also be used in connection with these good sanitation practices. Do not put up with rats or mice because they will surely decrease farm profits and efficiency.

#### To Save Pigs

With the price of feeder pigs and market hogs, producers should consider spending more time with sows and gilts at farrowing. With cold weather around the corner, pigs that are dried off and placed on a nipple will have a better chance to survive; this is especially true with the smaller weaker pigs. Sows and gilts having problems farrowing can be helped by the producer if he or she is present; many pigs die because the sow takes too long to farrow. Gilts farrowing their first litter may be very nervous and bite or tramp pigs at farrowing, if an attendant isn't present to help save the pig from their mother's actions. Extra time spent

covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you . . ." (9:9) . . . "never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood . . ." (9:11).

The ancients regarded the rainbow with fear for they regarded it as the bow from which God shot his arrows of vengeance and retribution. But God would change that feared symbol to a sign of hope: "I set my bow in the cloud and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth" (9:13).

Many years later, God took another dreaded object, the cross, and made of it an eternal sign of his grace.

with the sow at farrowing will surely pay good dividends.

#### To Observe New Cattle

Many barns and feedlots are being filled with newly purchased feeder cattle. Death losses are averaging between 1 and 2 percent, and most infections "Break" 3 to 7 days after the cattle arrive in the feedlot. Therefore, it is vital that feeders give special attention to the cattle for the first week to 10 days. A separate pen should be available for cattle that are "slow" or sick. A catch pen with a head-gate will make treatment much easier and eliminate the need for excitement and stress. Good grass hay immediately after arrival is a very good way to get them started. Be on the alert for animals that do not eat or drink and stay by themselves. Prompt treatment will save most of them. Observe the cattle at least four times daily and protect your investment.

#### Weed Control

In order to do a good job of chemical weed control, it is important to select herbicides that are effective on the weeds in a given field or on a given farm. The time to start controlling the Bicentennial weeds of '76 is this fall. Start by taking a survey of the fields to observe the weeds that were not killed this past season. Weeds that are uncontrolled should be identified and possibly another weed control used next year. It is difficult to get one herbicide that will control all weeds without harming the wanted crop. Different materials and methods may be needed depending upon the weed. Assistance in weed identification and materials to use is available at our Extension Office.

## Farm Calendar

Monday, Sept. 29

Corn and soybean field day at the Penn State Research Farm beginning at 1:30 p.m. The farm is located four miles west of the Manheim Auto Auction along Auction Road.

Wednesday, Oct. 1

Lancaster County Conservation District meeting at the Farm and Home Center 7:30 p.m. New Holland Farmer's Fair begins and continues through the 4th. For complete schedule see the story in this edition.

Thursday, Oct. 2

County Ag Teachers meeting at 4:15 p.m. at Ephrata Senior High School. Plowing Contest at the Milton Hershey Farm beginning at 12:00 noon. No food will be served at the event.

Monday, Oct. 6

Parents Anonymous meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Grace Lutheran Church in Lancaster. For parents concerned with Child Abuse.