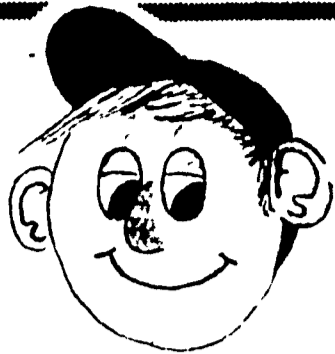


Nixnutz's Corral

By BARNEY NIXNUTZ

"All the news that's unimportant, but still interesting."



Pucker up

What's this we hear about someone at the southern end who's inviting ladies to step forward to be kissed? The incident took place earlier this month when this fellow — complete with white hair and glasses — found himself to be an award recipient. Since he happened to be the fellow who was handing out the awards in the first place, he decided to give the plaque to his wife — and along with it a kiss (her reward for 25 years of faithfully washing the milkers). This done, he turned back to the audience and cheerfully announced: "If there are any other ladies out there who would like to be kissed, just come right up."

Big milk check

And you think your milk check is small! How would you like to receive one for just \$11.97? No, I'm not referring to the Class 1 price, I'm quoting figures from a monthly receipt. According to Robert McSparran, a white-haired, bespectacled Guernsey breeder from down around Wakefield, that's a net receipt from the year 1900. The old statement showed that 1,563 pounds of milk were shipped during that particular month; and 66 pounds of butter were made from it. The elder McSparran took three pounds of butter home for his own use, and was paid 19 cents a pound for the remaining 63 pounds. That comes out to \$11.97.

Silent majority

No humor column would be complete without a barb directed at the Governor, so here's one I picked up at a recent meeting which had approximately 160 farmers in attendance. The Governor was supposedly praising the achievements and potential of farmers, then hinting that it was partially due to his programs. So, in acknowledging the Governor's wise policies, the emcee at the meeting declared: "Let's hear it for the Governor!"

The entire audience of 160 people remained silent.

Noisy bunch

There are a bunch of dairymen in the Mount Joy Farmers Cooperative who have found new uses for common milk house utensils. At their annual meeting, last week, a group of about 16 or so provided the gathering with some new form of entertainment which probably made Ed Sullivan turn over in his grave because it's too

late for him to get them on his show. Believe it or not, the group sang "Dry Bones" to the accompaniment of klanging, clunking, and klinging on everything from a clevis to a stripcup and strainer to milk can lid. The audience loved it, but the milk inspector who attended wasn't too excited about what the farmers thought of their strip cups.

\$10 an hour

A well-known Guernsey breeder from the southern end of Lancaster County was recently found in his barn by a somewhat dimwitted hunter who reportedly gaped at the work going on. While the dairyman, K. D. Linde, methodically went about his work, the visiting hunter became more and more overwhelmed. Finally, no longer able to contain his amazement, he blurted out: "You don't do this twice every day, do you?"

"O, yes," the dairyman replied, "twice every day, seven days a week, 365 days a year."

"But you can hire someone to take your place — let you have some time off and get away from it all, right?" the stranger inquired.

"No, hired help costs too much," the farmer replied curtly.

Not easily persuaded to drop the subject and still in awe over what he saw, the hunter said: "But, surely, you can afford to pay someone \$10 an hour?"

At this, by the dairyman's own admission, he nearly fell to the ground. "I felt like I was going to fall over, but I was too close to the gutter!" Linde confessed.

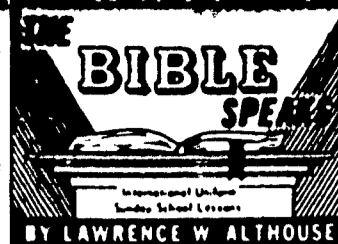
Vashington law

Victor Ziegler, a dairyman from up in Lebanon County, has had a few visitors to his farm who don't know too much about farming — particularly the dairy business. Here's a tale about one of his experiences, which has previously received comment in the Pennsylvania Mirror, a State College newspaper. A partial reprint follows:

The expression on the woman's face was one of amazement and wonder as she watched a herd of cows being milked in a double-six parlor. Finally, unable to remain speechless, she remarked: "You don't milk these cows every day do you?"

The dairyman responded with his Pennsylvania Dutch accent and humor at its best: "Vell, I haf been milking dese cows twice a day, every day for 25 years, but ve are introducing a bill in Vashington later this year which will allow us to skip milkings on weekends!"

Have a good day folks! It's getting to write this kind of stuff that makes my day.



LET GOD DO IT!

Lesson for February 8, 1976

Background Scripture: Matthew 13

Devotional Reading: Psalms 78:1-8

"Let God do it!" can be either an expression of profound faith or abject irresponsibility. It all depends upon the context in which it is said.

For example, "Let God do it" is the response some people make to any task or challenge which is put in their hands. It springs from an unwillingness to do the things we can do, to do the things God has equipped us to do. It is the ultimate "cop-out" and "passing of the buck." It stems from a failure or unwillingness to understand that God does not do for us the things we can do for ourselves. Thus, in his famous prayer, theologian Reinhold Niebuhr prayed: "Lord, give me the courage to change the things that can be changed. . ."

Like "seeds" and "leaven"

But there are times when letting "God do it" can mean simply that a person recognizes his human limitations and posits his faith in the God who's ". . . got the whole world in His hands." Sometimes it is a matter of letting God be God, of acknowledging that there are some things that only He can achieve.

We see this theme running through much of Jesus' teachings. It is implicit, for example, in the parables of the mustard seed and the leaven. Both of them are parables of hope that seek to encourage the response of faith.

The mustard seed in times becomes a great tree and the tiny lump of leaven eventually permeates the whole loaf. The kingdom of heaven is a great reality that springs from small beginnings. The change comes, for the most part, not with dramatic suddenness, but slowly, often imperceptibly and unnoticed.

But behind that growth and change, slight and plodding though it may seem, is the immutable power of God working toward his purposes. If we do our part, however small and insignificant that task may seem, and if we leave the end result to him, the kingdom of heaven will come. . . in God's own time!

"At the close of the age"

Once again, in the parable of the "treasure hidden in a field," we are admonished to "Let God do it." If we really put our hope and trust in God, then we will put the kingdom in undisputed first place, giving up everything else, if necessary, for that one certainty.

Finally, the parable of the good and bad fishes becomes quite specific: God alone is the ultimate judge; judgement is something we must "let God do!" We must not despair because it seems that evil goes unpunished and good unrewarded. We need not attempt to take God's role and execute



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
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Included in the 1976 Agronomy Guide.

Farm Calendar

Feb. 9

Beef Cattle Management Seminar, Schuylkill Campus of Penn State, 7:30 p.m. Dave Kantner, county agent is guest speaker.

Twin Valley Adult Farmers hold welding class at high school, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 10

Annual Meeting of the Lancaster County Extension Service 6:30 p.m. at the Farm and Home Center.

Adult Farmer Meeting on swine farrowing facilities and housing; Ephrata High School, 7:45 p.m.

Atlantic Breeders District 8 meeting, held in conjunction with Franklin County Dairy Day at Lemaster's Community Center, 10 a.m.

Feb. 11

Atlantic Breeders District 3 meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Lennie's Restaurant, Halifax.

Atlantic Breeders District 7 meeting, held in conjunction with the Cumberland County Dairy Day at the Huntsdale Fire Hall, 10 a.m.

Lebanon County cattle feeders meeting, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. at the Extension Office in the Municipal Building, Lebanon. Les Burdette from Penn State will discuss latest in cattle feeding and update cattle situation.

Feb. 12

Atlantic Breeders District 5 meeting, United Methodist Church, Quarryville, 7 p.m.

Atlantic Breeders District 6 meeting, for York County, at the Dover Fire Hall, 10 a.m.

Atlantic Corn Research Conference, 10 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at the Hunt Valley Inn, Cockeysville, Md.

Open House at C. B. Hooper's Farm Equipment, Intercourse, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

E-town Young Farmers meeting at the high school, 7:30 p.m. Subject: income taxes.

Feb. 13

Pennsylvania Egg Marketing Association meets at the Sheraton-Conestoga, north of Lancaster, 7 p.m. Henk Wentink of NCEN is guest speaker.

Atlantic Breeders meeting for District 7 (Adams County) at St. John's Church, New Chester, 10 a.m. Held in conjunction with the Adams County Dairy Day.

Feb. 14

Travel and Adventure Series program sponsored by the Paradise Rotary Club, "Rio Colorado" at 7:30 p.m., Conestoga Valley H.S.

To Repair Farm Machinery
The heat of the afternoon sun reminds us that in the next 6 to 8 weeks there will be action out on the land in preparing for the 1976 cropping season. The condition of farm machinery as the season begins is very important in order to avoid costly breakdowns and loss of expensive labor. No doubt most farms have already given attention to the servicing and repairing of tractors and other machinery. However, if this has not been done, then it is time to give some attention to this important winter-time chore. The proper timing of plantings and of harvesting is very important to get maximum yields of top quality products. Don't be delayed by servicing and repairs that should be done before spring weather arrives.

To Straight-Seed Alfalfa

Many alfalfa producers have experienced good results in making straight seedings early in the spring. This can be done in this area and fall or winter-plowed land should make it possible for earlier seedings. Late March or early April seeded alfalfa seeded without a nurse crop, with proper weed control, could give two or more cuttings the first season and be ready for greater yields next year. Proper liming to correct the acidity is important in advance of seeding and we strongly suggest the band-seeding method as one of the best ways to get the seeds into the ground. Plans could now be in the making for this seeding because the ground could be ready in 6 to 8 weeks.

To Control Johnson Grass

This rank-growing weed is becoming too common in this part of the state. We urge farmers to give attention to its eradication without delay. Johnson Grass resembles sorghum in its general appearance and will grow 6 to 8 feet high; the roots are very thick and are pinkish, flesh-colored rhizomes that grow rapidly 2 to 6 inches under the surface of the ground. This weed is a very rank-growing weed that will take over most crops and spread each season. We suggest the use of Eradicane this spring by discing it into the soil and chopping up the roots as it is incorporated in the top 6 inches of soil. Details are available and

vengeance upon those who God seems to overlook. Although we must be zealous for both justice and righteousness, still we must leave the ultimate reckoning to the kingdom of heaven and "let God do it!" (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.)