

# Lancaster Farming

## EDITORIAL COMMENTS

BY DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR

### Our national disgrace

One of the things which never fails to amaze visitors and immigrants to the United States is this nation's abundance of food. Most of us can eat what we please and as much as we please. That's the positive side of our horn of plenty

The negative side is our national disgrace — the constant waste of food. It's something which shocked my family when we first came to America 20 years ago and continues to bewilder us to this day. But I'll put my own thoughts on that subject aside for the time being and let students at the University of Arizona make the point for me. They recently undertook a project to determine how much food was being wasted in Tuscon, population 360,000. Here's what they found:

Working with city trash collectors, students collected random samples of garbage and inspected it for food content. Using a little bit of arithmetic and even less of the "new math," they

estimated that residents in the town annually discard some 950 tons of food — most of it edible. It was valued at \$9 to \$11 million!

One week's garbage would provide enough edible meat, poultry, and fish to feed 3,000 people for a week. More than half of the discarded food was straight waste — whole slices of bread, large pieces of edible meat, etc. On an overall average, the students calculated that Tuscon's residents wasted 10 per cent of their food purchases. The middle class group was the most wasteful of all, they determined. Food waste in their neighborhood approached 25 per cent.

What's true for Tuscon is basically true for every other community in the United States. What's more, it's true for a lot more than just food. We also waste fuel, energy, building materials, resources, time, and money — to name a few.

### Yes, they are high enough

Dairy support prices did not need further upward adjustment recently, as had been requested by some farm organizations. The simple reasons for this are that: 1. many dairymen themselves admit that they are in a good profit situation with present prices; 2. a further increase in prices could lead to an unfavorable response from consumers — something that should be avoided; and 3. increased prices could lure farmers to go into dairying and oversupply the market which would result in a collapse of prices.

Milk prices in relation to feed costs are now more in line than they've ever been in recent years. Profits are being made again. Comparing today's milk prices to feed costs we find that the money received for 100 pounds of milk will just about pay for 200 pounds of grain if bulk prices are

considered. That gives us a milk-feed price ratio of close to 2.0 — the best it's ever been. By comparison, 20 years ago it was only 1.28 and 10 years ago it stood at 1.40. The late 60's and early 70's were good years according to USDA figures when the milk-feed price ratio went as high as 1.75. But it dropped again quickly until it hit 1.35 in 1974 and 1.44 last year. Looking at it in another way, the price of 100 pounds of grain went up roughly 80 per cent in the past 10 years while milk prices gained by roughly 120 per cent.

Granted, various other costs of production have gone up too, but by and large the profit margin is now sufficient, and to ask for more at this time would be a step more in line with George Meany's policies rather than those of a proud and efficient American farmer.

### Ag Day is every day

March 22 has been set aside as Agriculture Day — "a vigorous, unified effort to promote better understanding between rural and urban Americans"

Think about that for a second. Isn't that what's needed every day? I believe so.

Farmers farm 365 days of the year, we all eat every day. Anytime a farmer comes into contact — either directly or indirectly — with a city person, he should make an effort to promote agriculture. That's every day. And it should be done in a sincere, informative manner. Not in an arrogant or even angry fashion which is characteristic of many union bosses

After all, how much do farmers really know about the city man's way of life? Too often we look at his salary and fringe benefits without paying attention to his disadvantages. Too often we remember only the messy cow tails which slapped us in the face, the long hours, the high investments, and bad weather, while forgetting the rewards and blessings of farming.

This is not written in defense of the non-agricultural worker's attitudes and wage earning power, but to illustrate that the door to better understanding swings both ways. It shouldn't exclude the farmer, and

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**THE BIBLE SPEAKS**  
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

**FORMULA FOR GREATNESS**  
Lesson for March 7, 1976



NOW IS THE TIME...

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Background Scripture: Matthew 19 through 21:5.

Devotional Reading: Matthew 19:23-30.

I have been to the top of the Eiffel Tower, the Empire State Building, Chicago's Sears Building (at this writing the world's tallest), the Centennial Arch in St. Louis, I have stood within the vastness of St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome and visited and even greater number of other manmade wonders. Still, no structure which man has conceived and constructed has so impressed me as the Great Pyramid at Giza in Egypt.

At the pinnacle Experts disagree on its precise purpose, but the great structure seems obviously intended as a magnificent monument to the greatness of Pharaoh Cheops. Ironically, however, it is not so much Cheops who is remembered today as the monument itself.

For many people the pyramid is an appropriate symbol for the concept of greatness. The great man, they believe, stands at the very pinnacle of the pyramid. The "not-so-great" stand at varying levels below, trying constantly to climb a little higher on the ever-steeper structure. Thus, when we think in terms of success or greatness, we speak of "climbing higher" and "moving up."

It is often erroneously assumed that Jesus didn't understand human nature. But Jesus understood human nature better than anyone else. He knew that most people dreamed of "greatness" — or at least of not "greatness," then of success. Contrary to what many people might assume, Jesus saw nothing wrong with wanting to be "great," ... so long as we go about it in the right manner!

#### The inverted pyramid

Several months ago I stayed in a most unusual hotel in the city of Tunis on the North African coast. The Hotel Du Lac is actually an inverted pyramid — a pyramid resting on its pinnacle and with its broad base standing high in the air! This strange building reminded me of something George Arthur Buttrick once said: "Christ's idea of greatness is like an inverted pyramid; the nearer to the peak, the greater the burden, and the more people are carried in love."

This is exactly what Jesus was speaking about: "... whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave" (Matthew 20:26,27). It is all right for a man to strive for greatness so long as he knows what greatness really is!

And what is the formula for true greatness? Jesus both proclaimed that formula and demonstrated it with his own life: "even as the Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to

#### To Stress Swine Sanitation

Hog Cholera has been diagnosed at our eastern border once again. Dr. Homer Forney of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, told us at a livestock meeting last week that three herds of hogs have been quarantined in New Jersey; since that time we have learned of outbreaks in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. This is a serious threat to our local hog industry and every person connected to swine production and marketing should be extremely careful in the most strict sanitation practices. Garbage should be well cooked when it is being fed to hogs. Traffic from public places back to the farm should be done very carefully; footwear should be well scrubbed and disinfected before entering any hog house or fattening pen. Sick hogs should be promptly reported to the local veterinarian. The hog enterprise is big business in this part of the state and reckless management can hurt many people.

#### To Plan

**Forage Program**  
At the recent Dairy Day program Dick Adams, Dairy Extension Specialist from Penn State, discussed the merits of a good forage feeding program; he stressed that the starting place was the ability to produce top quality forages

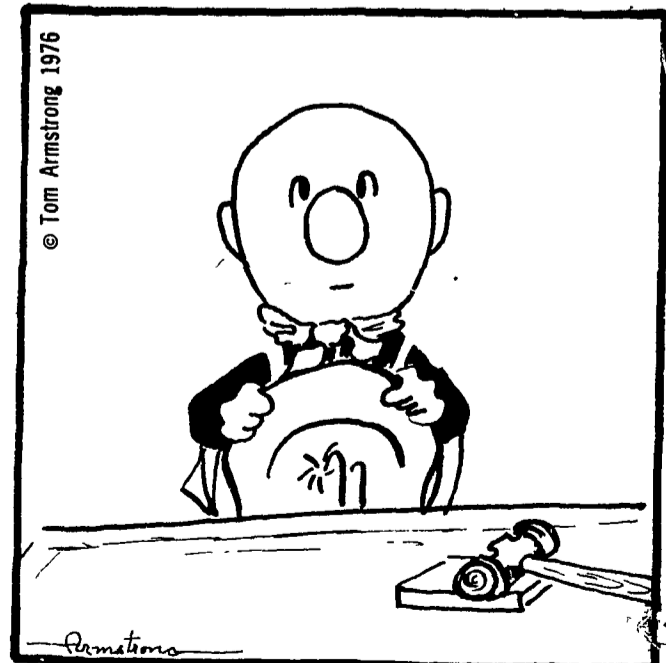
### Farm Calendar

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give his life as a ransom for many" (20:28).

The world seems addicted to the wrong understanding of "greatness," for many believe that it means to "lord it over" another. In both Jesus' words and life, however, we find the missing formula for true greatness: ... not to be served, but to serve!"

### RURAL ROUTE By Tom Armstrong



NO YOUR HONOR I DID NOT KNOW THE MILK INSPECTOR WAS BEHIND ME WHEN I ENGAGED THE MANURE SPREADER