

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

BY DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR

The two-way cow path

Much has been said and written about the need for better understanding between farmers and consumers, but seldom is it admitted that this process should include having facts available from both sides of the fence.

There's a lack of information apparent, and surprisingly, people in agriculture are sometimes lacking facts which they in turn expect the consumer to take for granted. Following are a few questions with which the farmer can test himself:

How many dairy farmers are there in the state of Pennsylvania?

Where does Pennsylvania's milk production rank nationally?

How large a part does American agriculture play in the overall U.S. economy?

What's the price of milk at the supermarket?

How much fuel do you use on your farm in a year - or month?

What does homogenization do to milk?

How many off the farm jobs are created by American agriculture?

Which vitamin is added to milk after it leaves the farm?

How many people does the average American farmer produce food for?

What is the average age of the American farmer?

How many eggs does the average hen lay in a year?

What's the price of a ton of 10-20-10 fertilizer?

How much better is food buying power here, compared to the Soviet Union, for example?

What is the tax load on your farm?

How many Cadillacs is that new combine worth?

How does the return on investment in your farming operation compare with that of a business in town?

What fraction of the cost of a dozen eggs at the store actually goes back to the farm?

Why is fresh meat better than the boxed or imported variety?

My point in all this is that both farmers and consumers need facts. There have obviously been some misunderstandings somewhere. And they've been on both sides of the

fence. Information is frequently taken for granted or totally lacking on both sides.

If a farmer can answer the above questions and countless of similar ones, then he's in pretty good shape to be his own public relations man. A farmer who isn't prepared with pertinent information about his own business can't honestly expect the consumer to know the facts.

To be in even better shape to discuss his situation intelligently, a farmer should also have some familiarity with the living conditions and styles of his counterpart in town so he can make accurate comparisons. Naturally, this is also a two-way street and town folk should be persuaded to familiarize themselves with problems and facts involved in running a farm.

Admittedly, it's no easy task.

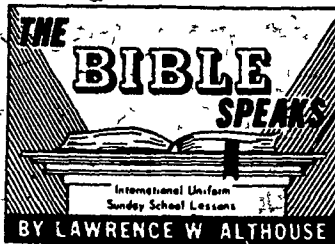
There is one important aspect in this which is frequently overlooked, and that concerns the people from rural and town areas who most frequently come in contact with one another. They're the students in our society.

If young people from farms can answer the questions previously listed (many of them can't) then they can do a little bit of the leg work involved in creating better understanding. But without the proper facts and figures we often cause the public relations effort more harm than good.

No one can realistically expect to accomplish the feat by taking the attitude that "the consumer should know it." They don't usually know the facts, and sometimes we ourselves don't.

It's fair to say, that if farmers expect a consumer to know how much it costs to produce a bundle of celery, he must first know the figure himself. If stretched a little further — for matters of comparison, he may be asked to know the production costs of a ballpoint pen, for example.

It's a two-way cow path, and with farmers being by far the smaller group, they'll have to make a greater effort to "educate" the public, including themselves.



GOD AND CEASAR

Lesson for June 27, 1976

Background Scripture: I Kings 22:1-28; Acts 5:21b-29; Romans 13:1-10; Revelation 13:11-18.

Devotional Reading: Philippians 3:12-21.

It has often been rightly said that, quoted out of context, the Bible could be used to support almost any teaching or religious concept. Used in a careless manner, various passages in the Bible could be used to support polygamy, incest, mass murder, robbery, fraud, and a whole host of acts that we consider to be immoral. Thus, it has often been said that when we quote any portion of the Bible, we need to keep in mind the rest of the Bible as well.

"But I say to you"

Jesus himself was aware of this problem. He knew that certain commandments of the Old Testament were superceded by his own message from God. Thus, at times, he would say: "You have heard that it was said of old . . . but I say to you . . ." Many of the rules and regulations of the Old Testament are no longer applicable to the Christian because the Gospel has carried us beyond that level of religion.

Even in the New Testament we must be careful to interpret Christian teachings in the context of the whole New Testament. Nowhere is this more clearly illustrated than in Romans 13.

Paul is speaking of the Christian's relationship to his government and his ideas seem clear and concise:

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities . . ."

" . . . those authorities that exist have been instituted by God . . ."

" . . . he who resists the authorities resists what God has appointed . . ."

" . . . rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad . . ."

It would seem from these statements that the Christian ought never to oppose or resist the government in any way. Yet, if Christians had followed this concept rigidly, the whole course of Christian history would have been altered. There would have been few, if any, Christian martyrs. The church probably would never have expanded beyond the boundaries of Palestine. Nor would there have been a Reformation or the American Revolution!



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
Telephone 394-6851

To Control Flies

With improved moisture conditions in the past week fly population has been on the increase. This is especially true around buildings housing livestock. The start on good fly control is to pay attention to all good sanitation practices; flies like filth and when this type of material is removed, the flies do not have good breeding places. To clean out all manure weekly and to treat manure piles with Dimethoate (Cygon) will keep the fly maggots from developing. There are several residual fly sprays that may be used on the buildings, but we suggest that the materials be changed from year to year in order to prevent the build-up of resistance in the strain of flies. Additional details are available from insecticide dealers or from any Penn State Extension Office.

To Spray Or Dust

A number of office calls have related to the practice of either spraying or dusting to control insects and diseases. Both methods may be used but generally spraying is more effective and at less cost. To dust plants means doing the job when the plants are moist with dew (very early morning) in order to get the dust to cling to the plant tissues; also, it usually costs more money for dusts than it does for wettable powders or emulsions. To spray plants we usually get better coverage, especially on the under-side of leaves, it can be done at any time of the day, and at less cost for the entire growing period. Personally, I favor spraying plants for the best job of disease or insect control.

To Operate Combines Carefully

Barley harvest is under way and soon wheat will be ripe enough to harvest. Those who are combining the grain should make every effort to get the grain in the bin and not throw it out with

Paul's words in Romans, however, must be kept in the context of his concern for Christian citizenship. Paul would not want his words about obedience to be construed to mean that the Christian ought never to resist or oppose his government. Paul's own actions are indicative of this. There were a number of times in his life when he was in opposition to the local government and was put in jail for various reasons. When conscience demanded, he resisted the government.

Nor was Paul alone in this. In Acts 5 we find the story of Peter and John being thrown in jail and resisting the orders of Jewish Council. Though respectful, Peter clearly draws the line between obedience to the state and faithfulness to one's God. When it is a conflict between the state and what God lays upon our hearts: "we must obey God rather than men."

the straw; volunteer growth of the grain later this summer in the field will reflect just how much of the grain went out with the straw. Too much speed is often the reason for loss of grain; also, trying to combine when the grain is too moist is another reason for a poor job of getting the grains out of the head. We urge operators to have their machines adjusted properly

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Farm Calendar

Sunday, June 27

Testimonial Dinner for N.J. Ag. Sec., Philip Alamp, Cedar Garden Restaurant, 6 p.m.

Monday, June 28

Schuylkill County PFA directors meet at the Extension Office, 8 p.m.
PennAg Industries holds grain conference at Sheraton-Conestoga Inn, Lancaster, 1 p.m.
Grange Leadership School at Gettysburg College, lasts through Thursday.

Tuesday, June 29

Nat. Holstein Convention begins in Philadelphia.
Hunterdon County (N.J.) dairy princess contest and dinner, Stanton Grange Hall, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, June 30

Deadline for registering bee colonies for possible pesticide damage. Must register by today with day with ASCS office at the Farm and Home Center, Lancaster.

Thursday, July 1

Schuylkill County DHIA directors meet at the Extension Office, 8 p.m.

Women's Calendar

Saturday, June 26

Society 1 meeting at 6:30 p.m. Covered dish supper. Middle Creek Church Pavilion.
Society 4 meeting at 1:30 p.m. Bicentennial program.

Sunday, June 27

Society 5 of Berks Co. meeting at 1 p.m. Family picnic
Society 26 meeting. Pig Roast.

Tuesday, June 29

Society 3 of Lebanon Co. meeting at 7:30 p.m. Entertaining Society 11 at Palmyra Municipal Building.

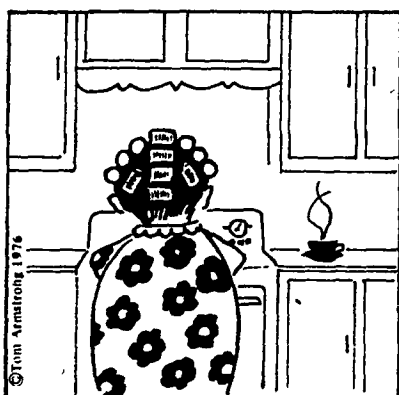
Wednesday, June 30

Society 1 of Chester Co. meeting at 1:30 p.m. Food protection - safety
Society 24 meeting to travel to Longwood Gardens

Thursday, July 1

Society 20 meeting at 11:00 a.m. Covered dish noon luncheon Hasting's Cottage
Society 17 meeting at 7 p.m. Family picnic. Hollywood pavilion.

RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong