

EDITORIAL COMMENTS By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



Biting the hand that feeds

Talk about biting the hand that feeds, and a taxing situation in Huntingdon County comes to mind. Farmers living in that portion of central Pennsylvania are being given reassessment figures for their land which in some cases are 30 to 40 times the previous assessments.

Farmers are understandably upset about the new land values which

determine their taxes and a number of them are going to court over it. Many more have put up "no hunting" signs as a means of protesting and keeping the non-farming public off their lands.

This sort of taxation dilemma still exists despite the Clean and Green Bill which is supposed to protect farmland from excessive taxation

Apparently, it's not working very well. Although the legislative measure has been deemed fair and helpful in some areas, notably in

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The close-to-home 'Midwest'

When you read or hear about agricultural news on the national level, it's always the Midwest that makes the headlines. Wisconsin is known as the dairy state, Iowa is known for its hogs and corn, Illinois and Indiana are famous for soybeans, Missouri has the beef cattle.

Almost always overlooked is the nation's breadbasket which is much closer to the nation's metropolitan areas.

Lancaster County is certainly one area which ranks very high on most any list of agricultural production. Only two counties anywhere in the United States, outrank the Garden Spot in milk production. One per cent of all the eggs in the nation come from Lancaster County farms. Annual receipts from beef production in this famous county are approaching \$100 million. Neighboring counties have their own claims to fame. Adams County has orchards, and Chester County has mushrooms, for example

Southeastern Pennsylvania is a region of tremendous agricultural production, although small in area compared to the Midwest.

Just south of the Garden Spot is an area which resembles the Midwest in more ways than one. Thousand-acre farms and flat land for as far as the eye can see are just two ways. Soybeans and corn are two more. Anyone driving through that area can't help but be impressed by the agriculture which is practiced on the Delmarva Peninsula.

Considering all the food which is produced from the tip of the Peninsula northward to the mountains of central Pennsylvania, we have an area which has everything the Midwest has, except the national claim to fame for food production.



Coverage should be close to the replacement value of a building, or contents, rather than first cost. Since inflation has been operating for many years, the first cost of the building, or item is not sufficient. Local insurance agents can be consulted to observe the amount of coverage needed to replace any losses. Don't be caught with having to replace a building with an insurance coverage of 10 to 20 years ago. It will not reach.

COMMENTS FROM READERS

Editor, Lancaster Farming:

Americans may fancy the chicken farmer, but many no longer eat our eggs. In the last 10 years the per capita consumption of eggs in all forms, baked goods, table, etc., has dropped from approximately 314 to 278 eggs per year.

Today, most people are far removed from the farmers. For this reason, little is known about our production capacities and problems. For example, few people realize the chicken farmers can comfortably produce

from 3000 to 10,000 dozen eggs per day. Again, few people know that our initial investment is approximately \$500,000 and our feed bills run nearly \$600 per-day. Furthermore, we are forced to work seven days a week, the working conditions are not the best, competition is furious, our product is highly perishable, and our energy requirements are high and expensive.

Although these problems and financial risks are high in the egg business, we

generally accept them. However, one problem that proposes a substantial concern and threat to our industry is a popular "belief" that a daily consumption of eggs by humans in some way precipitates or enhances heart attacks. This "belief" is currently widely promoted by many doctors and increasingly practiced by the consumer. This "belief" is very likely responsible for the sharp reduction in the per capita consumption of eggs.

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NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

Phone 394-6851

TO PREPARE BATTERIES

There's nothing more disgusting on a very cold morning than to have a car or truck with a battery that will not perform its job. This is quite often the case and often the fault of the owner. The battery terminals should be kept cleaned with a strong solution of baking soda and then coated with light grease of petroleum jelly. Make sure the battery is tight so that it does not bounce around. Be sure there is sufficient water in the battery cells at all times. When starting the motor on a cold morning hit the starter

with brief contacts, rather than a steady grind. A strong battery in good condition should give enough power to start the motor in any kind of weather.

TO EXERCISE DAIRY COWS

The Winter season is approaching when many herds of cows will spend most of their time in the barn. Dairywomen with stanchion or comfort stall barns are reminded of the need of outside exercise for the milking herd. Producers

with free stalls and milking parlors usually do not have a problem with not exercising their herd. Swollen hocks, stiff joints and long feet are only a few of the visible problems that may occur. In many cases breeding problems can be traced to cows that have been confined too closely during the Winter months. With the exception of a few very cold or stormy days, we suggest that the milking herd be turned into an exercise lot daily...also, observe the cows while outside for heat periods or other special conditions.

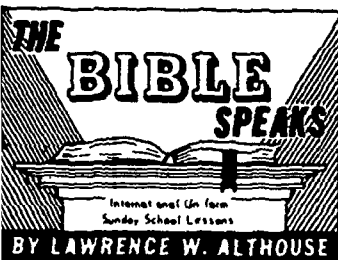
TO BE CAREFUL WITH MOLDY GRAIN

Weather conditions have not been very favorable for the drying and curing of grains or some feed mixtures. There are not many farm animals that should be fed moldy feed or grains, but a fattening hog might be the best place to use it lightly. Hogs that are weighing above 150 pounds can utilize low quality feed about the best of any farm animal, but should be given a chance to eat it along with some good grain. Don't force them to eat large amounts at any given time. Fattening cattle

might be the next group that can stand some degree of off-quality feed or grains. Never feed moldy or low-quality feed or grains to any kind of a breeding animal; this may abort the young and cause future breeding problems.

TO CHECK FIRE INSURANCE COVERAGE

We repeat the need for evaluating the coverage for all types of insurance at this time of the year; the fire insurance coverage is important at this time of the year because of the storage of the 1977 crops and many barns are full of livestock.



THE GREATEST?

Lesson for November 27, 1977

Background Scripture:- Luke 22:24-27; Mark 9:33-37. Devotional Reading: Mark 10:35-45.

As you read these words the 1977 scholastic and in-

tercollegiate football season will be just about over. In various parts of the country students will deck their respective campuses with signs and banners proclaiming: "WE'RE NUMBER ONE!!" Newspapers will carry stories about those teams being selected to play in the various bowl games and there will be endless speculations about the individual players who have won various trophies and berths on the several All-America teams.

Not so with you. The scramble for greatness on the football gridiron is simply a reflection of one

of the dynamics that is part of life in our society: the struggle for pre-eminence. Everybody must either excel in something or at least identify with some person or group who does. This is true in sports, in academics, in social life, in politics—in short, in everything that humans do.

It is not so surprising then that Jesus' disciples should have been concerned with rank and prominence within their small group. They knew that someone had to be the greatest disciple, the head apostle, and it was understandable that they could not agree on who it should be.

When Jesus realized what they were discussing among themselves, he could have reacted in one of two ways. One the one hand, he might have scolded them severely for their lack of humility and understanding. How dare they let their egos take over!

But Jesus responded in a much more positive way. He knew that it was human nature to seek prominence.

So, he responded, not by criticizing them, but by telling them how they could be great in the kingdom of God. The society in which they lived judged greatness in terms of authority and sheer power. "But not so

with you," said Jesus, "let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves" (Luke 22:26).

They way to be first

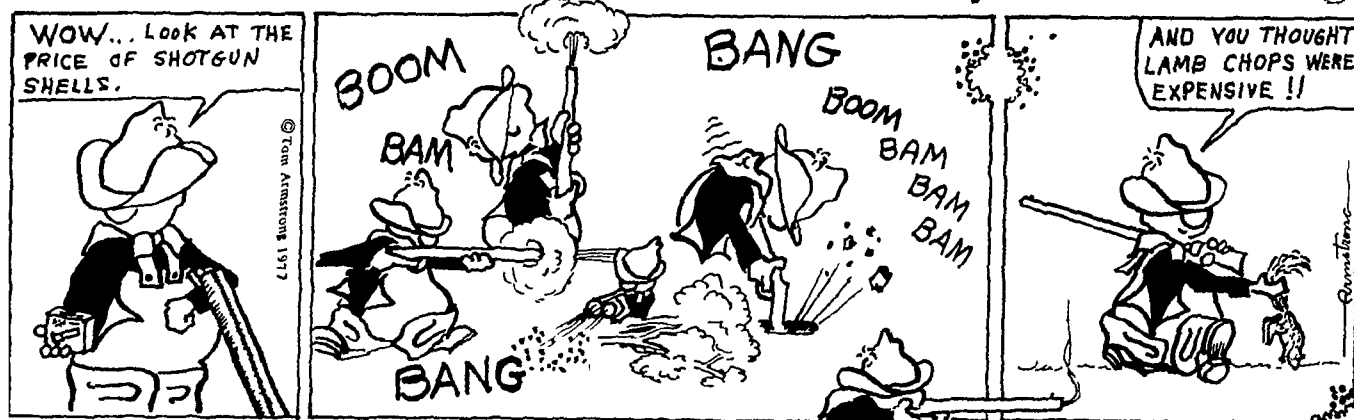
The greatest in the kingdom of God, said Jesus, are those who, like him, are most zealous in serving others. By virtue of his identity and God-given role, Jesus could claim ultimate pre-eminence, but instead: "...I am among you as one who serves" (22:27). John tells us that Jesus demonstrated what he said above on the night he was betrayed when he took a

towel and a basin and humbly washed his disciples' feet. By the act of humble service, freely and lovingly given, Jesus demonstrated that he was Lord of all.

Almost two thousand years later and Jesus' teaching on greatness is much known and little taken seriously. Even in the church we seem to regard as preeminent those who wield authority and power, who can command attention and praise. How long will it take us to learn the true meaning of what it means to be the greatest?

RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong



Farm Calendar

Monday, Nov. 28
Conrad Weiser Adult Farmers hold corn meeting, at the high school, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 29
Energy savings workshop, 7:30 p.m. at the Glenside Library, Montgomery County. Extension Service sponsors.
Hunterdon County Junior Leaders officer workshop, Extension Center auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 30
Energy savings workshop sponsored by the Extension Service, Limerick Township Building, Route 422 west of Limerick, 7:30 p.m.
Berks Co. Conservation District board of directors meeting, Ag-Center, Leesport, 2 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 1
Hunterdon County Home

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