

EDITORIAL COMMENTS By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR

Take your warnings seriously

One little mistake, no matter how innocent, is all it takes to cause a disaster for yourself or your neighbor. Generally it can be boiled down to just plain carelessness or even irresponsibility. Like a match dropped in the straw mow, carelessness can cause a lot of grief. Take the case of a careless entry into a quarantined chicken house, followed by a visit to a disease-free facility. That's all it takes to infect a flock of birds.

Or consider the milk from a cow which has been treated for mastitis. Just a few pounds of milk from the treated quarter and an entire tank full of milk can be ruined. Worse yet,

it'll affect all the other milk in the truck that hauls it, and eventually an entire silo of milk at the dairy. Somebody stands to pay for the loss of such carelessness. So far it's been covered by either insurance or the marketing association's own savings account. This seriously jeopardizes the flow of good will, beneficial advertising, and wholesome farm products.

Back to the poultry disease situation Lancaster County poultry producers can't be overemphatic in their drive to urge all poultrymen -- large or small -- to take precautions. (See page 1) If something isn't done immediately to halt the spread of the

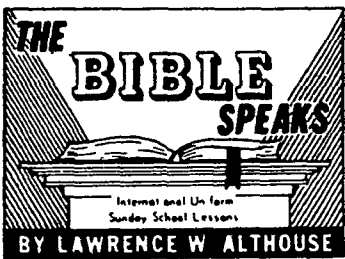
disease, slim profits could turn into heavy losses.

It is time that farmers take their responsibilities very seriously in order to protect themselves against disease outbreaks or serious consequences if drugs in milk are traced back to their farm.

The risks are too great. Everything a family worked for could be lost in one bad move. Consider having to pay \$100,000 for milk that contained penicillin and had to be dumped. Or consider having your own flock of chickens go through a disease period which can be overcome, but somehow your flock infects others

around you because someone was careless.

Strict precautions should be taken by all farmers. At this time that's particularly true of poultrymen and dairymen. They should also see to it that their employees follow instructions. And in the case of poultrymen, they should make sure no unauthorized persons enter their poultry houses. And those who must enter, should take every step to insure that disease organisms aren't carried in or out, whatever the case may be. "Precautionary and security measures to be taken by poultrymen are contained in the page 1 article. It's suggested they be seriously considered



THE GIFT OF PATIENCE
Lesson for March 5, 1978

Background Scripture: Acts 1.
Devotional Reading: John 16:4-11.
I am grateful for the gifts

that God has given me. Like most people I probably have considerably more of those gifts than I realize and use. Yet, there is one gift which I often wish had been part of my God-given endowment: the gift of patience. I would rather fast for 40 days and 40 nights, go on a long pilgrimage, ascend the penitential steps in Rome on my knees, give away my worldly goods (a somewhat cheap offer, I'll admit!), take on a benevolent project or quest, or wear sack-cloth and ashes for Lent, and probably almost anything else you can think of ... than be patient.

Wait for the promise
Of course, God doesn't usually offer me any of those alternatives. Instead, it seems his customary requirement is that I wait for his promises to be fulfilled. The only comfort I take in that fact is the realization that I am not alone in my dilemma. Throughout the Bible there are numerous stories of people who have had to learn to wait for God to keep his promises, some of them successfully, some of them rather unsuccessfully.
So I can easily appreciate

what must have been in the hearts and minds of the disciples when they are told by the risen Lord: "wait for the promise of the Father" (Acts 1:4). Their impatience at this prospect is obvious, for they ask him: "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" (1:6). How anxious they are for the promises to be fulfilled NOW! The people of Israel have waited for centuries -- surely the time of waiting was at an end! But once again the admonition was one to patience: "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority" (1:7).

The times and seasons
That's my problem: I want to know the times and seasons. It's not so much just the waiting, but not knowing when. It is my insistence on "knowing when" that is indicative of both my impatience and my lack of faith. For that's what impatience with God amounts to: lack of faith. It means I still want to substitute my judgement for his, that I still do not really trust him to keep his promise.
Impatient as his disciples were, they responded in the best possible manner: "They returned to

Jerusalem...to the upper room" and WAITED! But that didn't mean they weren't doing anything. Luke tells us: "All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer" (1:14). They waited...but they did it prayerfully and expectantly. They lived each day in anticipation of the fulfillment of the promise and it was probably this expectation that made it possible for the promise to be fulfilled.
I suspect that the disciples were not particularly gifted with patience, but if they learned and mastered this art, so can we!

NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
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TO PROTECT SMALL FEEDER PIGS
The swine feeding business is growing in this part of the country; many hundreds of small feeder pigs are put on feed here each week. During the cold weather these small pigs should be given some protection; due to the long periods of very cold weather the past two winters we have noticed more losses and more poor-doing pigs due to the cold. At the recent Swine Day, Dwight Younkin from Penn State, stressed the importance of supplemental heat for these small pigs, or the covering of their pens to

hold their body heat. After the pigs reaches 60 to 75 pounds, they can stand more cold; however, in some open-fronted barns even the larger hogs will "pile-up" because they are too cold. Pig comfort during the winter will mean faster and more efficient gains.
TO INSPECT PESTICIDE SUPPLIES
The supply of left-over pesticides from last year should be inspected and inventoried for this season. In many cases these materials may be used with good results. However, if the dusts or powders have gotten damp and are lumpy, they

should be discarded. Also, any materials that are on hand without a label or identification, should not be used. It is very important to retain the original container, or label, in order to identify the material, and to be able to follow instructions. Don't make the mistake of guessing as to the identity of the Material and the dosage. Follow instructions carefully at all times.
TO MEET MARKET DEMANDS
The producer should make every effort to produce the kind of a feed or food product their market wants. Most farmers have regular outlets

for their animals or their products. When the farmer knows exactly what the buyer wants, then an effort should be made to produce that type of product. In fact, with regular outlets for products farmers would make an effort to visit the buyer's place of business and get a better understanding of what is desired. There may be times when the buyer will pay a premium for a certain type or quality of product. We're suggesting that producers become more familiar with their buyers and try to meet the market demand. This could vary from buyer to

buyer and between localities.
TO PLAN FOR TOP-DRESSING WHEAT
The snow appears too deep for the first of March but later this month the winter wheat fields will be starting to grow; this will be the time for an application of nitrogen fertilizer if maximum yields of both grain and straw are needed. In the past this special treatment has been very successful especially on sand, gravel, or shale-type soils. With the current prices of straw, it might be even more profitable to try to get maximum straw yields

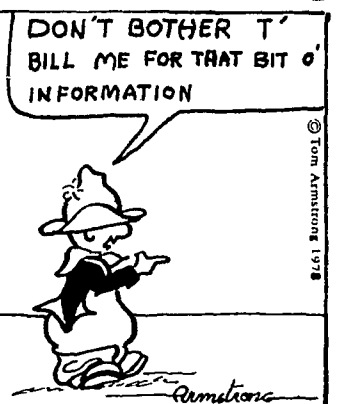
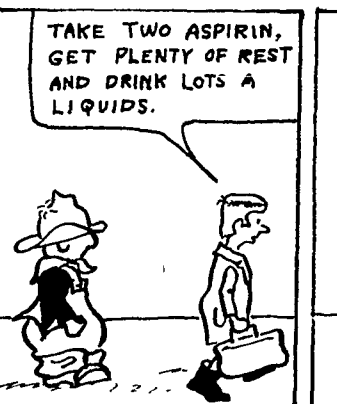
along with good grain development. Fields seeded down to alfalfa or clover should not get more than 25 to 30 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre. Applications of 50 to 60 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre on un-seeded fields should give greater returns on both grain and straw.

Farm Calendar

Monday, March 6
Annual Maryland Cooperative Extension Service Conference, Hunt Valley Inn, Cockeysville.
Red Lion Young Farmers' banquet, 6:45 p.m. at the high school.
Wood and Coal burning safety meeting, 7:30 p.m. Ironville Fire House.
Extension Capitol Days, Extension board members and staff meeting in Harrisburg with legislators.
Tuesday, March 7
Lancaster County Dairy Day, at the Farm and Home Center, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Home Vegetable Gardening meeting, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.
Hinkletown Adult Farmers meeting, at the Hinkletown Alternative School, 7:30 p.m.

York County Pomona Grange visitation at Dillsburg, 7:30 p.m.
Adams County stone fruit demonstration meeting, 9 a.m., contact Extension office for details.
Adams County commercial vegetable growers meeting, Fruit Research Lab, Biglerville, 7:30 p.m.
Adams County Home Improvement Clinic, Adams County Extension Office, Gettysburg. Follow-up meetings scheduled for March 14, 21. All at 7:30 p.m.
Ephrata Area Young Farmers Poultry meeting, 7:45 p.m.
Chester County Farmers Association holds Ladies Day Out at the Stone Barn, Unionville, 10 a.m.

RURAL ROUTE



Wednesday, March 8
Celery Growers meeting, Hodecker Celery Farm, East Petersburg, 1:30 p.m.
Home Vegetable Gardening meeting, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.
Grape Growers Educational Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Penn State Fruit Research Lab, Biglerville.

Adams County Grape Pruning demonstration, 4 p.m. at Tyson's Vineyard, Flora Dale, along Route 34, north of Biglerville.
Lebanon County Conservation District board of directors meeting, 8 p.m. at the Lebanon County Municipal Building, South Eighth and Oak Streets, Room 207.
Lancaster County Con-

servation District holds meeting on irrigation water needs, 11:30 a.m. at the Good'n Plenty Restaurant, Smoketown.
Pennsylvania Farmers' Association tour to Washington, D.C. to meet with legislators.
York County Milking School today and tomorrow, at the 4-H Center at Bair, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Codorus Fertilizer banquet,

Jefferson Fire Hall, 6-30 p.m.
Thursday, March 9
Wine Grape Growers meeting, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Farm Transfer meeting, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.
Elizabethtown Young Farmers meeting, at (Turn to Page 33)

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