

EDITORIAL COMMENTS By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



Actions speak louder than words

Twelve days ago, before a large gathering of the Midcontinent Farmers Association at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo., President Carter delivered his first major speech on agriculture since his arrival at the White House 19 months ago. The half-hour presentation was generally well received, which is saying something since a good number of Midwestern farmers had visited the nation's capital under somewhat unfriendly terms last Winter.

The phrases which won the President the most applause was his assurance to the farmers that he would not expand beef imports this

year and would not permit unrestricted beef imports next year. He also emphasized that the is "strongly and permanently opposed to any price controls on meat or other farm products."

That's fine. What Mr. Carter failed to clarify, however, is at what point he will begin to restrict beef imports next year (or on any other commodities, for that matter). What good is the idea of restricting beef imports if the point of restriction comes too late?

"The time for uncertainty and for unpredictable government-imposed embargoes on farm exports is over," Carter continued. It was one of many

phrases which farmers welcomed and applauded. For the most part, President Carter's remarks deserved applause. His speech was filled with good thoughts and ideas. The unfortunate thing about it all is that all that talk doesn't mean a thing. After having made scores of promises both during his campaign and since becoming president, and then reversing his position or ignoring the promises altogether, there is little credibility left in his speeches, regardless of how good they may sound.

Even if we credit the President with good intentions, his record is full of contradictions and broken promises. He often tells the American public what they want to hear, but fails to deliver.

In his Missouri speech earlier this month, the President vowed to always protect the Capper-Volstead Act which gives direct protection to farmer cooperatives and in turn the family farmer. Let's hope he keeps his word on that, especially now while farmer cooperatives are under

serious fire from some government agencies and consumer groups.

"I want to go as far as I possibly can to get the government out of the farm business of America. That is why the first few months after I took office I spent more hours working on the 1977 Food and Agriculture Act, I believe, than any other single piece of legislation," Mr. Carter stated.

Ironically, that same farm bill receives low scores from many farmers.

While the President claims pride in his farm background, and he has openly told farmers that they have a friend in the White House, his words and actions have consistently left a lot of doubt and disappointment among the citizens, whether they be farmers or non-farmers.

It'll be interesting to see if the President will become more of a farmer's friend through his actions, rather than just nice sounding speeches. He put a lot on the line when he addressed the Farmers Association in Missouri.

Letter to the editor

Tired of being 'milked'

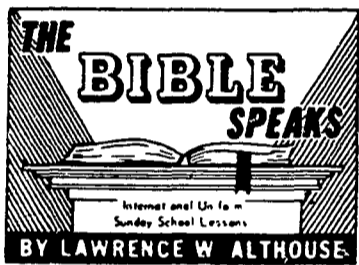
Editor: This letter is in reference to the article in last week's (August 19) Lancaster Farming concerning Lehigh Valley Cooperative Dairy's

recapitalization program. I, for one, am not in favor of any assessments unless certain criteria are met.

This assessment is extremely unfair to those

producers who began shipping their milk to Lehigh Valley with the assumption that Lehigh Valley was in better financial shape than it

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THE 29th CHAPTER

Lesson for August 27, 1978

Background Scripture:
Acts 28
Devotional Reading:
Phillipians 1:12-21.
The close of the Book of Acts is usually puzzling to

the average reader. At last Paul arrives for trial in Rome. But instead of being thrown into a dungeon in preparation for a quick and speedy trial before Caesar, upon arrival, we are told, "Paul was allowed to stay by himself with the soldier that guarded him" (28:16). It seems a strange arrangement to us. The only thing suggestive of it in today's world is what we call "house arrest," a procedure sometimes followed today with important political prisoners. (We must conclude that it was more a matter local practice than Paul's importance.)

We Want To Hear

Another strange development is Paul's freedom to meet with and speak to the Jewish community in Rome. One would think that the prisoner would be restricted from pursuing the very activity that had gotten him into trouble in the first place. Without any hindrance, they come to his residence in great numbers to hear him.

In light of all the opposition and hostility he has experienced from Jewish communities in other locations, we also find surprising the attitude with which they greeted him:

"we desire to hear from you what your views are, for with regard to this sect (the church) we know that everywhere it is spoken against" (28:22). The very fact that others have been violently opposed does not stop them from listening to what Paul has to say.

The result of the hearing is equally interesting. We are told that "some were convinced by what he said, while others disbelieved" (28:24). We are told that they "disagreed" and some departed because they could not accept some of Paul's ideas, but there is no hint of dark plots or riots.

Preaching Unhindered

Thus, with the reader waiting for the grand climax - perhaps either escape of execution - we find that there is no climax at all. Instead, the book closes with these words:

And he lived there, two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ quite openly and unhindered.

That's the end of both chapter 28 and the whole Book of Acts. How Paul's life went on or ended is still

simply a matter of conjecture and theory. The 28th chapter of Acts ends with Paul still working.

Thus, Acts is a kind of openended book. The Acts of the Apostles are presumed to continue on through Paul's time and into every era of the church. Paul's story ends with chapter 28 but the acts of the apostles and disciples continue on as countless others follow in their footsteps, preaching and teaching of Jesus the Christ and witnessing to his power throughout the world. The acts of the apostles go on beyond chapter 28. They never end!

NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

Phone 394-6851



TO CONTROL WEEDS IN NEW ALFALFA

Early August seedings of alfalfa should be off to a good start. However, the weeds will also be growing provided a herbicide has not been used. Too many times we get requests from growers on how to kill the weeds in alfalfa after the growth is about a foot or more high.

These weeds must be killed when small; otherwise, it is hard to kill weeds without hurting the alfalfa plants. When the weeds are only one to two inches high the application of 2,4-D-B over the field will control

most of the broad-leaf weeds. The grassy-type weeds are hard to kill after the field has been seeded; this requires an Eptam treatment just prior to seeding. The important thing to keep in mind is to kill the weeds when they are very small.

EO ELIMINATE JOHNSON GRASS

This sorghum-like grass is taking over on too many farms in this part of the state. I'm aware of infestation in which nothing seems to be done to control the weed. In corn there is little to do at this time of the year; this requires a spring

treatment with Eradicane at planting time.

However, in other fields such as small grains, when the growth of the Johnson Grass reaches 2½ to 3 feet, the plants may be sprayed with Roundup for good control. These plants are very heavy seed producers; a few plants allowed to go to seed this fall will mean hundreds of plants next summer. Johnson Grass is very fast growing and will crowd out most farm crops. We urge land owners to make every effort to eliminate all plants from their farm.

TO KEEP ON TOP OF CATTLE MARKET

I can't remember when I have noticed as many empty feedlots in this part of the state. Many feeders are reluctant to fill their barns with cattle at current feeder prices. I believe that many are waiting until the larger runs of cattle hoping that prices may recede. I'm not in a position to predict what is going to happen in either the feeder or the finished cattle market.

However, I would suggest that cattle feeders get better informed on the market conditions and become more

knowledgeable on prices and on the supplies of cattle. Frequent visits to the market, or have a representative there, will help make major decisions. I'm of the opinion there's little chance of much drop in feeder prices this fall; cattle numbers are down and feed supplies are very ample.

TO APPLY LIME

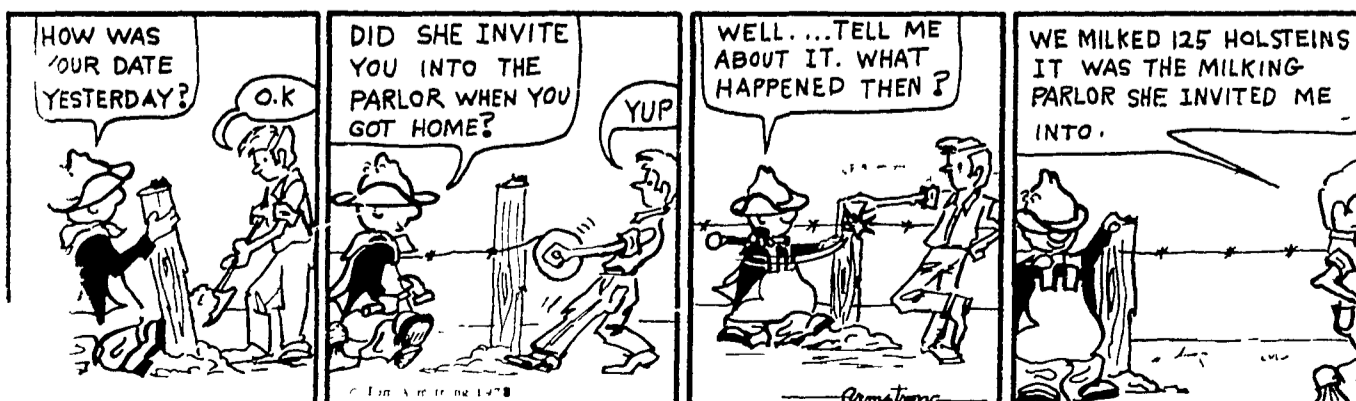
Early fall is a good time to be applying lime to open fields. For land that is to be seeded to legumes in 1979, now would be the best time to correct any soil acidity. For lime to have time to work properly it should be

applied well in advance of a new legume seeding; also, it should be well mixed with the topsoil to do the most good.

The practice of applying lime on top of the soil for a new legume seeding is not recommended. Keep in mind that heavy lime trucks can ruin a wet field next spring. Give lime a chance to correct acidity both in terms of time and mixture.

RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong



Farm Calendar

Today, Aug. 26

Centre County Grange Fair is in progress at Centre Hall. Through Aug. 31.
Great Allentown Fair in progress at Allentown. Continues through Sept. 2.

Sunday, Aug. 27

Maryland State Fair, Timonium, Md., continues through Sept 5.

Tuesday, Aug. 29

Flemington Fair begins in Flemington, N.J. Closes Labor Day, Sept. 4.
South Central District Dairy Show, Harrisburg Farm Show arena.

Thursday, Aug. 31

Southeast Pennsylvania 4-H dairy show, today and tomorrow, Kutztown Fairgrounds.