

Project Clearwater

They did 5 years' work in one day

Editor's Note: Project Clearwater was a massive undertaking to turn a neglected farm into one which would serve as a model for conservation. This is one of a series of reports on that work.

FREDERICK, Md. — The number 13 may be considered unlucky by some. But for Warren Roelkey the 13 conservation practices installed on his farm August 19 were a dream come true.

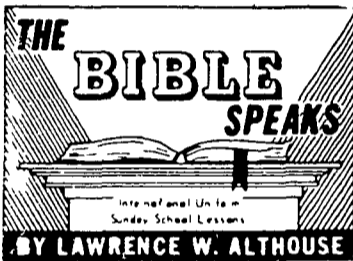
The 245-acre Roelkey farm at the base of South Mountain, was selected by the Catoctin Soil Conservation District as the site for Project Clearwater, an immense undertaking to show how a farm can be upgraded from a hopeless condition to one which is totally environmentally sound.

Between sunup and sundown on that day, 500 volunteers and 200 pieces of equipment from near and afar transformed the run-down farm into a model agricultural operation.

When district supervisors
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Project Clearwater was an immense project to turn a pitiful, neglected farm into one which can stand as a model for conservationists everywhere



OUR WORST SUBJECT

Lesson for September 3, 1978

Background Scripture:
Romans 1:18-20, 24-25;
2 Timothy 2:21-26
Devotional Reading:
John 8:31-36

Reprimanded because his report indicated an "E" in "discipline," little Billy shrugged his shoulders and replied: "I can't help it — it's my worst subject!"

Actually, discipline is the "worst subject" for many of us. Discipline is a term that indicates the degree to which a person is able to govern him or herself. It is the manner in which we control our behaviour. A person who is undisciplined is one who is not fully in the driver's seat.

Serving The Creature
The newspapers and other media are full of reminders that discipline is our "worst

subject." Our daily paper carries advertisements of some dozen weight-reducing establishments in this community. Business is booming, I'm told. Our local television stations carry commercials by several local organizations that attempt to assist the smoker to stop smoking. A highway billboard displays prominently a telephone number that can be called by anyone who wants to inquire about an intensive program to help the problem drinker. Among my daily junkmail are advertisements for classes in Yoga, "mind

control," meditation and a host of other programs aimed at the person who is trying to get a grip on his own life.

My wife and I follow a daily routine of rising at 6 a.m., walking two miles, eating breakfast and following with twenty minutes of prayer and meditation and another twenty of physical exercise. It is not a very ambitious program, in fact, in our minds it is a minimal effort. Yet the awe with which some people react when they hear us speak of it is always surprising to us. It is, we

have decided, not so much a tribute to our discipline, but a commentary on their own lack of it.

Bodies Dishonoured

Some people simply cannot conceive of making themselves do anything. There is no self-control exercised over their appetites and they seem to have an absolute compulsion to cater to every whim, fancy and appetite that comes their way. For our age the words of the writer of 2 Timothy seem archaic: "If anyone purifies himself from what is ignoble, then he will be a vessel for noble use,

consecrated and useful..." (2:21). Few of us think of ourselves as "noble vessels," yet it may well be that this lack of self-discipline and consecration is the very thing that makes life so frantic in these "sophisticated" days in which we live. Speaking of this need, Robert Raines has said: "We must lay hands of gentle ruthlessness on ourselves, eliminating some things in order to intensify others. It is necessary to prune our lives if they are to bear more fruit." Until we have learned to do this, discipline will continue to be our "worst subject."

NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

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TO PLAN FOR QUALITY CORN SILAGE

The corn crop is maturing and looks very good. Many dairy and cattle feeders will be making tons of corn silage. This is one of the most economical feeds for livestock when it is made properly. The first thing is to permit it to mature sufficiently; the moisture range of the entire stalk should be from 62 to 70 per cent; this will be in the full dent stage on many varieties.

Silage that is chopped fine and put into the silo rapidly will make the best feed; refiling should be done

within 48 hours to prevent top spoilage. Protein content of the silage can be increased through the use of some non-protein material such as urea; about 10 pounds per ton of silage is suggested. Extra preservatives should not be needed in a good silo.

TO GIVE ALFALFA A CHANCE

Many crop authorities suggest that we do not cut alfalfa here in southeastern Pennsylvania during the first part of September. This is a period when the plants are developing rhizomes for next year's growth. To

disturb this development will result in less rhizomes and less growth next year. Cuttings made late in September or early October after colder weather are suggested as a way to get the final cutting.

The application of a phosphorus-potash fertilizer this fall is strongly suggested. On stands that have been established earlier this year, from which one or two cuttings have already been made, it is favored to allow the present growth to remain on the field over winter. This will give some added protection to the plants the first winter.

TO REALIZE SHORTAGE OF STRAW

Bedding materials are worth more money in recent years than top-quality forage was several years ago. This indicates that every pound of straw is a good farm product whether to be sold or used on the farm.

Most Winter grain crops add to the straw supply; barley and wheat straw are very much in demand. In some cases winter rye has been planted as a straw crop next spring before the rye ripens. This will still permit a full-season crop to be planted to the rye field

Fields of continuous corn might still produce a winter rye straw crop next spring before time to plant corn.

TO PREVENT INFECTION

Cattle feeders are on the alert for a place to market their good corn crop. Those who are bold enough to buy at this time and find the kind of cattle wanted, should make every effort to keep them healthy. I'm thinking of the infection called "Red Nose" that is quite common in this part of the state.

This respiratory trouble is highly contagious and once in the barn or feedlot, it remains there for years. If

there has been trouble on the farm, then it is very important that every animal be treated for the infection upon arrival.

In most cases a nasal vaccine can be used. We suggest that feeders consult their local veterinarian for preventative treatment. Also, strict sanitation practices should be used. Be careful about your own footwear after visiting public livestock places.

RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong



Farm Calendar

Today, Sept. 2

Juniata County Fair begins at Port Royal.
Maryland State Fair continues in Timonium. Ends Tuesday

Monday, Sept. 4
South Mountain Fair begins at Arendtsville.

Wednesday, Sept. 6
Board meeting of the Lancaster County Conservation District, 7:30 p.m. at the Farm and Home Center, Lancaster.

Friday, Sept. 8

York Inter-State Fair begins
Pennsylvania Egg Marketing Association meets, 7 p.m. at the Treadway Resort Inn, Lancaster.

Saturday, Sept. 9

Bucks County Farm Tour, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Gratz Fair begins.
Horse plowing contest, Schaefferstown, all day.