

EDITORIAL COMMENTS By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



Help keep the poultry industry healthy

In March of this year, Lancaster County Extension agent and poultry specialist Jay Irwin said: "We hope people take it seriously and not think the disease can't happen to them."

Those same words still hold true today.

Despite warnings and preventive efforts by countless individuals and several large organizations, a notorious disease known as laryngotracheitis - "LT" - spread through poultry flocks in Lancaster County last Fall, Winter and Spring.

Nobody knows for sure what the exact poultry death toll or dollar loss was during the Oct. 1977 to May 1978 period that the disease repeatedly surfaced in Lancaster County. It is known that more than a half million birds were affected. It is also known that the incidents became so alarming that the Lancaster County Poultry Association formed a special LT Task Force to contain the disease. Joining the effort were the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Penn State University, and PennAg Industries Association, to name a few.

The above statistics should speak

for themselves regarding the weight of the problem. What's more, the potential for more LT outbreaks is very real.

LT does not occur during warm weather, say poultry health specialists. But it can hit hard during cool weather, which is what we're heading into now. The blunt reality of the matter is that due to the outbreaks that took place earlier this year, the dreaded disease can return at even greater strength this Fall and Winter and into Spring.

But there is hope that it won't happen. And there is a relatively simple solution to prevent further outbreaks.

The solution is a combination of first of all being aware of the problem and, secondly, good security measures coupled with immunization of flocks.

According to avian health authorities at the Bureau of Animal Industry in Harrisburg, one of the primary thrusts for containing the disease must be aimed at backyard poultry flock owners. They are known to be a chief source of the disease. To get the words of advice and

preventive medicine to them, all persons who are somehow related to Lancaster County's \$87 million per year poultry industry are asked to help.

Chicken farmers and poultry servicemen are being urged to follow the strictest precautions in their own work, while persuading others to do likewise. One of the biggest aims of the campaign is to encourage the immunization of backyard poultry flocks.

While immunization is regarded to be extremely important, security procedures for flocks and those who work with them are also essential for control of the disease. Last Spring, for example, Lancaster County poultrymen were encouraged to keep their hen houses locked and to not allow anyone into them without special permission. The disease - caused by a virus and carrying an up to 17 per cent mortality rate - can be transmitted from one place to another through clothing, wild birds, pets, rodents, and even tools. That's why everyone connected with or even just visiting poultry farms is warned to take note of the warnings.

It's a control effort which can't be handled by just one person or even 100 individuals. It requires the cooperation of as many people as possible if it is to be effective in protecting the Garden Spot's egg, broiler, and hatchery farms.

If something isn't done now to prevent the outbreak of LT, the slim profits experienced by many could turn into heavy losses. It's time that poultry flock owners - large and small - as well as servicemen, take their responsibilities and call for help seriously. A lot of grief can be avoided if the LT matter receives prompt and effective attention.

One little mistake, no matter how innocent, is all it takes to cause a disaster for yourself or your neighbor. We hope you will do your part to keep a lid on LT this year and we hope we won't have to write a single story about its occurrence.

For more information about laryngotracheitis (LT), including symptoms, and precautionary and security measures, please see the article beginning on page 1.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
Phone 394-6851

crops such as rye, wheat, or barley. All of these are not toxic when frozen and usually do not present any bloating problem.

However, the legumes such as clover and alfalfa should be grazed very carefully; they are not toxic, after being frosted, but will cause severe bloating if consumed while the frost is on the leaves. Allow the frost to thaw, and the plants to become dry, before turning in the herd or flock.

Also, any of the sudan grasses or sorghum hybrids should not be grazed for at least a week after being

frozen. Neither should the new growth, after being frozen, be consumed.

TO DEHORN DAIRY CALVES

This is a good practice at any time of the year. Horns on dairy cows are about as useless as teats on a bull; at one time in our civilization they were needed for protection from other animals. This is no longer needed; in fact, horns in a herd of modern dairy cows can do far more harm than good. They can be termed as possible hazards to other cattle and to human beings.

The best way to prevent

horn growth is to dehorn the small calves when two to six weeks of age. The electric dehorner is very popular at this time and results in less discomfort to the calf than other methods. This piece of equipment should be in every dairyman's equipment chest.

TO TREAT FOR STOMACH WORMS

Before animals are moved into their Winter quarters, it might be well to check for stomach worm infestation. In this part of the country, with the high livestock population, internal parasites are very common.

These blood-sucking worms reduce the health of the animals and result in poor growth and development. Samples of the manure can be taken to the local veterinarian for exact worm infection.

Research work shows that for each dollar spent for worm treatment, followed by good sanitary practices, livestock producers can expect ten dollars in return. Worm treatment can be given by paste, drench, wormer feed, or by injection. The important thing is to check for infestation and

then treat for eradication of the parasites.

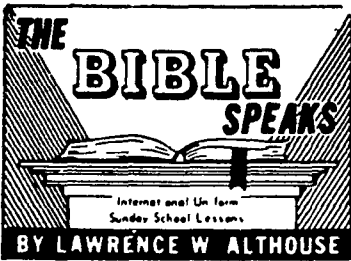
TO BUY CAREFULLY, THEN SEGREGATE

The buying and selling of all species of livestock is very common in this part of the country. The traffic in livestock is terrific. All producers should use extreme care in buying only healthy animals; be sure the health papers are official and that you are not buying trouble.

Also, the keeping of these new animals separate from the herd or flock for at least 30 days is an excellent practice.

TO CONTINUE GRAZING CAUTIOUSLY

Several phone calls to our Extension office recently referred to the dangers of pasturing forage crops after being frosted. All of the permanent grasses such as bluegrass, orchard grass, or brome grass, can be safely grazed at any time of the year; this is also true of any of the small grain cover



BASEMENT WINDOW

Lesson for October 22, 1978

Background Scripture:
Exodus 20:14
Matthew 5:27-30;
Galatians 5:16-24;
John 8:1-11.

Devotional Reading: Romans 2:17-24.

There's an old Arab story about a desert chieftan who was awakened in his tent in the middle of the night by a strange noise. "Who's there?" he called. "It's only me," replied his camel, "It's so cold outside that I just stuck my nose inside the tent to keep it warm." Anxious to get back to sleep, the Arab grumbled. "Oh, all right, but you come in no further."

After a while, the Arab awoke again and this time his camel explained that it had gotten so cold that he had stuck his head in to keep it warm. "All right,"

growled the chieftan, "but that's as far as you come." The tent was getting crowded and the Arab was beginning to be cramped for space.

As the first rays of sunlight came flooding over the desert, the Arab awoke shivering outside his tent while the camel slept peacefully and snugly inside!

The Power Of Looking

The moral of this shaggy camel story is obviously that if you give some people or things a small part of your life, they may end up taking over everything. If you want to keep the camel out, you

don't allow even his nose inside your tent.

This is what Jesus is saying when he interprets the commandment, "You shall not commit adultery." Many of his contemporaries were smug in their belief that this commandment would never stand as a judgement upon them: they had no intention to commit adultery.

Jesus punctured their smugness when he said, "But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew

5:28). But who can escape such a judgement? The answer: very few. And the meaning is that one does not escape sin by stopping short of the act of adultery. It is the lustful thought that eventually produces the lustful act.

Lock All Windows

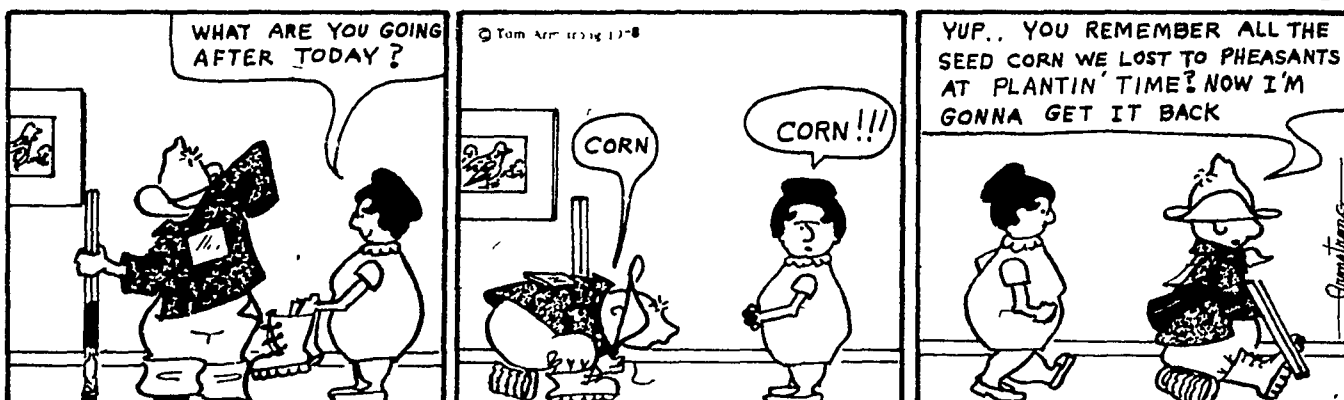
Jesus is also saying that, if we want to keep from committing adultery, the best place to set up our defences is with our thoughts and feelings. This is where adultery first takes place - just as murder first becomes possible in hateful thoughts - and it is here that we must begin our resistance to temptation. If we entertain

what seem to be "harmless" thoughts, we are likely to find that we will be more and more engrossed in them, until at last the final step into action is easy and uninhibited.

Someone has rightly observed that, if you want to keep thieves out of your house it is not enough simply to lock the front and back doors and perhaps the first floor windows. The whole house must be secured. Many a presumably secure house has been violated through an unlocked basement window. And so it is with all the temptations of life. If we would keep them out of our lives, we must deny them every entrance.

RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong



Farm Calendar

Today, Oct. 21
Pumpkin Contest at Cedar Crest FFA, at the high school, 10 a.m. Call 717-272-2031, Ext. 57 for details.
Snowmobile show at Twin-Valley High School, Elverson, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 23
Pennsylvania State Grange Convention convenes at Butler. Activities continue through Thursday.
International symposium on Large Area Crop Inventory Experiment,

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