

Life on the farm

By Dieter Krieg

Acres of sun-bleached corn are still standing in the field. But as the breeze passes through the rows, the leaves are whispering and waving their final good-bye.

Fall is here. The harvest is in full progress.

What an absolutely gorgeous time of year!

I'm impressed by not only the warm colors of the countryside, but by the fact that the scenery is always so impressive - year after year.

Why is it that we never get bored by the beauties of Nature? Every season has its own beauty, and I enjoy all of them. One of the beauties is that none of the beauty ever wears out.

It's a miracle and a blessing, I'm sure.

Trees, sunshine, and the brightly colored leaves are among my favorite things. At no other time of the year do these three combine for such a magnificent and awe-inspiring show of art. Pure art.

The sunshine is warm and "soft" now. The colors of the leaves - browns, yellows, reds, their mixtures, and even bits of purple and green - are outstanding, but not loud. The sunlight shows through them and creates a marvelous display which man has never - an will never - match.

The beauties of Nature are simple, compared to what artists often seek in their work. The beauties of Nature,

created by God, are genuine and profound with their impact. A drive through the countryside should verify that for anyone. A walk through the woods might do even more.

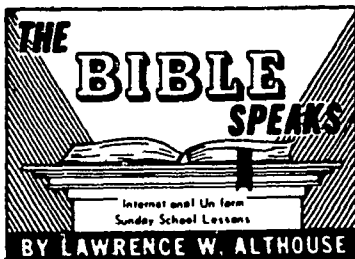
With a colorful canopy of leaves and branches overhead, and a carpet of leaves on the forest floor, a hike through the woods is a neat experience. A stream glistening in the sunlight adds a special sparkle to the scene.

The fields are filled with beauty too. The rows of corn which will soon disappear, are growing brittle and pale yellow in color. In some fields the rows are still standing as tall and proud as soldiers. Others look battered and worn down by wind and

rain. The pale yellow corn fields blend in nicely with green strips of alfalfa and blue skies accented with fluffy white clouds.

The hills look as though they're covered with the most colorful and most inviting carpets. Flocks of birds are gathering in the fields and flying en masse across the sky. Sometimes their behavior makes you think they're celebrating and dancing with joy over the beautiful world we live in. What they're doing for sure is saying good-bye - like the corn that's waving and whispering as you walk past.

It's a beautiful world we live in. We're fortunate to have it. Let's also protect it, please.



KEEPING TRADITION

Lesson for October 29, 1978

Background Scripture:
Exodus 20:12
Isaiah 29:13, 14;
Matthew 15:1-14;
Ephesians 6:1-4.
Devotional Reading:

John 2:1-12
John Churchgoer has made a considerable financial pledge to his church's budget. Some time later he discovers that his father is very ill and must be placed in a nursing home. In order to pay the medical bills John and his wife cut out all the "fat" from their household budget, but still they are not making ends meet. What should they do, they ask their pastor? Wasn't their pledge a vow made to God?

But You Say...
The answer is obvious to us, isn't it? Certainly one's responsibility to one's parents takes precedence

over our offerings to the church. Yet, in Jesus' day there must have been some rabbis who released young men from their obligation to honor their parents if they had made an offering of their wealth to the temple. Two obligations were in conflict and the religious authorities understandably chose the one that was the most expedient for them.

There was real irony in Jesus' criticism of this ruling, for often he himself was accused of weakening and circumventing the commandments of God:

"...why do you transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your

tradition? For God commanded, 'Honor your father and your mother' ... But you say ..." (Matthew 15:3,4). Because it was to their advantage, they advocated setting aside the commandment and in place they put a tradition instead.

That should be easy for us to understand because we still tend to respond in the same way with some of God's commandments. We may not question the commandment until we find that it is to our advantage to get around it in some way. Because we have found the commandment, "You shall not kill," too restrictive, we have modified it with

traditions that tell us that this may be set aside to bear arms for one's country and to punish those convicted of capital crimes. We have done virtually the same thing with every one of the commandments.

The Promise

So with the commandment, "Honor your father and your mother," we can also find justifications for violating it: "My parents never wanted me," "My father's a drunkard," "My mother's a gossip," "They've never understood me," and so forth. Because parents are human beings

and therefore subject to human limitations and frailties, we can always find a justification to withhold the honor God commands of us.

In the musical show, "Fiddler On The Roof," the Jewish father sings a song upholding "Tradition!" It is true that tradition is vital to civilization and that it is often the cement that holds our lives together. Tradition may be good and necessary. But when our traditions become ways of circumventing the commandments of God, it is the commandments that must be kept, not tradition.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
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TO CHECK VENTILATION EQUIPMENT FOR WINTER

Exhaust fans in dairy and poultry house ventilation have a heavy job to do. They remove moisture and dust, and in many cases run almost continuously from October to April.

To make your ventilation system ready for winter, several items may need attention.

The fan blades, motor enclosures and louvered shutters need cleaned frequently. Loose belts are common on belt driven fans.

Fan output varies directly with fan speed. A 10 percent loss in RPM's of the fan means a 10 percent loss in air delivery.

Check the thermostat for accuracy by hanging a thermometer beside it for easy comparison. Be sure the sensing element is clean and free from dust.

Have your fan motor protected by adequate overload protectors. Protection is secured by using thermal overload switches in the power line, or you may use a time-delay motor fuse.

TO PICK AND STORE APPLES

Whether you grow apples or just like to eat them, it's important to store them properly.

Cool apples will keep

longer. Ideally, they should be stored at 33°F., at 90 percent humidity, and in dim light or darkness.

Now as to picking, it's a good practice to store the fruit in shade as it's picked, then allow it to stand in the orchard overnight to cool. Then, place the apples in storage early in the morning before the temperature rises too much.

If you leave apples in a packing shed or in piles under the trees for one week, you'll shorten their storage life by about five weeks. So keep apples cool, maintain good air circulation during storage, and your apples should keep a long time.

TO WINTERIZE SMALL ENGINES

Many small engines on farms and around homes

will be hard to start next spring. But you can change that by properly winterizing your small engines. Here are some suggestions:

After running the engine to reach operating temperature, drain the crankcase and refill with new oil of proper weight, as specified in the operator's manual.

Add a few teaspoons of gasoline stabilizer into gas tank and run the engine for several minutes to ensure stabilizer flows throughout the fuel system. If you don't use stabilizer, then completely drain the gas tank and run engine until the engine stops.

If the engine is water cooled, be sure the anti-freeze in the cooling system is sufficient for the lowest temperature. Use a regular

anti-freeze tester to check the specific gravity.

Remove the spark plug and pour about a tablespoon of clean oil into the cylinder. Also, clean and regap the spark plug or replace it with a new one.

Use an air gun to blow loose dirt and chaff from the engine.

Service the air cleaner by following manufacturer's recommendations. Finally, cover the engine with a piece of canvas and store in a dry place under cover.

TO BE THINKING ABOUT FIREWOOD

If you are planning on burning wood in your fireplace this winter, consider buying or cutting the winter wood supply now.

A lot of people will be attempting to burn wood this winter to help conserve on expensive home heating fuels. In order to receive the

highest efficiency from wood, it should be dried under natural conditions to a moisture content of 15 to 25 percent.

A tree, when first cut, will have about equal parts of wood and water. If you attempt to burn this high moisture or green wood, much of the heat will be used to evaporate the moisture. This will result in slow burning and heavy deposits of wood tars (soot) on the chimney walls. This condition can lead to the danger of chimney fires.

If you know the wood is green, have it cut to the length at which it will be used, normally 16 to 18 inches, and preferably split for quick drying. Pile the wood on raised supports so that air can reach each end and locate the pile so that it has maximum exposure to the sun.

RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong



Farm Calendar

Staturday, Oct. 28
Third annual "Freedom of Choice Calf Sale" sponsored by the Adams County Beef Producers Association. At the South Mountain Fairgrounds, 6 p.m.
Summental Club Calf Sale, Green County Fairgrounds, Waynesboro

Sunday, Oct. 29
General membership meeting of the Southeast Grape Industry Association, 3 p.m. in the basement of the Lancaster Farm and Home Center.
Tuesday, Oct. 31
Meeting at the Berks County Ag Center, west of