

EDITORIAL COMMENTS By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



Pork Congress to portray progress

The upcoming Keystone Pork Congress, scheduled for Friday, Feb. 16, in Hershey, is both a milestone for Pennsylvania's swine industry and a feather in the cap for the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council.

Less than a year ago the event was only a dream and an idea.

What has become of that dream and idea is a monumental credit to organizers of the event, the PPPC.

It's also a sparkling reflection of what has happened and is happening to Pennsylvania's pig business. In short, pigs are big in the Keystone State. The organization of the Keystone Pork Congress brings that fact home loud and clear.

Granted, the Congress hasn't even taken place yet. But one look at the program offers proof that an all-out effort was made by dedicated members of the PPPC to make the program a success. They believe it will be a success because they know Pennsylvania's pork industry has been a success.

Hog farming has been booming in Pennsylvania, particularly in Lancaster County, which leads all other counties in the Keystone State. In fact, the Garden Spot ranks 25th in the nation in the number of hogs and pigs sold, according to 1974 USDA figures. Compare that to a 65th placing five years earlier, and there's

no doubt that hogs are booming in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Organizers of the first-ever Keystone Pork Congress know what has been going on, and they're optimistic for more growth in the future. With such an attitude, it's only fitting that the Pork Congress take place. A bouquet of compliments is due to those who conceived and organized the affair, which is sure to be a first-class gathering.

In organizing the high-calibre conference, the NPPC kept in mind a dual purpose of education and promotion. Both are essential in

maintaining a healthy business. While visitors have the opportunity to learn about new concepts in swine management, many others will view the event as a beacon which says: Pennsylvania pigs have arrived.

Many of us have realized for years that pigs are a growing business in southeastern Pennsylvania. The NPPC is to be congratulated for bringing some very deserved recognition and a bit of glory to the success that has already been recorded.

Three-million farmers stayed at home

When an estimated 2000 of this nation's farmers drive their tractors through the streets of Washington, D.C., it has got to generate some news. And it did. The protesting farmers, who blocked traffic, had skirmishes with policemen, and had at least one of their tractors catch fire, made headlines on many front pages of newspapers and were seen on virtually all television news

programs. It wasn't at all an insignificant event.

With that kind of havoc going on—whether it's in Washington, D.C. or anywhere—reporters and photographers are bound to show up. And editors wring their hands with delight because they think they have the big story.

In fact, those news reporters and editors missed the big story.

The big story is that while 2000 farmers made news in Washington, about 3,000,000 farm owners stayed home. Add wives, sons, daughters, and others involved with farm work to that, and the figures become even more impressive.

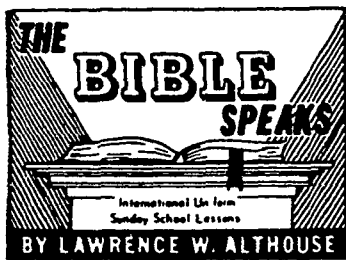
It's apparent that a segment of America's farmers has learned that a lot of noise may bring significant

changes. It has worked for various other groups and numerous causes.

It's worthy of note, however, that a vast majority of this nation's food and fibre producers chose to stay home. They didn't create a disturbance, and as far as the news media is concerned, they weren't counted.

America's agriculture has its troubles, yes. And many of the

(Turn to Page 18)



MORE, NOT LESS

Lesson for February 11, 1979

Background Scripture:
Matthew 16: 12-27; 28: 16-20;
Acts 1 and 2; 1 Peter 2: 9-10.

Devotional Reading:

Ephesians 3:14-21.
Surely, Lord, we have not heard you correctly! Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will do... (John 14:12)
Certainly you cannot mean that? Tell us it is a misprint, an incorrect quotation, a mistranslation... anything! You know that even when we do our best we don't come anywhere near doing "the works" that you did. How, then, can you possibly expect that we will be able to do even "greater works"?

If You Ask

How? Well, Jesus indicates a threefold approach. For one thing, the adequacy of power will be his, not our own. "What-ever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son" (14:13). The power for these works done in Jesus' name will be given to us for the glory of God.

To many people today the thought that Christians should be continuing the

works of Jesus is incredible. Jesus was the Son of God,

they reason, how can we possibly have that kind of power working through us? The answer, of course, is that the works bring glory to Christ, not us. We claim no credit for what he is able to accomplish through us.

Another key is to be found in his assertion: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (14:15). If we permit him to rule our lives, we cannot help but experience his power working through us. Thus he can say, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them ..., teaching them to observe all that I

have commanded you..." (Matthew 28:19,30). The key to our authority as his disciples is in traveling the same road he did: "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24).

With You Always

There is a third reason for his audacious command for us to do more, not less, than he did: "And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you forever..." (John 14:16). If we allow Christ to live in us, then he will be able to work through us. The

challenges he gives us are unthinkable, were we not assured that we face them with him: "... and lo, I am with you always..." (Matthew 28:20).

Take a good look at your life: are you doing the works that he did? Consider your church: is it a company of people in whom the power of God is doing great works? For so long we have comforted ourselves with the expectation that he is satisfied with our feeble efforts. How sobering—if not inspiring—to realize that what he expects is more, not less!



TO PREPARE THE LAWN MOWER

Even though our grass roots are dormant under the snow, it is suggested that home owners give some thought to getting the lawn mower ready for use. Many mowers need serviced and when this is done during the winter months, there will be

more time for the work and less of a waiting period. Service men get rushed when the grass begins to grow in April. Don't add to the confusion by waiting until then to service your mower. Most blades need sharpening, the oil needs changed, and with the power tractor mowers, the entire machine will last longer if kept in good repair.

TO PRUNE SOME FRUIT TREES

February and March are good times to prune apple trees, but not peach and

nectarines. These trees cannot survive the dual shock of extremely cold weather and heavy pruning in the winter or early spring. After a real cold winter, it is best to prune peach and nectarine trees lightly; wait until April when growth begins. This will permit visual damage due to winter killing and allow for the removal only of the dead parts. When peach trees are pruned during mid-winter there is great danger of winter-killing and the need of additional pruning to remove the dead parts.

TO BE CAREFUL WITH GASOLINE AND KEROSENE

With the greater use of wood for fuel there is need for caution about the use of gasoline or kerosene to get a fire started, or to make it burn faster. Both of these items are explosive and should not be used near an open fire or hot coals. They should be stored in underground tanks, or in metal, fire-proof containers. Label all containers so there will not be a chance of any mix-up. It is inviting trouble to store gasoline or kerosene

in glass jugs or bottles; also, it is very dangerous to start burning trash, barbecue pits, or stoves with these materials. Be sure every member of the family realizes these fire hazards.

TO PROTECT NEW-BORN ANIMALS

Many pigs and lambs are born during the cold weather. Most farrowing barns now have supplemental heat which provides warm conditions. However, with small hog herds and with sheep flocks, extra heat is needed for the new-born pig or lamb. If they

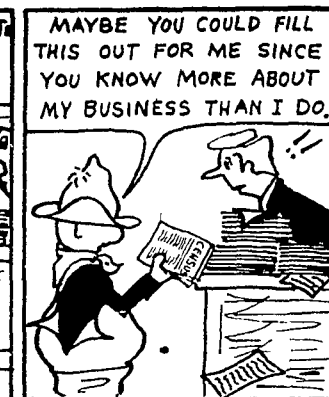
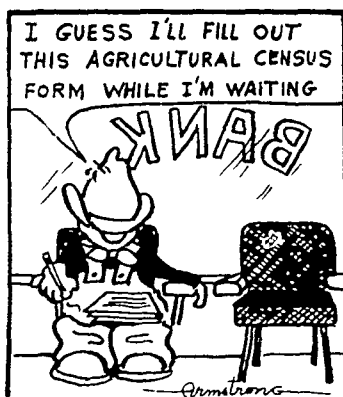
get chilled, they are more likely to get sick and die the first week. Heat lamps are commonly used over the pen. This system has been used successfully, but there is some fire hazard presented. Be sure the lamp is securely fastened above the sow or ewe and all parts out of reach of the animals. If the lamp drops into the bedding, a fire will soon develop. Also, some animals may try to chew the wires and get electrocuted. Warm quarters at birth for these animals will add to the percentage raised.

NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

Phone 394-6851

RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong

Farm Calendar

Today, Feb. 10
Dauphin County 4-H Baby Beef banquet, Middletown High School, 7 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 12
Maryland Farm and Land Institute meetings, today through Wednesday at the Sheraton Motor Inn, east of Hagerstown on Route 40.

Pennsylvania-Maryland

Roadside Marketing Conference, Sheraton Inn, Gettysburg; also tomorrow.

Central Dairy 4-H Club meets, 7:30 p.m.; at the Rodman Thompson farm, East Berlin R1. Program will be judging cows for the Hoard's Dairyman contest.

(Turn to Page 33)