

COMMENTS FROM READERS

Editor:

We of Pennsylvania Farmers Union appreciate your excellent coverage of our convention. As always we thank you for your willingness to publicize the farmers' achievements and to find solutions to the many problems which confront us.

We look forward to continuing cooperation with you and the staff of Lancaster Farming.

Sincerely,
Leonard Zemaitis
Administrative Assistant
for Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

Editor:

As a reader of your paper I would like some equal time to speak for at least some of us silent Pennsylvania farmers who stayed home.

I refer to your article "Three million farmers stayed home."

First of all, many farmers who have livestock cannot just up and go to Washington. This does not mean that we are against those who did.

I cannot speak for farmers in your area, but around here we farm the best we can and find it necessary to use tractors, not horses.

Cost and maintenance have gone up considerably while farm prices have moved up at a snail's pace.

You say most farmers don't want 90 per cent parity. Not so!

We have been told that we must be happy with 75 per cent. That was not our idea. I would like to ask: Would you

be satisfied with 75 per cent of what you now make?

There isn't a segment of our economy that would stand for less than 100 per cent of what is due them. If they did, they would be in the same boat that we are in - on the verge of bankruptcy. There isn't a business today that can exist very long without cost of production plus a reasonable profit.

The question should be: If the farmer is entitled to a dollar, why should anyone say he has to be happy with 75 cents? It's really a question of fair play.

As for the government coming in and running things if the farmer receives 100 per cent of parity - wake up. The government is already on the scene. It has

been there for quite some time. In fact, things wouldn't be as bad if the government would have kept its nose out of farming. This is the main reason we are at 75 per cent and not 100 per cent.

They say that the majority of the vote is off the farm. This has brought about the cheap food programs that both Democrats and Republicans have followed.

The main reason that the farmers are in Washington is because they know that Washington is where the whole problem is.

Jack Clark
New Hope, Pa.

Editor:

I think your editorial on the farmers tractor parade in Washington was right on.

They may have done more harm than good.

However, I am very much concerned about the high cost of equipment for the young, small farmer starting out. Will we have enough for the kind of people it takes to establish a debt-free small farm operation at 50 years of age?

The free-wheeling labor unions, and uncontrolled government spending over the past 25 years have brought this about.

Sincerely,
John H. Hull, Sr.
Westminster, Md.

Editor:

Being a regular reader of your paper, I read your Feb. 10 editorial "Three million

farmers stayed home," with great interest.

Having been associated with an employee of A.S.C. for the last 27 years, your editorial just sounds like a rerun out of Washington - "You never had it so good."

Thank you.
Don Ishler
Belleville, Pa.

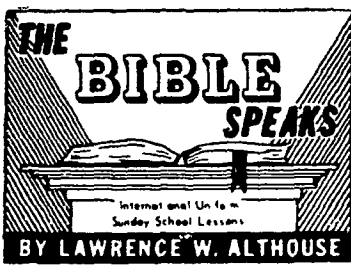
Editor:

Every week when I receive Lancaster Farming I turn the pages and read your editorial first.

Most times I agree with you 100 per cent.

I certainly want to congratulate you on your recent editorial (Feb. 10).

Sincerely,
Lloyd W. Nolt
Mount Joy, Pa.



JOINING HANDS

Lesson for February 25, 1979

Background Scriptures:

Ephesians 4:1-16.

Devotional Reading:

Luke 10:1-11.

The little daughter of a farmer was lost. Although

ill, she had somehow managed to wander away from the farmhouse into the weeds and tall grass of the prairie. The farmer knew that he would need help to find her, so he called together some friends who searched the prairie for several fruitless hours. Daylight was beginning to dim and the temperature was getting very cold. Finally, one of the friends said, "The weeds and grass are very thick and it is easy for us to miss many places. Why don't all of us join hands, therefore, and, marking our starting place, go through the undergrowth like the huge rake? Then

we'll be sure not to miss anything."

In God's Name, Why?

All of them agreed that it was something they should have done from the very beginning and so they started out once again, this time with joined hands. After a half hour of united search, they found the little girl, but it was too late. She was dead. "In God's name," the farmer cried, "why didn't we join hands before?"

This is a tragic illustration of what happens when we fail to pool our gifts for the common good. It is a cry that we have uttered again and again. Amazed to find what

happens when we join hands in war, we wonder why we didn't join hands in peace. Often it is only when it is too late that we realize what we can do together when we share what God has given us.

This is one of the reasons for the church as a fellowship of disciples: to do together what we cannot do as well by ourselves. Sometimes, however, we assume that the purpose of the church is to bring together people of a similar nature. But it is to share our diversities, not our similarities that God calls us together. As the writer of Ephesians saw the church, it

was composed of people whose gifts were varied and different.

Given To Each

He began with the conviction that each person is given gifts by God, endowments that can contribute to the welfare of other people: "...grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift" (4:7). Everybody has something that is needed by and can be a blessing for others. Too many of us assume that we were behind the door when the gifts were passed out. But the writer to the Ephesians says that

everyone has a gift to contribute. So, the diversity of gifts should not separate us, he says, but bring us together, because there is one common source: "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all..." (4:5,6).

And as we grow to maturity, we grow, not apart, but together: "...we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint ... makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love."

If... we join hands.

NOW IS THE TIME

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

beginning, but usually is worth the difference.

TO GO EASY ON EXPANSION

The trend on many farms today is to expand and get larger. However, keep in mind that to get "bigger" is not necessarily "better". There are two ways to expand a farm operation. One is to increase the output per unit and the other is to increase the number of units. Producers who are not currently producing the average per acre, per cow, or per unit should make a special effort to increase the output per unit rather than to increase the number of units. Farmers who are now producing higher than the average per unit can increase their net returns by adding more units. As the operation expands decisions are more important and mistakes are more costly.

TO EVALUATE SWINE EFFICIENCY

The recent Pork Congress held at Hershey was an impressive gathering of hog producers. This one-day affair reflected the great interest in the swine industry in this part of the state. As livestock men know, the number of hogs on farms in this state have increased rapidly in the past decade. However, there are signs of sufficient numbers to return continued profits. Therefore, producers should take a good look at their production methods in the months ahead. It is quite possible that market prices will be closer to production costs. Good management in feed efficiency, parasite control, larger litters, and other items will be needed in order to make any profits.

TO PREVENT MASTITIS

One of the major

management practices stressed at the recent Milking School was for dairymen to prevent mastitis, rather than try to cure cows already with the infection. Many local herds

have the problem and owners have been battling the infection for years. Cows with this udder inflammation may produce 30 to 40 per cent less milk during that lactation. The

milking with proper vacuum is very important along with teat dipping after milking, and dry cow treatment. Good milking practices are very important to good herd health and top production.

Farm Calendar

Today, Feb. 24
Garden Spot Young Farmers annual banquet, 6:45 p.m. at Blue Ball Fire Hall.

Ham and chicken dinner, sponsored by the Montgomery County Equine Council, Skippack Fire-Hall.

Pennsylvania Guernsey Breeders annual meeting, and dinner, 11 a.m. at Chilcoates Restaurant, East Freedom, on Route 220, south of Altoona.

Monday, Feb. 26
Ortho Unipel Fertilizer appreciation dinner

meeting, Meadow Hills Dining House, 1 mile south of Lancaster along the New Danville Pike, 6:45 p.m.

York County 4-H horticulture club meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the 4-H Center near Bair, west of York.

Cumberland County Cooperative Sheep and Wool Growers annual meeting and banquet, 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, corner of Frederick and Simpson Streets, Mechanicsburg.

Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association Region II Leadership Training Conference, 9:30 a.m. through 3 p.m. at the Brownstown Vo-Tech School, Lancaster County.

Tuesday, Feb. 27
Lancaster County Swine Producers Day, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Farm and Home Center.

Egg marketing outlook meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Adams County Extension Center; John Hoffman of PPF will speak on "Egg Promotion is Working" and Penn State's Kermit

Birth will focus on the meaning of Expansion of the Poultry Industry in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Forage workshop at Kutztown Grange Hall, 9 a.m.

Garden Spot Young Farmers meeting, at the Sperry New Holland Training Center, 7:30 p.m. Topic: Forage harvester adjustments.

Agribusiness breakfast, for Allentown-Lehigh County area, at City-Vu Diner, Allentown, 7:30 a.m.

First meeting in a series of 3 for Maryland dairymen. At Frock's Sunnyside Farm Restaurant, Westminster, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nutrition is topic this day.

National Young Farmer Institute meeting for 1981 Convention (Pennsylvania is host) at the Hershey Motor Inn, 9:30 a.m.

Ephrata Area Young Farmers meeting, 7:45 p.m. at the high school. Topic: Motor Oils - natural and synthetic.

Thomasville 4-H Club

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RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong