



NOW IS THE TIME

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TO AVOID SOIL COMPACTION

One of the dangers of getting on the ground with heavy equipment this time of the year is that we get the wet soil packed so hard that it will produce poorly. With modern machinery the weight is much more than a team of horses or mules. As a result, we have ground that is hard as a concrete road and never recovers.

Producers should make a special effort to wait until the ground is sufficiently dry. Gardeners need to keep the same thing in mind. When the soil is worked too wet, it becomes hard and forms into clods. This type of soil structure will not produce good crops for the season.

TO APPLY AND INCORPORATE QUICKLY

Livestock and poultry manure will be getting considerable attention in the coming months. This farm by-product has been stored for the past several months and when weather permits,

it be taken to the fields for soil fertility. In many areas, non-farm people have moved to the country and object to some of these rural odors. Farmers should keep this in mind and make every effort to spread the manure in clear, fast-drying weather and try to get it incorporated into the topsoil as rapidly as possible. With liquid manure, the spreaders with soil injection equipment is certainly a good way to prevent objections. In addition, manure that is mixed with the soil will maintain the fertilizing elements much better.

TO PLAN WEED CONTROL PROGRAM

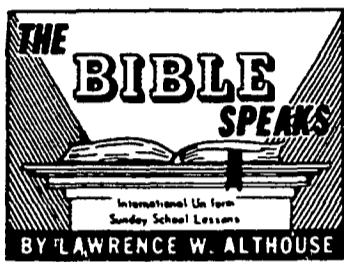
Weeds continue to be one of the major factors in reduced crop yields. This is true in the garden as well as in the field. The battle to control weeds is not a new one; generations ago cultivation was the method of weed control. Now herbicides are commonly used to combat weeds. However, we still have too much crop damage from weeds. At the recent Forage Workshop, Nat Hartwig, Weed Specialist from Penn State, informed the group that for every pound of weeds produced, that crop yield

was reduced by the same weight. Some weeds amount to several tons per acre; this means that much less of the desired crop. Plan for a better weed control program this year.

TO ELIMINATE JOHNSON GRASS

Too many farms in this part of the state are not controlling Johnson Grass; this rank-growing grass, which resembles sorghum, is very aggressive and will take over most other crops. Farmers who have this problem should make a special effort to eliminate the weed from their farms. In corn ground the Spring

treatment includes Eradicane applied about the middle to latter part of May and worked into the soil thoroughly; this means a delay in corn planting, but is necessary in order to stop the growth of the Johnson Grass. The other treatment is during the Summer when the Johnson Grass plants are about ready to shoot seed-head and spray with Roundup. The control of Johnson Grass might mean the sacrificing of a good crop yield for a year, but is the thing to do. Johnson Grass can put a field out of production in a few years when left un-controlled.



SUBSTITUTE MESSIAHS

Lesson for March 11, 1979

Background Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:10-25; 3:10-23; Devotional Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:17-25

Just a little more than three months ago we were shocked and sickened by the electrifying news that came to us from the small jungle nation of Guyana. As TIME magazine headlined the story: "A RELIGIOUS COLONY IN GUYANA TURNS INTO A CULT OF DEATH"! For once, the news media found it difficult to overstate the enormity of the tragedy in which some 900 hundred people died in a mass murder-suicide.

Behind this tragedy, we learned, was the mysterious power of the cult's leader, a strange combination of charismatic power and

mental derangement. One grieving parent who lost two daughters and a grandchild in the tragedy lamented that his children had posited in the cult's leader a trust and authority that should never be given to any human being.

"I Belong To Apollos"

The tragedy of the People's Temple in Guyana may be one of the more dramatic illustrations in the history of Christianity, but the cult of personality has always been a consistent danger to the gospel. It was one of Paul's grave concerns at Corinth:

For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarrelling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollo," or "I

belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? (1 Cor. 1:11-13). Is Christ divided? Couldn't we update 1 Corinthians like this: What I mean is that each one of you says: "I belong to Luther," or "I belong to Calvin," or "I belong to Wesley"? Is Christ divided?

Paul asks of the Corinthians a tremendously important key question. "What then is Apollos? What is Paul? So, too, then we might ask: "What is Luther? What is Calvin? What is Wesley?" And the answer Paul gave to his own question is no less appropriate for ours: "Servants through who you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth" (3:5,6).

No Other Foundation

God works through gifted personalities must somehow point, not to themselves, but

back to God himself. These personalities are not meant to be competitors and foes - as often they are presented by their followers - but, as Paul puts it: "fellow workers for God" (3:9).

I am not arguing against denominations and varied confessions of faith, but against the cults of personality and factionalism that can result when denominationalism and confessionalism focus on the personality of the servant and forget that there can be but one foundation and one foundation alone: Jesus Christ!

Cattle

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Harpster explained that silage was the best way to utilize corn which has been damaged by frost or drought. Silage does require more supplemental protein. It is also more suitable for NPN treatment. Harpster said "properly supplemented, (silage) can be fed as a complete ration whereas high grain normally requires an added roughage source to maintain rumen function." Silage, he said, is usually more profitable at high corn prices an lower interest rates. "There is little cash market potential for silage," making it less flexible, and it may be "agronomically more damaging to the soil with little plant residue cover."

Harpster said that when you are comparing the two systems, the feeder must ask if the savings in nonfeed costs offset the cost of a more expensive ration. "Current conditions would tend to indicate a positive answer." Harpster cited that with relatively cheap corn prices, expensive feeder calves and high interest rates are key factors. "High priced calves bought with a high interest loan often indicates that the cattle spend the least

amount of time possible in the feed lot."

Harpster indicated that NPN applied to corn silage "does usually pay." The crude protein content of the silage is increased and beneficial effects on silage fermentation may occur, increasing the energy value and bunk life of the silage.

Urea plus minerals at ensiling time tends to buffer the silage, he said.

As we select cattle larger and larger, Harpster questioned what really happens to efficiency. "Within beef breeds, there is very little different to equal finish. The one exception is in the Holstein breed."

With a Holstein, Harpster told the audience, "feed per gain is increased 15 to 20 percent, versus beef breeds to reach an equal finish." Harpster explained that the reason for this was past selection, and the Holstein being selected for milk production rather than muscle growth and finish.

Another choice to be made is whether calves or yearlings are wanted. "In general the feed intake of yearlings is 10 per cent above that of calves. The average daily gain however, is 15 per cent above a calf's. Harpster said a calf that was not placed on a high energy ration, or was on a poor nutrient level, will respond more as a yearling when put

on a high plane of nutrition. This compensatory growth (a possible 15 to 20 per cent faster gain than calves) if realized, may produce extra profit.

"There is considerable resistance by many cattlemen in the feeding of heifers. Pregnancies, heat periods and unfavorable markets are the key factors limiting their use. However, purchase price discounts are often great enough to make heifer feeding as profitable or more profitable than steer feeding, assuming an acceptable market can be located." Harpster related that within a given type of cattle, heifers will usually be equivalent in fatness at 80 to 85 per cent of the weight of steers. Feed requirements are similar between heifers and steers.

"It is hard to conceive of economic conditions in which it would not be profitable to use a growth stimulant and Rumensin" Harpster said. The growth stimulants decrease feed per gain by 10 per cent and increase average daily gain by 10 per cent. The cost, he said, is 90 cents per 100 days on feed (for most). "In typical feed lot rations, Rumensin decreases feed per gain requirements 10 per cent with very little effect on the rate of gain. In most studies, the benefits of each product are fully realized

when they are used in combination." Harpster suggested that Rumensin would cost \$1.75 per 100 days. In the feed lot there was no gain response with Rumensin, but a gain did show when the cattle were on grass.

Harpster concluded that "most cattle feeders spend too little time improving their buy-sell management skills." A study from Minnesota recently showed what some producers were doing to get \$35 to \$40 more per animal fed. These feeders bought more short yearlings or heavy calves in the Fall and marketed more fed cattle in the seasonably high Summer market. They purchased more cattle themselves at non-local auctions, farms and ranches, omitting an order buyer. A lower quality (more good, less choice) feeder animals was purchased and upgraded by feeding to choice grade. Healthier cattle were purchased, reducing death loss one percentage point. The feeders sold less good grade underfinished cattle. More cattle were sold directly to local packers, and more were sold on their own. More marketing strategies and tools, especially a marketing news service was used.

Farm Calendar

Today, March 10
Beef Tour, 10 a.m., sponsored by Cecil and Kent County, Md. Extension Services.

Monday, March 12
Cumberland County 4-H Dairy banquet, South Middleton Fire Hall, Boiling Springs, 7 p.m.

Cumberland County sheep husbandry meeting, Cumberland County Extension building, 1100 Claremont Road, Carlisle, 7:30 p.m.

Solanco 4-H Community Club organizational meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Solanco Fair Building.

York County dairy promotion planning meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the 4-H Center near Bair.

Tuesday, March 13
Home vegetable gardening meeting, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.

Codorus Fertilizer Service customer appreciation dinner, Jefferson Fire Hall, 6:45 p.m.

Garden Spot Young Farmers dairy meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the high school. Topic: breeding dairy cows.

Dairy meeting, Sunnysbrook Farm Restaurant, Westminster, Md. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sponsored by the Extension Service.

Ephrata Area Young Farmers meeting, 7:45 p.m. at the high school.

Inter-State Milk Producers banquet, 12 noon at Meadow Hills Restaurant, New Danville Pike, Lancaster.

Lancaster County Holstein Club, barn meeting, 1 p.m. at Donald Bare farm, Millport Road, between Strasburg and Lampeter.

Pennfield Dairy Awards Luncheon, 11:45 p.m. at

Good'n Plenty Restaurant, Smoketown. Manor Young Farmers meeting, 7:45 p.m. at Penn Manor High School, Topic: Farm estate planning.

Cedar Crest FFA banquet, at the Middle School Cafeteria, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 14
Celery growers meeting, 1:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center.

Farm agreements. Cumberland County Extension Building, Carlisle, 9:30 a.m.

Farm financial management workshop, Cumberland County Extension Building, Carlisle, 7:30 p.m.

Adult farmer meeting on dairy cattle feeding, Hinkletown Alternative School, 7:30 p.m.

Harford County, Md. Holstein Breeders Association holds annual dinner and meeting, 7 p.m. at Emory United Methodist Church, Street.

Thursday, March 15
Inter-State District 8 membership meeting and banquet, 7 p.m. at Honeybrook Fire Hall.

Poultry education meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center.

Vegetable and small fruit meeting, Penn State Fruit Research Lab., Biglerville, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Solanco FFA banquet, 7 p.m. at the high school cafeteria.

First of four workshops on Farmland Preservation, 7:30 p.m. at the Keystone Grange Hall, Trappe. Subsequent workshop meetings follow on March 22, 29, and April 5.

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RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong

