

Nixnutz's Corral

By Barney Nixnutz

"All the news that's unimportant, but still interesting."



Do you know what mud, colds, garlic breath, dandelions, and tons of manure have in common?

They're all signs of Spring that don't receive much attention in the prose and poetry on that subject. But no account of Spring is complete if it just mentions singing birds, flowers, and new leaves budding from trees.

You can tell it's Spring when you're driving your tractor out to the field and the tires accumulate thick rings of mud. Pretty soon, instead of riding on rubber, you're cushioned by a mixture of clay and corn stalks. It accumulates generously and won't come off until you're going down the driveway or road. Then it flies off all over the place, messing up not only the macadam, but the driver and equipment as well. So it goes. That's Spring.

There's more to tell about mud.

Even though it sticks like crazy to the tires when you're driving across the field, it's also very slippery. That's why the rig handles as though you're on a gigantic wet cake of soap. During this time of year, fields are both sticky and slippery.

And if you happen to get your tractor stuck in the mud, then mud is like a big suction cup. It really pulls. Every farmer knows that and would probably prefer if I not say anymore about that.

Isn't it a strange feeling, though, to be out in the field - in full view of all who pass by - and have the tractor half-submerged in Hagerstown silt-loam?

I've done that and it sure made me feel like a smart farmer. Unfortunately, the only time it's funny is when it happens to someone else.

So much for mud.

Let's talk next about garlic breath. You can tell it's Spring for sure if you bring your cows in from pasture and they fumigate the barn with the air coming from their lungs. And if you find it necessary to lift the lids on your bulk tank to air the contents before the milk truck comes, then you really know it's Spring.

Yes sir. I've done that too.

And while garlic breath comes out one end, stuff even slipperier than mud comes out the other.

Now, it's worthy to point out to anyone not familiar with dairy cows that this certain brownish-green slippery stuff is commonly only released at certain times. Cows may stand in their stanchions for hours and you won't see much of it.

But once you turn them loose, then they all lift their tails and squirt their fertilizer all over the alleyways. By the time they're all done, you'll think a paint truck ruptured in your barn. Only it doesn't smell like paint, and it's extremely slippery.

And while we're on the subject of manure, let's not forget the tons of it that have to be hauled out of stables during this time of year. It's a springtime ritual on the farm.

Meanwhile hundreds of dandelions are growing up in the yard and around the barn and who knows where else.

To top it all off, there's the miserable feeling of a Spring cold, which I happen to be experiencing

since last Friday (it's obviously affecting my head in more ways than one).

Finally, there is a sign of Spring which is the ultimate.

I don't know much about astrology, but I understand that when certain stars and planets all line up in a certain order, that spells disaster. Something similar can happen during this time of year on the farm when various signs all spell out "It's Spring!"

Let's review the situation.

You've been hauling manure - tons of it. You've been busy as a farmer despite the ill effects of a cold. Your nose is running faster than milk in the pipeline. The tractor is stuck in the field - a disgrace to your better judgement and in full view of neighbors. The road between your fields and barn is caked with mud that came off those tractor wheels. There are dandelions blooming all over the place. The bulk tank lids are raised and the aroma of garlic fills the milk house. You just left the cows out to pasture and the alleyway is coated with that brownish-green slippery stuff. Lots of it is, no doubt, splattered on the walls, and on your overalls as well.

Then the ultimate sign of Spring walks in.

Who else, but you're friendly milk inspector.

Nice Spring day, isn't it?

NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
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One of the good by products of the livestock and poultry industry is the production of manure. This waste is valuable to maintain organic matter in the soil and to add nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash. I've noticed some farmers going ahead with their spring plantings before spreading the manure on their fields. This manure should take the

place of buying more commercial fertilizer. Average cattle manure should contain at least 5 pounds of both nitrogen and potash, and 3 to 4 pounds of phosphorus per ton. Poultry manure can be much higher in all elements. Manure should be utilized to the fullest by spreading on the soil and incorporating at once.

TO CONTROL JOHNSON GRASS

Too many local farms are getting infested with Johnson Grass; this rank-growing grass resembles sorghum and can take over a

field in a few years. In a corn field we suggest that corn planting be delayed until late May or early June. This will allow time for a late May application of Eradicane; this material should be disced into the topsoil thoroughly; several times over the area in different directions. The application should not be made until late May in order to get best control of the Johnson Grass. Corn planting can take place immediately after the Eradicane has been disced into the soil. We realize the reluctance of some farmers to delay corn planting;

however, if Johnsongrass is not controlled, it will take over the field.

TO CONTROL ALFALFA WEEDS

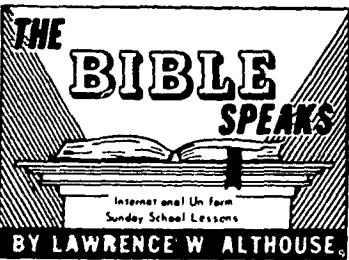
New seedings of alfalfa made in the last month without any herbicide applications, should get some attention soon. Straight alfalfa seedings need weed protection since there is not any nurse crop. When the small plants are 1 to 2 inches high an application of 2, 4, D-B should be applied to control broadleaf weeds. The timing is very important in order to get a good kill on the weeds. Larger weeds are

more difficult to eliminate. Stands that are not treated for weeds will be crowded out and disappointing. Protect the investment in the alfalfa seeding by controlling weeds at the proper time.

TO BE CAREFUL WITH WEED SPRAY EQUIPMENT

Gardeners and farmers should keep in mind that many of the weed killers will stick in equipment for years. This is true of all forms of 2, 4-D. Sprayers in which this material has been used should be kept only for weed spraying, or very carefully

cleaned. The use of scalding hot water and household ammonia (1 part ammonia to 100 parts of hot water) is suggested; this should be allowed to stand for 24 hours in the equipment and then sprayed out. Extreme care should be taken with this cleaning job after each herbicide treatment. The safest method is to have separate sprayers for weed killers. Over the years I can recall a number of tobacco and vegetable plants that have been hurt because a sprinkling can or sprayer used last fall was not thoroughly cleaned.



THE GREATEST CHARISMA

Lesson for April 29, 1979

Background Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:29 through 13:13
Devotional Reading: John 14:18-24.

The words "charisma" and "charismatic" seem to have found a place in the English language today. "Charisma" is most frequently used in describing leadership or public figures and indicates that these people seem to have in themselves a natural ability to attract the attention and response of people.

The term "charismatic" we often hear in reference to a contemporary religious movement that encourages the "gifts of the Holy Spirit," primarily, although not exclusively, the gift of speaking in tongues

(sometimes known by its Greek name: glossalalia).

The Higher Gifts

The word *charisma*, which means "a gift," is not commonly found in classical Greek works. It seems to have come into our language primarily because of Paul's use of this term in the New Testament where it occurs seventeen times. Basically, as Paul uses the term, it is a person's natural endowment from God. Every person has "his own special gift from God" (7:7). Like "grace," *charisma* is free and undeserved gift from God and it is intended to be used for

the mutual benefit of all within the church.

Unfortunately, the church at Corinth experienced what the church has so often experienced since: the gifts, when received in pride and not humility, may divide instead of unify the church. The situation at Corinth can best be summarized by the childish statement that "My gift is better than your gift!" Childish? Yes, but that's exactly the way it was at Corinth then. And that is also the way it has been in other places since then when pride has corrupted and warped the *charisma*.

The Greatest

Paul exalts the various spiritual gifts found at Corinth, but he also points beyond these gifts: "And I will show you a still more excellent way," (12:31). And what is that "more excellent way," that highest of all gifts? Paul answers with a beautiful hymn known throughout the world today:

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal... (13:1).

All the gifts of the church at Corinth mean nothing at all if they are lacking in the highest of all gifts: Christian

love. And how can they have that gift? Paul makes it easy: "Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; love is not arrogant or rude...does not insist on its own way...is not irritable or resentful...does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right" (13:4-6). All the Corinthians had to do was to measure themselves against that check-list and they would know if their charismatic gifts were worth anything.

That test is no less relevant or necessary for us today—the test for the greatest and most necessary charisma of all.

Farm Calendar

Today, April 28
Lancaster County FFA poultry judging contest at the Weaver Egg Plant, Lancaster. Begins at 9 a.m. Results posted by 11:30.
Maryland-Delaware Ayrshire Breeders Association Sale and Field Day, Frederick.
Mid-Atlantic Brown Swiss

Calf Sale, Webber Bell Family, 4900 Hanover Pike, Manchester, Md. 10 a.m.
Sunday, April 29
Open house for new offices at York County Extension Service, 1-4 p.m. at Pleasant Acres complex. Brief ceremony at 2 p.m.

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RURAL ROUTE

