

COMMENTS FROM READERS

Life on the Farm

by Dieter Krieg, Editor

Dad stood by the side of the pick-up truck laughing out loud while listening to our plumber's philosophy.

Never showing awareness of his dry, comical wit, the middle-aged plumber spoke matter-of-factly in a low gravelly voice which went well with his unshaven face. Mr Johnson stared out the side window of his truck and took a few draws on his cigarette. You hardly ever saw him without one. Pausing a moment, he let each word come out riding on a cloud of smoke.

"When you have so many things to do that you don't know what to do first, you just go fishing," he said, returning the burning cigarette to his

mouth the way George Burns uses a cigar to plug his mouth after the punch line

We could have been fishing all summer long had we taken the joke seriously

Aside from the usual chores involving livestock which can't be postponed, we had a delay in our work schedules because of plumbing problems and a heifer which needed assistance with her calf We had some hay to haul and two cows to get in for the breeder They had been let out by mistake after the morning milking

It was also time to get ready for silo filling, which in itself would take up most of a day -- maybe more if a

Stick together

Editor:

This is in reference to Joyce Bupp's column in the May 26th issue The way she put it on the line about how the powers-that-be in Washington want us to save gasoline, really expresses our feelings exactly

We must stick together or those powers that be in Washington will cause us to starve them to death It is time they realize how important the farmer is, and just where so much of the food comes from that this country lives on

Sincerely,
Mr. and Mrs. A.Z. Haines,
Rising Sun, Md.

Guernseys praised

Editor:

A dairyman likes his cows, he is proud of them He even finds encouragement through watching his animals when the times get rough

The weather is so bad - farmers could be mad, Mud and water, fog and cold - but his Guernsey cows seem bold.

Thriving on the wettest crop - color in the milk comes up

Grass is still their favorite chow - really smart the Guernsey cow.

Eating, chewing, licking salt - nothing seems to be a fault,

Guernsey cows are so content, rainy weather won't offend

Keep the Guernsey Milk on flowing! It is certainly worth knowing That this milk has taste appeal and a trademark as a seal Goodness is in every sip, you can feel it on your lip Milk refreshes; drink it cold! It gives strength for young and old

K.D. Linde
Oxford, Pa.

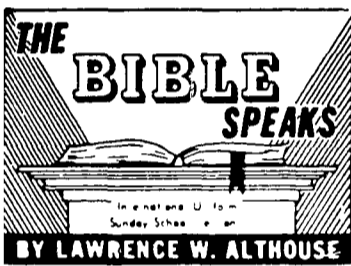
(Note: Mr. Linde's letter was written in early June when rain was a part of nearly every weather report).

problem arose One of the silage wagons had a flat tire but that wasn't really a problem The distributor had to be hauled up to the top of the silo, equipment had to be cleaned, greased, and oiled, the filler pipe had to be connected, and fields had to be opened

A section of fence by the woods

needed mending, the lawn needed to be cut, and Mom wanted some help picking cherries

It's a good thing none of us in the family ever went fishing We never took time to find out what it's like and by this time didn't bother to think much about what we may have been missing



THE BONUS

Lesson for June 24, 1979

Background Scripture:
1 Kings 3:3-28; 4:29-34

Devotional Reading:
Proverbs 3 13-18

There is a story about a man who found a bottle washed up upon the shore. Upon opening it, he found he had released a genie who offered to grant him three wishes The man was overcome with his great fortune and foolishly wished for the wrong things In a short time, he found himself no better off than he had been and the genie gone

God said "Ask...."

Some times that's the way it is with our prayers. Although praying is not the same as wishing, there is some similarity in that both normally grow out of our deepest desires Rightly conceived and practiced,

prayer, as Harry Emerson Fosdick once said, is meant to be, not "a pious form, but a vital transaction" Prayer can be a powerful force in our lives and we must approach this opportunity with a due sense of respect and ask for what it can mean to us

Frequently, however, prayer is approached in a careless, indifferent manner. People pray in a perfunctory way that indicates they don't really believe prayer can make any specific difference. Such prayers are like expensive long-distance calls in which the caller is content to chat aimlessly about the weather.

If prayer is not to be a wasted opportunity we must be sure when we pray that our brains are in gear before we press down on the accelerator

Solomon, King David's son and successor, is a case in point One night early in his reign, he dreamed that God came to him, saying, "Ask what I shall give you" To Solomon as well as to us it seems a magnificent offer Put yourself in Solomon's place suppose tonight you should dream that God made such an offer to you! Yet, is that really so strange an idea? Isn't that what Jesus tells us God is always saying to us? "Ask, and it will be

given you; seek and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Matthew 7 7)

An Understanding Mind

Solomon takes the offer seriously and he responds with a request that is both well-thought-out and indicative of what is in his heart "Give thy servant therefore an understanding mind to govern the people, that I may discern between good and evil." (1 Kings 3 9). Unlike many who might foolishly ask for riches, power or comfort, Solomon asks for something that he really needs wisdom

But Solomon, we say, you missed a chance to ask for

the things all of us are dying to possess! God doesn't see it that way at all First of all, he will give Solomon precisely what he has asked for But because he asked for the right thing, God will throw in the other things as a kind of "bonus" "I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days" (3:13) The words are reminiscent of those of Jesus: "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well" (Matthew 6.33).

That is the bonus that is given for a sincere and thoughtful prayer



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

Phone 394-6851

TO HARVEST STRAW...

In recent years the value of bedding materials has been extremely high; therefore, a ready market should be available for all straw producers. Farmers should make an effort to harvest all of the straw. At the present time, Winter barley is being combined and within the few weeks the winter wheat crop will be

ready. If weather and weed conditions permit, it is suggested that the grain be cut as low as possible in order to harvest maximum straw yield. If farmers are not in position to utilize the straw in their own livestock operations, then there is little doubt that the extra will again bring a favorable market price.

TO BE AWARE OF HERBICIDES...

Too many of the calls coming in to the Extension Office during the growing

season relate to the chemicals that have been put on nearby crops. All users of chemical weed killers should read the label on the container and follow directions carefully. Also, it is very important for herbicide applicators to recognize the possibility of spray drift to nearby crops and shrubbery. The reckless use of these materials can develop into very poor public relations and eventually to court action. We urge spray operators to realize the danger of herbicide drift to nearby property and crops.

TO RENOVATE STRAWBERRIES...

Since the harvest of the strawberry crop is nearly over, it is a good time to plan for next year. In most cases, plants that have yielded two or more crops again cannot be expected to do as well in the future However, if the current planting is to be used for another year we suggest that the rows be narrowed by the use of mechanical cultivation and followed by top dressing of fertilizer. These practices will keep the berry plants in row and encourage additional runners to increase next years

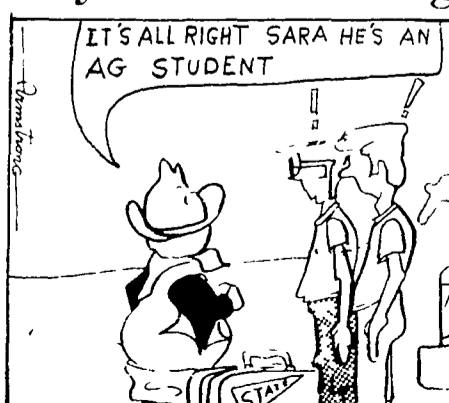
yield In the case of a new planting of strawberries you are urged to fertilize the area during the month of June and again early in August. This extra plant food will enable the setting of runner plants which will help increase yield next year. Some attention to strawberries during the summer months will increase monetary results next year

TO ORDER FALL SEED SUPPLIES...

Even though we are at the beginning of the Summer months it is still not too early to be ordering supplies for

late Summer and Fall planting. In about six weeks many alfalfa growers will be making their August seedings, winter grains will be seeded during September or October. Some of the best experiences in farm planning in order to seed supplies months in advance of the time you will need them. When this is done the products will be more likely to be the variety of seeds desired. Do not be guilty of putting off the ordering of your supplies until a few days before they are needed. This practice usually helps in having the kind of crop that is desired.

RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong

Farm Calendar

Today, June 23
Pennsylvania Cherry Growers Annual Meeting, Lamp Post Restaurant, Gettysburg
Sunday, June 24
Dairy goat picnic and demonstrations, Vaughn Solomon farm, Fairfield, 11 a.m.
Ephrata Area Young Farmers family picnic,

12 30 p.m., Ephrata Community Park.
National Holstein Convention, Denver, Colo Activities through Thursday.
Farm Visitation Day in Maryland.
Monday, June 25
PennAg Industries Association grain (Turn to Page 46)