

Comments

By Kendace Borry, Associate Editor

By now, the tents and machinery are gone from Rock Springs and another Ag Progress Days is just history

This week farmers and townspeople alike had the chance to get a closer first-hand look at the farming industry and see some of the latest technology being offered to the public. The tractors roared, the new equipment toiled away, and displays for every member of the family were included as "Agriculture-The Promise for the 80's" did its best to make the 1979 edition of Ag Progress the greatest ever.

There is a constant need for this type of exhibition, as farmers and ag businessman alike need to keep abreast with the newest in farm technology if they wish to continue to grow in the ever-widening facets of the farm world. Gone forever are the days of one-tractor, one-plow farming, as today all strive to produce more in each and every field to fill the world market.

And it was good to see the farmers there, in their overalls and caps, going from exhibit to exhibit, examining and comparing, watching and listening.

And talking. Everywhere you went, you would see clusters of farmers gathering to talk, and whether their topic of conversation was just the weather or the newest piece of equipment that they were considering buying, they talked, sharing ideas.

But Ag Progress just wasn't for the men. From nutrition bingo games for the children to a quilting demonstration for the housewives, the exhibition tried to keep everyone in mind, and have something of interest for all.

Now the big three day event is over for another year. But the largest outdoor exhibition of its kind is already on the planning boards for next year. Tentatively set for August 19 to 21 at Rock Springs in 1980, you can be sure that it will be filled with even newer and more advanced ideas than those seen this year.

It's one event that every farmer should take the time to see.

Very shortly we will be in the full swing of fair season, and we have a few suggestions for fair publicity committees.

Every year we do our best to cover every fair as fully as possible. At some fairs this is easy, and at others it becomes nearly impossible.

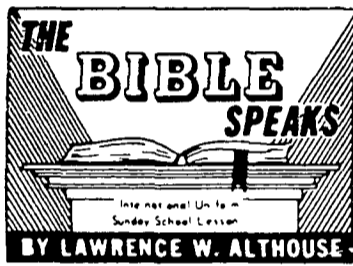
A news reporter's life is hectic at its best, especially during fair season, and a little cooperation will go a long way. Don't forget that we're trying to get a story, list results, and take pictures all at the same time, while smiling gamely and wondering if we'll be able to read our writing back at the office.

Please make your fair results complete, readable, and available for us to see. At some fairs this is standard, at others it is not. Remember we have to live by a deadline and if the material is late, then it won't be in the paper, and we'd really like to read about the fairs as much as you do. There's nothing more discouraging than trying to get results and being told "they're not available yet."

Have patience when we are trying to take a picture. We're trying to make you look your best, and also show your livestock at its finest. Sometimes this will take longer than expected and we can't do a good job if you let us know that you're impatient. If you have a champion, then we'd like it to look like one in print.

If there are any special features or events of your fair that you think we should know about, please let us know. We can't guarantee that we'll be there in the thick of the action, but we will do our best. Remember we're in the news business and we need to know what is happening.

Really, what we ask for is a little help and consideration. We know how to do our jobs and all we want to do is do them well. It's amazing how a little cooperation can go a long way.



PILLARS AND ASHERIM

Lesson for August 26, 1979

Background Scripture:

2 Kings 17;
Hosea 13.

Devotional Reading:
Psalms 9:1-8.

A few "pillars and Asherim (a-she-REEM)" never hurt anyone, Right?

Wrong! Yet, we can imagine that there were many people in Israel who had argued thus. The pillars and Asherim were wooden poles that were erected to encourage the worship of Asherah, a pagan goddess who proved to be very popular in Israel. To be sure, some of the prophets and others had done their best to protect Israel from this pagan worship, but the mood of the land was one of indulgence: let people worship whom they want. We can

have the God of Israel and at the same time be hospitable to the gods of our neighbors. No one is going to be harmed because we permit a few poles and Asherim here and there!

But They Wouldn't Listen

Prophet after prophet had warned them, "Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments and my statutes, in accordance with all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets." Did they respond to that warning? No, although God's message was quite clear, the

writer tells us: "But they would not listen but were stubborn, as their fathers had been . . ." (2 Kings 17:13,14).

The result: "Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight" (17:18).

This should have been a startling object lesson for Israel's tiny neighbor, the Kingdom of Judah. Surely these people would profit from Israel's mistake and cast off the pagan ways of her neighbors!

No, the writer of the chronicle tells us sadly, "Judah also did not keep the

commandments of the Lord their God, but walked in the customs which Israel had introduced" (17:19).

Who Can Help You?

Hosea the prophet had labored to reach the people of Israel with God's message. Since the people did not respond to subtleties, Hosea told the message plainly: "I will destroy you, O Israel; who can help you? Where now is your king to save you; where are all your princes to defend you . . .?" (Hosea 13:9,10).

But the warning fell on deaf ears.

And it still does. To be

sure, some people today hear God asking, "Who can help you, America?", but our religion today is, for the most part, a thoroughly domesticated, housebroken system of rituals and pious phrases and most of us realize that one is not expected to take these things seriously! Our help is not the Lord and we don't even pretend to find our security and sustenance at his altars. Across our land the pillars and Asherim dominate the landscape and a computerized, transistorized din drowns out the voices of the prophets.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
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TO SUPPORT PRESERVING FARM LAND

I'm glad to notice that more and more zoning boards, planning commissions, and other groups are turning down requests to have land zoned out of agriculture. This is especially true with large acreages of top farm land. When a farm is taken out of agriculture it usually means additional water and sewer lines, and other service in

addition, there must be plenty of space on less desirable land for some of the non-farm uses. We urge folks to continue to take strong stands against the loss of good farm land. Many of our water run-off and flood problems can be traced to the fact that more ground area is covered with buildings, blacktop, and concrete.

TO DETERMINE FERTILIZER NEEDS

The early fall months are good times to do soil testing and learn what fertilizers will be needed for the 1980 cropping season. When the fertilizer needs are known this fall, some of them can be applied to the soil, and

others can be ordered. In this way the needed analysis of fertilizer is more available and the vegetative growth will have time to absorb some of the plant nutrients. This is especially true with alfalfa and some of the perennial grass crops. When soil tests are made in the fall, the land owner has more time to locate and deal for his lime and fertilizer needs.

TO PREVENT RUST

Farm machinery continues to be a big investment and warrants the best of care. Machinery that is left out in the weather will rust. There is no doubt that rust is one of the biggest enemies of

any kind of farm machinery. The life of a machine that is well handled can be double that of one that sits out in the weather most of the time. In addition, machinery that is rusty is more likely to break more often and cause needless delays in crop harvesting. Farmers are urged to protect their machinery by barns, sheds, or other protection; the frequent greasing of working parts will prolong the life of the machine.

TO WINTERIZE BUILDINGS

Last week we heard reports of possible frost in the northern part of our state; the weather here reminded us that fall is just

around the corner. Cold weather means higher fuel costs in most cases. However, homes and other heated buildings will require less fuel when they are well winterized. We are referring to plenty of insulation, caulking and weather stripping around doors and windows, keeping the heater in top condition, and the use

of storm windows and doors. When all of these things are done fuel usage should be reduced. I mention it now so that the work can be done before cold weather arrives. Also, materials may be more available now than later in the fall. The saving of fuel this winter will surely mean the saving of dollars. Don't delay this attention.

Farm Calendar

Today, August 25
Threshermen's Reunion at Rough and Tumble Engineering Grounds, Kinzers, continues through Sunday.
Maryland State Fair, Timonium, Md., today through September 4.
Hereford Junior Farm Fair, Randallstown, Md.

Sunday, August 26
Indiana County Fair, Indiana, Pa., today through Saturday.

Monday, August 27
Red Rose DHIA board of directors meeting, 8 p.m. at Farm and Home Center.

South Central 4-H dairy roundup and district show at the Pa. Farm Show Building.

Northeast 4-H district dairy show at Troy.

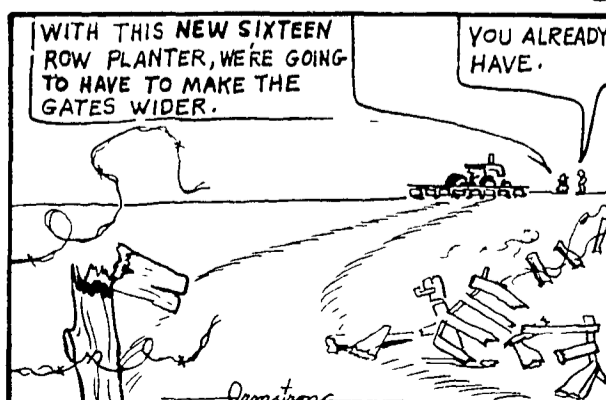
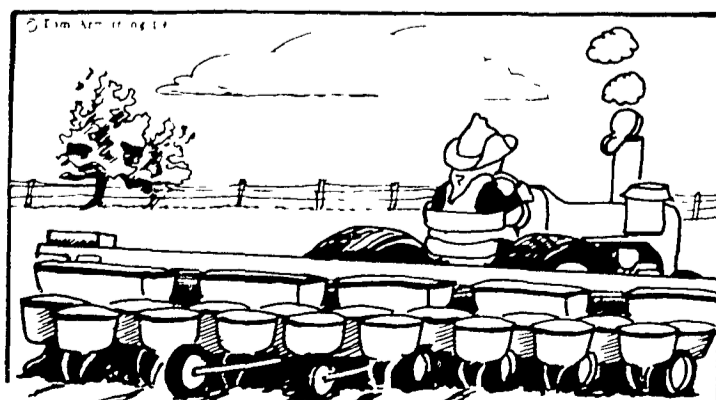
Tuesday, August 28
Lehigh Valley Cooperative Farmers meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Allentown headquarters on North Seventh Street.

Sullivan County Fair, Forksville, Pa.

Wednesday, August 29
Allentown Fair, today through Sept. 3.

Friday, August 31
Central 4-H District dairy show at Beaver Springs.

RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong