

Comments

By Kendace Borry, Associate Editor

Soil conservation vital to today's agriculture

"Agriculture, without soil conservation, is built on a system of self-destruction."

I don't remember who said it or when or why, but those words have remained lodged in my mind since I first came across them two years ago. It kind of sums up the situation in 12 words.

The simple fact is that without soil there is no farming. And good soil, like so many other possessions must be protected or it will be lost, never to be replaced.

All cleared and cultivated sloping land—and most of the land is sloping to some degree—is exposed to accelerated erosion by the elements of water and wind.

And today there is the problem of less land being available to farm every year, and one can't forget the growing world population that places more demands on farms and fields every year.

Most farmers realize that erosion can be a threat to their farmland but not all conceive of the severity of the problem nor the diligent care that is needed to handle such a menace.

The fact of the matter is, like everything else, good care of the soil, takes time and management. It may mean doing things a little different from year to year, or even day to day, and involve some new ideas, but the ultimate goal of preserving the soil in the fields will be realized.

And considering the fact that it takes between 500 and 1000 years to create one inch of topsoil from bedrock, and in Lancaster County alone, up to 27 tons of topsoil per acre per year can be eroded away, the safekeeping of this precious resource, is not something that should ever be taken lightly.

The battle is a continuous one, with nature and the elements on one side, and man, his needs, and technology on the other.

And when nature wins, man pays the price.

This Summer nature dealt a particularly bad blow to the Farmersville area where in July a storm took the opportunity to damage and destroy crops, robbing the fields of the needed topsoil

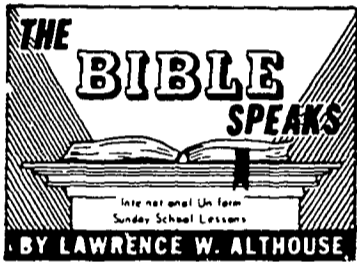
This week farmers met with soil conservation officials to find out what could be done to keep this ravaging of the fields from occurring again

My hat is off to those farmers who took the time from their busy schedules to attend such a meeting.

Soil conservation is one of those issues that easily can be tabled in a farmer's mind as something that can be put off until tomorrow. The fact that these farmers recognized the urgency of saving the soil today instead of tomorrow shows that they recognize the responsibility that they have.

Not only is it a farmer's duty to protect his soil from day to day, but as a good steward, he guards his land for the generations to come, so that they too someday will enjoy the labors of working with the land.

In these days of protecting resources, let's not forget the one that we find under our feet.



HOW GREAT THOU ART!

Lesson for September 2, 1979

Background Scripture:

Psalms 104;

Proverbs 3:19-26

8:22-31.

Devotional Reading:

Genesis 1:1-13.

A woman had been coming for counseling for some time and her tale of woe seemed unending. Each week she related a different chapter of pain, misery and disappointment. The counselor listened patiently until one day he stopped her in the middle of complaints, saying: "I think I have just the therapy for you: I suggest you take a trip to Niagra Falls and take a long, hard look at something bigger and greater than your own aches and pains!"

There are many people who might profit from that rather offbeat prescription: the monumental misery and

unhappiness they experience in life needs to be placed in perspective with something much greater. This is one of the reasons why people need God: we need him so that we can see our lives in perspective. It is not that our lives are not important, that our aches and pains, hurts and disappointments are not justified — but that they are not quite so great and important when we see them in the light of God's own greatness.

Thou Art Very Great!

Actually, we need praise and revere God, not just to please him, but much more because we have a need to

give God praise. We need it! Without it, we are denying ourselves something that is vital to our own well-being. The worshiper of God, thus, is blessed by his worship because there is something in all human beings that needs to acknowledge: "Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God thou art very great!" (Psalms 104:1).

As Long As I Live!

So the key to understanding worship is, not that God requires it of us, but that we require it for our own wellbeing. We need to praise

God far more than he needs to have our praise. If we neglect that praise and reverence, we are the one who rob and cheat ourselves.

The Psalmist knew this and his ancient wisdom is as applicable to us today as it was in his own time:

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I have being. (104:33)

Perhaps that is the secret of the amazing universal popularity of the song, "How Great Thou Art!" It is a beautiful and stirring

melody, but the music is the servant of the words and the universal reality behind those words. It is more than mind and voice that are engaged: "Then sings my soul, my Saviour, God, to thee: How great Thou art! How great Thou art!"

It is the soul that sings God's praise because human beings can only begin to realize that greatness for which they were created when they can first acknowledge: "HOW GREAT THOU ART!"



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
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TO CONSIDER WINTER COVER CROP

Have you ever noticed the muddy water running from a hillside during a winter rains storm?? Open ground that is frozen at the time of a heavy rain or heavy snow melt during the Winter is very much exposed to serious soil erosion. This has happened on far too many farms in recent years. In order to correct this situation we

suggest that the ground be growing some vegetation during the winter months. Sod fields will seldom suffer from soil erosion. The planting of a cover crop in the fall will give ground cover and prevent both water and soil losses. Crops such as any of the winter grains (barley, wheat or rye), or domestic ryegrass, or field brome grass will grow late into the fall and develop good root systems. All of these can be grazed by livestock late into the fall and early next spring. Don't permit soil erosion because of open ground this winter.

TO BEWARE OF SILO GAS

Silo filling time is at hand and in the next month thousands of tons of corn silage will be put into silos. When we get this great amount of fermenting corn at one place there is often gases given off that are very dangerous. We urge farmers to caution their children and employees about this danger. Some of the gases are colorless and some are yellow in color; most of them are irritating to the eyes and respiratory system, and have the odor similar to laundry bleaches. Never enter a partly filled silo

without running the blower or ventilating fans.

TO FLUSH EWES FLOCK

Sheep producers are in the breeding season now in order to have early spring lambs. The health of both of the ewe and the ram at mating time is very important for a large number of twin lambs. Every shepherd should aim for a 200% lamb crop; that is, two lambs raised per ewe. This requires very good care and some special treatments. Flushing of the ewes several weeks prior to being bred is one of them; this means the adding of extra grain to their

ration, or turning them out on real good grass-type pasture. When the ewes are in a healthy, gaining condition at breeding time, they will be more likely to have twin lambs. In the spring, lambs have been selling at a very high price; every sheep producer should make a special effort now to have a large lamb crop to market.

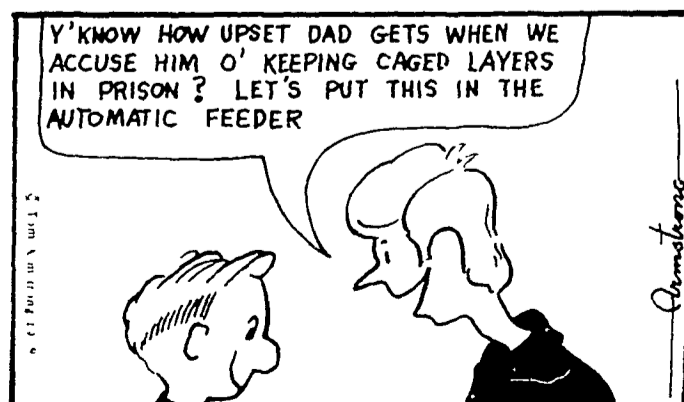
TO STORE PESTICIDES CAREFULLY

For many gardeners and farmers the spraying season is about over for this year. Where do you plan to store your left-over chemicals? This can be a very important

decision with major consequences. If kept in various places in a very reckless manner, it can result in the poisoning of some of your family, or some, of your livestock. This should not be allowed to happen under good management. All spray materials should be stored in a separate room or building and kept under lock and key. By all means keep them away from feed and seed supplies. Too many times some of the chemical pellets are mis-used in livestock feeds. Be careful with all spray materials and store them away from any chance mis-use.

RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong



Farm Calendar

Today, September 1
Chester County 4-H dog roundup at the Church Farm School in Exton, beginning at 1 p.m.

Monday, September 3
Labor Day - Enjoy your vacation day.

Flemington Fair concludes today including garden tractor pulling contests and parade.

Wednesday, September 5
Lanc. Co. Conservation District monthly board

meeting in the conference room of the Farm and Home Center starting at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited.

Friday, September 7
York Interstate Fair, York, Pa. continues through next Saturday.

Saturday, September 8
Gratz Fair, Gratz, Pa. begins today through next Saturday.

Cecil County Breeders' Fair at Cochranville, Md.