

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



Lancaster Farming says...

Why we need Farm-City Week

It's rough losing an argument to a second grade student. It's even rougher when the second grader is your daughter.

What makes the situation unbearable is knowing you're correct and she's wrong, but finding it's impossible to convince her.

"We're learning about food and farms," little Jenny announced proudly the other evening. "Today we started studying the dairy group."

Can't be anything wrong with studying agriculture in school, especially since the school is located in town where the majority of students know about farms only from speeding past them on the way to the shopping center.

"We made posters," she continued.

It was a nice poster. The carton of milk clipped from a magazine was linked to a cow—and it even was a dairy cow. She explained the relationship of cows and milk.

Next was a carton of cottage cheese, also tied to a cow. Good work, so far.

But what's this? Why is a cutout of a margarine box on the dairy project?

Must be a case of mistaken identity. But Jenny is quite firm: it's margarine and it comes from a dairy cow.

Explanation that margarine comes from a corn plant doesn't impress Jenny.

My teacher said margarine is a dairy product, she says with an air of finality.

Father's firm stand doesn't work: "Daddy says it's NOT a dairy product."

"Go back to school and ask your teacher to reconsider."

That earns daddy a look of kind understanding. Poor guy is out of school a few years and loses all touch with reality, Jenny's eyes say. But she's a good girl and next day in school questions whether margarine is a dairy product.

The answer is final, firm, unaltered. Margarine is sold in the dairy case. It's a dairy product. Don't question the wisdom of your elders. And make sure you put the right answer on Friday's test.

And so, in the eyes of at least one

group of second graders, their neighbors the dairy farmers are out milking cows to provide them with a butter dish full of margarine.

No wonder children today are confused. The confusion seems to start at home and at school with adults who are confused, who don't know the answers, who haven't taken the time to learn.

Farmers would be amazed to know how many urban people couldn't identify an alfalfa plant if their snowmobile had just run through a whole field of them.

And for many, a cow is a cow—whether it's a bull, a steer, a heifer, or a horse that's off in the distance that their children saw but they missed.

For a few hours a handful of farmer-volunteers have the chance to correct some of these mistakes.

Farm-City Week runs November 16 to 22.

It's an opportunity to call attention to the fact that farming is everybody's business.

During the past few decades the American farmer has demonstrated his amazing ability to produce. He

has increased his production more than any other segment of our economy.

His output has climbed by more than 20 percent in the past 10 years—and he's done it on six percent fewer acres.

But he'll get no credit for his share in America's prosperity unless he makes his part known.

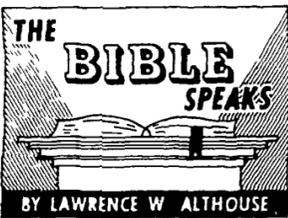
Unless he meets with city people, the farmer will not be able to correct misunderstandings about dairy products, co-ops, farm prices, farm labor.

Thousands of people in Pennsylvania will get their first exposure to farming this week.

Some will have lifelong misconceptions about margarine changed. They will discover "all that grass out there" is a legume called alfalfa. Others will learn to appreciate the farmer's way of life.

For all of these people, we need Farm-City Week.

But most of all, we the farmers need it, if we are to survive in a world where we exist as a silent minority group.



BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

IMITATING GOD

Lesson for November 18, 1979

Background Scripture:
Ephesians 4:1 through 5:20
Devotional Reading:
Ephesians 5:15-20.

The old saying tells us that "Imitation is the highest form of flattery." If that is so, then God must certainly desire that kind of flattery. It is a flattery, not of words, but of deeds and God's favor is heavily weighted on the side of deeds.

A Life Worthy

Many people have difficulty with the concept of "imitating God." In a sense, there is a kind of blasphemous ring to those words: how could anyone ever even hope to imitate God! Perhaps the problem is to be partly found in our concept of "imitation." The

word usually stirs up ideas of fraud and fakery. Is that what the writer of Ephesians has in mind?

If we look closely at Ephesians 4:1 through 5:20, however, we begin to understand what he has in mind when he says, "Therefore be imitators of God," for he adds, "as beloved children" (5:1). No one thinks it hypocritical for a child to imitate and copy his or her father or mother. We realize that there is no way that the child's behavior can add-up to that of the parent, but we do not count it any less sincere that the

child nevertheless tries to do so. Imperfect as the imitation may be, it may be quite sincere and beneficial.

Obviously, this is what the writer of Ephesians has in mind. He calls his readers to "lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (4:1,2). The writer is not asking for the perfection that was evident in the life and person of Jesus Christ.

Walk In Love

Ephesians goes on to catalogue many of the traits that characterize this "worthy life" to which he calls us. It is a life of unity with others (4:3-14), a life of truthfulness and growth (4:15, 25), a life free of lust (4:22) and malice (4:26-32), a life dedicated to self-control and sobriety (5:18,19). But the key to all these different facets of the godly life is to be found in one word: love. "And walk in love, as Christ loved us, a fragrant sacrifice and offering to God" (5:2).

We may not always be able to discern all the intricacies of human morality and sometimes we may be perplexed as we try to visualize what God wants us to do in a particular ethical and moral situation. What we need to do in such a time and situation is to measure the problem with the yardstick of God's love which Jesus demonstrated by laying down his life and accepting a cross. In that critical moment of his life, Jesus gave us the supreme imitation of a God who loves us even more than we love ourselves.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
Phone 394-6851

TO BE CAREFUL WITH GASOLINE

No doubt we will be becoming more familiar with this kind of fuel in the years ahead. Our Extension engineers caution us about this highly volatile mixture of alcohol and gasoline. Users should

make a special effort to learn more about it before using or handling it too much. One thing is that it is hard on gaskets used in pumps and motors. It should not come into contact with any aluminum parts. It may create a greater fire hazard when fuel tanks are mounted above motors. No doubt many folks are interested in trying this kind of fuel but caution should be exercised.

TO PLAN AHEAD FOR MACHINERY REPAIRS

Outside of some corn harvesting machinery the 1979 season is about over on the farm. Any machinery that needs servicing could be done soon or during the winter months. I realize it is very easy to store the machine this fall that might need some repairs. It is then forgotten until needed next

spring. Many farm machinery repair shops will offer special prices to get the work done during the winter months. Don't be guilty of putting off the repair job until the field work is ready to be done. Machinery is a very expensive part of modern farming. It should be kept in good repair in order to render the needed services. Have your machinery in

good shape when the weather breaks next spring.

TO EVALUATE FERTILIZER NEEDS

After the job of soil testing is done this fall, farmers can make plans for their fertilizer needs for 1980. This is very much in order because we are advised that most fertilizers will cost more next spring than at the present time. No doubt many fertilizer concerns will give better prices this fall than next

spring. This has been true for years but can be more beneficial to farmers this year. A complete soil test will reveal the needs of the soil for a particular crop. Then the amount of fertilizer can be ordered, and in some cases, received. Both fertilizer and lime are needed for maximum crop production; don't wait until next spring to determine your needs.

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RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong

Farm Calendar

Today, November 17
Lancaster County Farm-City Tour at seven county farms from 1 p.m.-5 p.m.
Chester-Delaware Farm-City Tour of seventeen area farms.
Square dance at Kimberton Grange at 7:30 p.m.
Farm-City Week through the 22nd.

Hunterdon County Board of Agriculture Annual Dinner Meeting, Quakertown Firehouse at 7 p.m.
Sunday, November 18
York County Farm-City Tour.
Cumberland County Farm-City Banquet.
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