

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



Lancaster Farming says...

Attend this important meeting

There's a meeting scheduled for this Thursday, December 6, that's more important than the county DHIA dinner, is bigger than the poultry banquet, will have more impact on the future of farming than the Future Farmers Convention.

The result of this session may determine whether dairymen will have a place to milk cows in Lancaster County, whether poultry odors can be outlawed in this area, whether there will be any farmers in the County's future.

If it all sounds a bit dramatic, it isn't.

The meeting is on Farm Land Preservation in Lancaster County for the 1980s.

And the simple fact is that if something does not come out of the proposals offered at this meeting, the future of agriculture in this county could join the American eagle on the endangered species list.

The meeting, sponsored by the Farm and Home Foundation of Lancaster County, is not going to be the final word on land use planning in the county. Rather, it is being set up to give farmers a chance to sort out the various proposals which have

been advanced to help save our precious farmland.

The meeting will open with remarks by John Ahlfeld, Executive Director of the Lancaster County Planning Commission. He will outline the process of coordinating land preservation efforts.

Then three speakers will talk for 10 to 15 minutes, each on a specific proposal to save farmland.

Amos H. Funk, Millersville farmer, will talk about deed restrictions which would limit a property's use to farming alone. Legal framework for this plan is taking shape as Pennsylvania HB 1983.

H.H. "Billy" Haverstick, Jr., Lancaster, will outline his proposal to grant inheritance and capital gains tax relief to farmers and thus eliminate the exodus from farming of young men forced to sell the family farm to pay taxes.

David Landis, Lititz, will speak on the ag district approach where 12 or 15 farmers get together to form an agricultural area which would be free from nuisance ordinances and other anti-farming hassles.

The entire presentation will be

summarized briefly by County Agent Max Smith.

Best of all, meeting moderator Jay E Landis has set aside plenty of time for questions, answers, and discussion of all of the various proposals.

Which proposal is "best" for Lancaster County farmers?

By the end of the meeting every farmer in the County should have a clear idea of what the pluses and minuses are on each program.

No one plan has all of the answers. None is perfect. But all are heading along the road to the right goal—saving farmland.

Whether it's fixing a dead engine or stopping runaway loss of farmland, half of correcting any difficulty is defining the problem.

This meeting on farmland preservation will bring together the various people and groups which have been working so long towards saving our farms.

While some proposals are farther along than others, nothing has yet been chiseled in stone.

Best aspect of all of these proposals is that they have been

worked on by local people who are farmers, who know farming.

The alternatives to not attending this meeting are distasteful. watching the slow, cruel loss of our farmland to development; or being saddled with some unrealistic proposal by a well-meaning but ill-informed government agency.

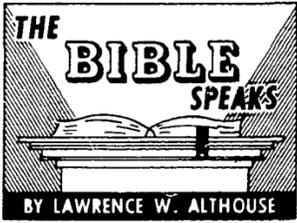
No farmer proud of his occupation, no one who considers himself a man of the land rather than a land speculator, can afford to miss the meeting.

None of the speakers has ever claimed to have 100 percent control of the situation. All admit their programs have loopholes, shortcomings.

All are looking for those ideas which will bring Lancaster County a solid and worthwhile land use plan.

Those ideas will come from the farmers who invest an hour or two of their time on Thursday so there can be a tomorrow for themselves, their children, their grandchildren.

Carpool with a neighbor. Be there the Farm Land Preservation meeting, December 6, 7:30 p.m., at the Farm and Home Center on Route 72 just below Route 30.



MINIATURIZING CHRIST

Lesson for December 2, 1979

Background Scripture:
Colossians 1.
Devotional Reading:
Isaiah 40:21-26.

People never seem to lose their fascination for miniatures: miniature bottles, books, models, toys and what not. There is something in human nature that seems stimulated by the process of scaling things down in size, particularly to a size that is much more easily controlled and handled.

Some of that fascination seems to dominate some of our religious lives as well. At least part of the American nostalgia for "The Little Brown Church In The Wildwood" is in that it is "little"! Little things we can keep in hand.

Image Of The Invisible

So it is with Christ. The Christ we find in some religious fellowships is obviously a "miniaturized Christ," a Christ scaled-down from cosmic proportions to one that fits nicely into our Lilliputian spiritual perceptions. Such a Christ can be easily identified with and limited to "our church." Several years ago for a period of months I had the opportunity to visit many different churches on Sunday mornings. I was frequently surprised to find proclaimed a "miniaturized Christ" who, it was implied, would be found exclusively

in that particular church. I was reminded of the little boy who charged the neighborhood kids admission to come into his yard to see the eclipse.

There is nothing miniature about the Christ that Paul presents to the church at Colossae:

"He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible... (1:15, 16).

"He is before all things, and in him all

things hold together...(1:17).

Paul's description is hardly that of a backyard Christ and the dimensions he outlines can best be described as nothing less than cosmic. When we look at Christ we see something infinitely more than a miniaturized glimpse of the Almighty. There can be nothing petty and trifling about a Christ who is before all things and in all things. Much as we might like to try, it is hard to keep such a Christ locked-up in our churches.

All The Fullness

When we are confronted with Christ, Paul is saying; we are confronted with nothing less than God himself: "For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things." (1:19,20). It is a cosmic Christ whose universal mission is intended, not to confirm our parochial views of the Almighty, but to reveal "all the fullness of God," and, in an age when many nit-pickingly divide the Kingdom into miniaturized religious townships, to reconcile all things to each other and himself.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
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TO CONTROL WEEDS IN ALFALFA

Have you been bothered with some of the winter-time weeds such as chickweed or shepherds purse in your alfalfa stands? If so, now

would be a good time to apply a herbicide to knock out these weeds. Too many alfalfa growers wait until they see a heavy growth of these weeds and then think of spraying. All weeds are easier to kill when small and before they choke out the alfalfa plants. The period between Thanksgiving and Christmas is excellent for applying herbicides to

alfalfa stands. The material to use will vary with the age of the stand and whether or not any grass is there as a companion crop. We suggest that growers refer to the Agronomy Guide, or to their local pesticide dealer for suggestions relating to materials. The important thing is to do the spraying while the weeds are small.

TO USE NEEDED FERTILIZER ELEMENTS

Fertilizer prices are rising and we suggest that farmers act now in order to reduce this production cost. A complete soil test now will reveal the exact fertilizer elements that are needed in a certain field for a particular crop. The idea of applying the same amount of the same analysis of fer-

tilizer each year might help but is not the best way to get the most from your fertilizer dollars. Some fields may have sufficient amounts of potash, or be in excess of some elements; in these cases it is not economical to apply more of these same materials. With higher fertilizer costs we suggest that farmers do soil testing and then apply what is needed for each crop.

TO FOLLOW WITHDRAWAL REGULATIONS
The use of drugs and

antibiotics may be needed in many cases with livestock and dairy production. Their use is quite common in many farm operations. However, the mis-use of these materials is what gets producers into trouble. When these items are administered to an animal the owner should be sure to read the label, or get directions, relating to the withdrawal period for milking cows, or time between treatment and slaughter for meat animals. This is only good common

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Farm Calendar

Today, December 1
Lancaster County 4-H Horse Club's award banquet at the Farm and Home Center, 6:30 p.m.
Monday, December 3
York County 4-H horticulture club, 7:30 p.m. at the 4-H Center,

workshop on making tree ornaments with straw.
Tuesday, December 4
Lancaster County DHIA banquet and meeting at Good 'n Plenty, Smoketown, starting at 11:45 a.m.

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