

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



Lancaster Farming says...

Let's end this embargo nonsense

For six months sales of American grain to the Russians have been embargoed. The United States made the move in an effort to punish the Russian government for its invasion of Afghanistan.

While President Carter and all the fine folks at USDA repeatedly have said the embargo would not hurt farmers, the facts to the contrary speak for themselves.

Loss of markets means loss of income. And right now the sales of U.S. farm products are at an all-time low compared to the prices for other goods.

Most of the U.S. farmer's feed grains are selling for about 50 percent of parity: wheat at 53 percent; corn, 52 percent; barley, 53 percent; soybeans, 49 percent.

While this may be thought to reflect the general state of the farm economy, it's not really so. Although

depressed somewhat, milk sales are at about 75 percent of parity as are beef cattle and sheep returns.

Not so hard hit are the big grain companies. The President has approved a loophole for them which allows sales of foreign grain to Russia through the U.S. companies while the Administration continues to maintain the embargo on domestic grain in the face of attacks from all sides.

It apparently sees the embargo as the morally right thing to do—to use our food supply as a weapon against oppression—as long as the bigwigs don't lose money.

Meantime, it's farmers who are paying the price of teaching the Soviets a lesson. If indeed one is being taught.

Senators Robert Dole, a conservative republican, and George

McGovern, a liberal democrat, both have introduced bills in the U.S. Senate to end this embargo nonsense. Representative Tom Harkin has started a similar measure rolling in the U.S. House.

Harkin calls the decision to allow U.S. firms to sell foreign grain to Russia at the expense of domestic production "ridiculous." It's more than that.

Why is it all right for the big grain companies to do business as usual, but not the American farmer? Why should we bear the financial burden while the big companies continue to roll in the cash?

Farmers lose twice once by the embargo, twice by having foreign grain replacing theirs in the marketplace.

Even representatives of giant grain firms, like Continental's Senior Vice President Bernard Steinweg, object

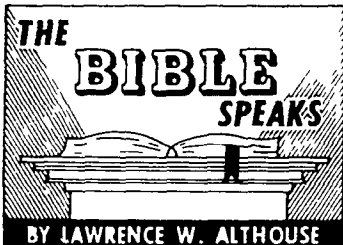
to the two-level pricing system that has resulted from the embargo's cutting through valid contracts.

Not only that, but other nations will be planting fencerow to fencerow to take up the slack left by America.

We need to determine whether this embargo is a one-shot deal or will be established as an acceptable instrument of foreign policy.

Most of all, we need to be sure all share in the price of maintaining the embargo. Big grain firms should not be allowed to make an end run around the embargo. Neither should the public be allowed to profit at farmers' expense.

Let's celebrate July 4 Independence Day by declaring our independence of burdens placed on the farmer and farm industries by Washington. This embargo nonsense would be a good place to start.



BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

"MILLIONS FOR DEFENSE!"

Lesson for July 6, 1980

Background Scriptures:
2 Kings 24:18 through 25:30;
Devotional Reading:
Psalms 25:1-15.
Movie makers and TV

producers seem to think that the American public is still enamored of catastrophe stories. The Towering Inferno, Airport, The Poseidon Adventure, Tidal Wave - all are predicated on the "entertainment" value of disasters real and imagined.

To date, the scriptwriters have overlooked a good bet for yet another story of disaster - one that actually happened: the final demise of Israel at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar. All the elements for a fascinating catastrophe script can be found in 2 Kings:

Zedekiah, the 21 year old who becomes king of

Judah. The young king's futile efforts against the hated enemy.

The great army of Babylon and its siege against Jerusalem. Famine.

The great walls finally breached.

The flight of Zedekiah and his capture.

The cruel torture of the king (scriptwriters will especially like this).

The burning of Jerusalem and the destruction of its walls.

The people of Judah led away into captivity.

What a magnificent story! That is, unless you lived it!

Zedekiah's "Tough" Stand

The only flaw in this whole scenario, from the scriptwriter's point of view, that is, is that the usual "poetic justice" seems to be missing in this story. For the brave young king did what any leader must do when faced by the threatening enemy: he made military preparations and refused to appease the Babylonians. He talked tough and he acted tough. He even made an alliance with powerful Egypt, but none of this seemed to do him or Judah any good.

Zedekiah's failure was really two-fold: (1) "...he did

what was evil in the sight of the Lord" (just as his predecessor had done), and (2) he trusted in military might and alliances instead of in God. Ah yes, we will intone, we understand where he went wrong.

Too Late For Remedy

But do we? Are we any more faithful to the Lord than he was? Are we any more convinced that God is the source of our salvation, not military might and alliances? Not if I read the newspapers rightly. Not if I hear what people all about me are saying. It's all very good to say these things in a

Sunday School lesson about the dim and ancient past, but who among us believes today that faith in God and national righteousness are more important than our arms budget? We laugh and smirk at those who preach moral armorment.

And the Bible reminds us that it has all happened before:

"They kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words, and scoffing at his prophets, till the wrath of the Lord rose against the people, till there was no remedy". (2 Chronicles 36:16).



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
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TO BE SURE WITH PESTICIDES

The reckless use of any pesticide can get a person in plenty of trouble. As we have stated many times, it's not the use of pesticides that causes problems, it's the MIS-USE of them. We get all kinds of reports about using the wrong material, or putting a weed killer on the wrong field. If we would just take the time to check every application, we would do less

damage to good crops. Custom sprayers should be very careful that they are spraying the proper field of the customer. The label, or directions, should be accurately followed. Finally, don't feel that it is too much trouble to keep accurate records of all pesticide applications. It might save your neck.

TO GET WINTER'S WOOD SUPPLY

It may be awful hot to be thinking about burning firewood this winter, but wood supplies should be cut soon, so they will have time to dry out before they are needed. Green wood does not make very good fuel. Many

folks have turned to wood as a source of fuel in order to reduce costs and to use some of our own natural, replacement resources. This means that cured wood is in strong demand and may not reach farmers with woodlots could be in the driver's seat, because most of these areas need thinned out frequently. Don't wait until fall to cut your wood from a green tree.

TO MANAGE ALFALFA FIELDS

The second cutting of alfalfa looks excellent in this part of the country; these later cuttings are the important ones for top quality forage. Some good growers

plan to harvest every 35 days after taking the first cutting. This should give four cuttings per season. In addition, it is still a good practice to permit one of the later cuttings to come into at least 75% bloom before cutting. This will strengthen the roots for another season. Also, there is considerable support for not cutting alfalfa in this part of the state during the early and mid part of September; this is the time when the plants are forming rhizomes for next year's growth. Cut either early in September or in late September. Management is important to get longevity to the stand.

TO USE TOP SIRE

Many livestock producers will be investing in new herd sires during the summer months. This is a very important step and one that is not easy. We urge producers to look around for the best possible sires. Performance Testing is done in many areas and will provide a sire

with some idea of his performance. Since the sire represents at least 50% of the kind of a crop of offspring, the future of the herd or flock may depend upon him. Don't "punch pennies" when buying a new herd sire. The good ones are never cheap and the cheap ones are often very expensive.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, July 5
Mercer County 4-H open doe show; 10 a.m.; Mercer 4-H park.
N.E. Junior Angus Star Spangled Classic; Maryland State Fairgrounds; Timonium, Maryland.

Sunday, July 6
All women's horse show; Susquehanna Valley Corral; Route 11; Danville.

Monday, July 7
Penn State Cereal Research Day; Rock Springs Farm; Route 45 West of Pine Grove Mills; 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Regional 4-H Horse Bowl; 10 a.m.; Montgomery County.
Dauphin County Dairy Meeting, Ray and Dale

Kennedy Farm; 7:30 p.m.; Middletown.
Delaware 5-week horsemanship course begins; 10 a.m.; University of Delaware; Ag Hall; Newark, Delaware.

Tuesday, July 8
Adams County Dairy tour to Huntingdon County; depart 7:30 a.m. from King's Shopping Center, Gettysburg.

Chester County Sheep Field Day; 9 a.m.; Atglen farm of Joan and Bill McCauley.
Tri-State (Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey) Dairy Princess training seminar; University of Delaware; Newark,

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RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong

