

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



Lancaster Farming says...

A call for fair sportsmanship

Country fair season is a good opportunity to see a lot of fine livestock and hear a lot of nasty remarks.

Although the two don't seem to go together, the fact is they often appear in the show ring at about the same time

Anyone interested in seeing the finest youth showmen and best livestock in a given area would be well advised to attend any of the many county fairs which started rolling this month

There are cows and steers, sheep and hogs. There are curry combs and halters, shoe polish and talcum powder. And there are ribbons and placings

It's the latter which cause the trouble if one were to believe the railbirds sitting around the ring, they'd find the snowmen are in-

competent (all but one), the animals are lame (all but one), and the judges are blind, crooked, or both (no exceptions)

To our 4-H'ers credit, it's almost never those in the ring who are leveling the charges. It's the parents of children in the ring who find it necessary to justify their child's green ribbon by tearing down the judge's qualifications and the blue ribbon winner's reputation

Although the children may shed tears later or give a particularly flighty horse a whack on the shoulder once the animal is off the tanbark, it is rare for a competitor to demonstrate bad deportment in the ring

Ah, but it would be nice if we could say as much about the grownups

They carry on about how the blue ribbon winner's animal was bred in Iowa. They tell all within earshot that

the winner's parents did all of the fitting. They "heard" that the winner's older brother won his prize the same way. And they're sure the judge knows the winner's mother's sister-in-law

Ridiculous? Not really

How do the children in the ring react to all of the back-stabbing? Usually, we've observed, with justifiable embarrassment or bewilderment

Wasn't this the same mother who told them only a few moments ago that it's not winning or losing that counts but being a part of the show?

Didn't dad say to go into the ring with chin held high and accept the judges' comments, whatever the judge might say?

No wonder the child is confused. Maybe winning is everything. Mom surely seems to think it beats second

place

Dad obviously disagrees with the judge. He's letting everyone else know

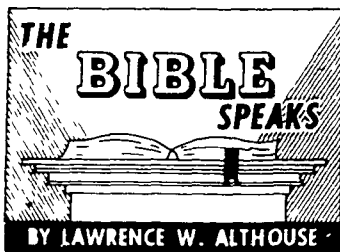
Maybe, the child figures, losing is kid stuff. Being a sportsman is for babies. Grownups continue fighting even after the battle is over

The next step is feeling entitled to win.

Adults might want to note this attitude is the same which makes people feel they are entitled to a living

Let there be any misunderstanding by any of the young showmen at this season's fairs, let it be noted that good sportsmanship is proper for all occasions, for all ages

It's the lessons learned and memories gained, not the ribbon, that you'll carry with you in years to come



WHEN GOD SAYS "BUY!"

Lesson for July 20, 1980

Background Scripture:
Jeremiah 31:23 through 33:26

Devotional Reading:
Lamentations 3:21-33

It is not one of the usual tourist sights in the Holy Land, but perhaps it ought to be Anathoth, the birthplace of the prophet Jeremiah. It is but a short walk from Jerusalem's Mount Scopus, and southeast of the village of Gibeah. The modern name of the site is Anata and all that remains is a tell or archaeological mound known as Ras el-Kharrubeh.

So why go to see yet another graceless tell when Israel is already so full of them? I would say that it is worth the trouble, not because of what one can see there, but of what we can remember when we stand at

this site. For, not only was the prophet Jeremiah born there, but it was also the place where God sent the prophet to teach Judah an important lesson

Buy My Field At Anathoth

In the midst of Nebuchadnezzar's siege of Jerusalem, when even the most optimistic and arrogant must have realized that Jeremiah's prophecies were coming true, God came to the prophet with a different kind of message: "The word of the Lord came to me: Behold, Hanamel... will come to you and say, 'Buy my field which is at

Abathoth'" (Jeremiah 32:6,7).

It must have seemed a strange thing for God to command, in fact, given the present circumstances of Jerusalem and Judah, it may have seemed crazy and a contradiction of all that Jeremiah had already prophesied. Of all times to buy a piece of property in the vicinity of Jerusalem, this must have seemed to be the absolute worst! The city was in grave danger of being destroyed — is that not what Jeremiah had prophesied? — the enemy was knocking at the gates — surely this

was no time to invest in real estate! But God has said "buy!" and so Jeremiah bought the field. Understanding, although desirable, was not prerequisite to doing the will of God.

That They May Last

God soon revealed to Jeremiah the purpose of his command to "buy" — "Take these deeds and put them in an earthenware vessel, that they may last for a long time. For thus says the Lord of hosts: Houses and vineyards and fields shall again be bought in this land" (32:14,15). The purchase of real estate in Anathoth by Jere-

miah was to be a message, a public witness by the prophet, that although the Babylonians would do all that Jeremiah had foretold, there would be a day when the people of God would once again dwell in this land

Whenever our world is thus confronted with disaster, we need to make that same kind of witness, to publicly declare, not just with words, but with deeds, that history is in God's hands and that eventually his will will be accomplished and the children of God will once again possess the earth's houses, fields and vineyards



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
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TO ORDER WINTER GRAIN SEEDS

It is not too early to be ordering your needs for winter grains. The seeding of winter oats is only eight weeks away, followed by winter barley and winter wheat. Some growers may choose to use their own seeds but this is questionable in many cases. We continue to stress that the use of certified seeds is the best practice. It may cost a few dollars more at the beginning but usually it will result

in greater yields. Home-grown grains should be cleaned, treated, and tested for germination before using. By ordering now, your chances of getting the variety and the quality of seed wanted is the best. Don't put it off until you have to take what is available at seeding time.

TO EVALUATE YOUR WEED CONTROL

Did you get good weed control this summer on your farm crops? If not, you might want to look into the reason. By evaluating the weed control success in the next month or so, you can determine if it has been successful. Too many times we do not get the weeds killed, and in most cases

there is one or more reasons. Weed control is very important and very costly, we should be making more progress than we have been making. Soil acidity may be too high, the timing may be wrong, or you may be using the wrong materials. Some special attention to your weed control program is timely; no doubt your custom spray operator might be included in this evaluation. He, too, should know of the success of the various herbicides. Don't continue to repeat the same practice year after year, if it is not getting rid of the weeds.

TO IRRIGATE CROPS

Since we have had little moisture in the past two

weeks, with high temperatures, folks with irrigation systems and with a supply of water should be using them. Irrigation should be used to make crops, rather than try to save them after they have been hurt by dry weather. Unfortunately, too few folks have a good supply of water for irrigation. Those living along streams have a right to their share of the water in that stream; they do not have a right to all of the water. This has caused some trouble over the years when the person doing the irrigation used all of the water in a small stream. We are thankful in recent years that we did not need much irrigation, because it is

costly and includes considerable labor. When irrigation is done, it should be done during the daytime, rather than at night. Wet plants during the night presents greater chances of various fungus diseases developing.

TO MAKE SUMMER ALFALFA SEEDINGS

In this part of the state late July and early August are good times to make that alfalfa seeding. When seeded at this time, the plants have time to become established before freezing weather arrives. Alfalfa is still one of our major forage crops and deserves the very best of

planning and management. The band seeding method continues as the best way to make this seeding. Weed control is a "must" with a straight seeding without a nurse crop. Most stands are injured by poor weed control during the first year. Refer to the 1980 Agronomy Guide for help on weed control practices. Be aware that alfalfa should not be planted in ground that has been treated for corn weed control during the past year, especially fields sprayed with atrazine. Alfalfa is an outstanding forage crop; however, it does require attention and good management.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, July 19

Shippensburg Community Fair, Shippensburg, continues through July 26.

Lancaster County 4-H horse roundup; Lower Hopewell Horse Center; 9 a.m.

Lancaster County FFA picnic; 12:30 p.m.; Pequea Valley High School.

Sunday, July 20

Maryland Shorthorn family

picnic; Holly Hill Farm; 1 p.m.; Ijamsville, Maryland.

Lebanon County 4-H horse and pony clubs open show; 10 a.m.; Lebanon Fairgrounds.

Monday, July 21

Butler County Fair; Butler; continues through July 26.

Troy Fair; Troy; continues through July 26.

Maryland Gram Producers Association; Queen Anne (Turn to Page A26)

RURAL ROUTE

