

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



Lancaster Farming says...

Raise a wing for chicken rights

They seem to come in the summer, stories like this one. They'd be amusing if they didn't have to be taken seriously.

The problem at hand is chicken rights but it could be steer rights, pig rights or turkey rights.

Now, if you've never heard of chicken rights, consider how United Egg Producers feels sitting smack in the middle of the situation.

A group calling itself the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, a four-month old group devoted to the "issue of animal awareness" has decided animals in general and chickens in particular are being exploited just the way human minority groups are being exploited.

Don't quit yet . . . these people are serious and you'd better hear them out.

Chickens are very sensitive animals, PETA people say: The poultrymen throw them down like furniture. When they're ready to slaughter the birds they bind their feet and wings in front of all the other chickens. It's horrible, PETA says.

PETA's not the only group on the chickens' side. There're the Coalition for the Liberation of Animals, the Vegetarian Information Service, and even Humane Societies.

United Egg Producers quotes an article in a recent issue of Smithsonian Magazine, the organ of the Smithsonian Institute, as describing "hellish conditions" that prevail in modern laying operations.

"If this seems like a scene conceived by Dante, well, who really is to say what a chicken wants?" the publication asks

Well the Animal Liberators

Vegetarians, and PETA folks all have the inside line on that.

They say they feel chickens have personalities, too, UEP points out, and the chickens need to have their dignity preserved.

If you've got a picture in your mind of people marching around with signs pleading for an end to needless suffering by chickens, you've got the right picture.

The issue is joined not only by animal lovers but also by those who like their salads fresh, who like shiny skins on fruit, who cringe at the sight of a worm in an ear of sweet corn.

It's easier to sympathize with consumers who miss the acid taste of a vine ripened tomato, who remember the days when radishes were tangy, who bought meat cut

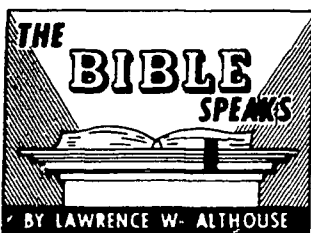
from a fresh hanging side not a refrozen vacuum pack.

But there is no recourse from the economic realities of the situation. The average homemaker can't afford to pay the gourmet pricetag attached to fresh produce. There is no humanitarian cause in protesting tomato handling.

Even vegetarians don't cringe as they dice, slice, chop and churn vegetables. But chickens—now that's a different story.

Summer months are long, hot, and dull with nothing to do. So, the country club set picks a 'cause of the month' and entertains itself liberating the downtrodden of the earth. That, of course, includes chickens.

We can only hope the problem will blow over like a sudden summer storm.



BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE
THE FADING FLOWER
July 27, 1980

Background Scripture:
Isaiah 40, 41.
Devotional Reading:
Psalms 27:1-10.
It has long been a standard text for funerals:

All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people is grass. (Isaiah 40:6,7).

And I confess that, but itself, it has always seemed a depressing piece of scripture. Not that I could ever quarrel with the analogy of human life and perishable grass, but that I didn't like it, reasonable or not. I know I shall not live forever on this earth, but it seems somewhat rude of the prophet to remind me that way.

Comfort My People

Yet, when I read this passage in the context of the whole 40th chapter of Isaiah, I realize that it is not a discouraging word from God, but a word of: "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned..." (40:1,2). And even in the well-known "withering grass and fading flower" passage, God's word of comfort includes the assurance that, even so, "the word of our God will stand for ever" (40:8).

Actually, then, the "comfort" which the prophet is told to proclaim is one which goes beyond the false assurance that I will not experience bodily death, that although everything physical like the grass and flower does wither and die, God is God and he will remain for ever. If we put our hope in him and not our own cleverness, we can live in hope even in the midst of a dispiriting world.

He is above all those things that frighten us and cause us anxiety; evil men, human weaknesses, personal enemies and national foes,

weak and corrupt leaders, the experience of defeat and failure — in the midst of these we need to remember: "Behold the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him" (40:10). At the heart of the universe there is Intelligence, Purpose and Power.

He Will Gently Lead

Yet, this same Universal Reality whom we call "God" is not only Intelligence, Purpose and Power, but also Love and Compassion. Side by side with the image of the mighty God there is the assurance that: "He will feed his flock like a

shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms, he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young" (40:11).

Trusting in that kind of God, therefore, I am not anxious to realize that my existence on this earth is a fading flower, for "the Lord is the everlasting God" (40:28). And my comfort is knowing that "they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint" (30:31).



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
Phone 394-6851

TO SECURE WINTER'S WOOD SUPPLY

Due to the high cost of all kinds of heating fuels, the use of wood is becoming more and more important. Even though the current temperatures do not encourage attention to more heat, the time will be coming when warm air will be needed in homes and buildings. Wood seems to be one of our natural resources that can help meet that need.

I'd like to encourage folks to get their supply on hand; no doubt after the recent

wind storms most folks will have additional wood to use. However, this wood should be cut and stored so that it will be dried out before it is needed. Wood is very much in demand and those who wait until cold weather arrives might find it scarce and more expensive.

TO BE CAREFUL WITH CHAIN SAWS

If Paul Bunyon could have a chain saw, instead of his axe, he surely would have cut a wider swath as a woodsman. Today, the chain saw is one of the most common and most popular pieces of equipment on many farms and woodlots. During the past two weeks most communities have been very noisy because of the chain saws being used to cut up

fallen trees. In careful hands these saws are excellent in cutting wood with the least amount of effort.

However, they can be dangerous and will cut human flesh just as quickly as a piece of wood. We are aware of numerous accidents where the chain saw was inflicted serious injuries. In most cases it was because the operator did not have the proper control of the saw. We urge users to read the instructions, heed the cautions, and get acquainted with the machine before using it. Don't be reckless, or get in a hurry, when using a chain saw. Be aware of their potential dangers.

TO USE CERTIFIED SEEDS

I'm aware of the practice of using your own barley or wheat for seeding purposes. At the moment, there have been several requests relating to the use of a very popular variety of wheat that is giving maximum yields; the question relates to whether or not this crop of wheat should be used for seeding purposes. As we have stated many times in the past, it is best to buy certified grains for seeding purposes.

It might be possible to use your own seed, or those of a neighbor, but by the time you get it cleaned, treated, and germination tested, you might be better off to buy certified seeds. When un-

tested seeds are used there is more risk of diseases, poor germination, and doubtful yields. In most cases we can expect the certified seed to outyield the home-grown kind. When we consider all the other costs and inputs, the extra cost of certified seed is very little.

TO BEWARE OF OVER-CROWDING

In today's modern livestock and poultry housing I fear that too many birds and too many head of livestock are placed in limited quarters. When we get into confinement production we try to put the maximum number in the building. This may work fine

as long as weather and other mechanical devices are favorable. However, when we get into exceptional circumstances, or power failures, the whole business is threatened.

As it appears at this time, when a farmer can be put out of business because of a 30 minute lack of electric power, he is operating on a very risky basis. Would it not be more practical to fill these houses with a number that could survive when emergencies do happen? Actually, it brings to our attention the place that electric power enjoys in today's agriculture — we can't get along without it.

Farm Calendar

Today, July 26
MPPA Summer Picnic; 12 p.m.; Duke Sales Barn, Eden, Md.
Delaware State Holstein Show; Harrington, Del.
Adams Co. 4-H Horse Roundup.
Keystone Grange Fair; Trappe.
Sunday, July 27
Clarion Co. Fair begins; continues through August 2; New Bethlehem.
Monday, July 28
Maryland Grain Producers Annual Meeting; 1:30 p.m.; Cumberland Fair, Cumberland, Md.
Clearfield Co. Fair begins; continues through August 2; Clearfield.
Goshen Co. Fair begins; continues through August 2; West Chester.
Morrison Cove Dairy Show begins; continues through August 2; Martinsburg.
Potter Co. Fair begins; continues through August 2; Millport.
(Turn to Page A47)

RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong

