

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



Lancaster Farming says..

What farm exports mean to us

Three times in the past 14 days agricultural leaders have made speeches pushing hard for increased farm exports.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland last week pointed to agricultural exports as one of the prime areas of concern to USDA in the future. He proposes to push 'value added' products into the export market—that is, products which have been taken a step from basic materials out of the field.

Indeed, the brightest spot in the Carter Administration's agricultural policy is its record of increasing farm exports by 35 million tons, or 50 percent, in the past three years.

Right here in Pennsylvania, Ag Secretary Penrose Hallowell recently concluded meetings with representatives of 15 Japanese firms. Japan buys \$4 billion in U.S. commodities annually.

The Agricultural Council of America last week also kicked off a program to boost U.S. ag exports.

Those exports mean a lot to us as a nation, a state, and as individuals.

Since farm production greatly exceeds domestic requirements, roughly one-third of the harvested acres in this country are sold overseas.

We export almost 65 percent of our wheat, over 60 percent of our rice, better than half of our soybeans and soy products, and about one-third of our corn.

This year farm exports will generate \$82 billion in domestic economic activity. That means employment for more than 1.13 million U.S. workers, including some 630,000 in the nonfarm sector related to food processing, trade, transportation and others.

Roughly every \$20,000 in exports from this state provides a job for another Pennsylvanian. That means taking people off welfare rolls. It means families with more pride and self-respect.

It means more people paying taxes rather than being a drain on the tax base.

It means inching toward a balanced foreign trade situation. It

means America holds a power in the world far more potent than guns ever could provide.

It means broader marketing potential for farmers and better prices for farm goods. It means boosting the standards of nutrition

and crop production around the world without giving away the goods we produce.

It means a secure America, a prosperous state, and a healthy outlook on the home farm.

Let candidates debate

As important as farming is to the American economy, we can see no reason why all three leading presidential candidates should not consent to a debate on farm policy.

The idea is being promoted by National Farmers' Union President George W. Stone and has true merit.

The nation's agricultural policy in the coming four years will have great effect on our balance of trade, consumer prices, farm productivity, research budgets, export policy, foreign relations and domestic economy.

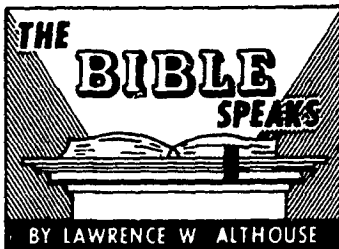
Notice nothing above is said about the farmer and his business. This

isn't simply a farmer concern. It is important to the entire country.

Still, the four percent of the population who feed the other 96 percent would be interested in knowing if Reagan ever found out what parity is, if Carter intends to open markets to foreign cheese, or if Anderson has a firm farm policy.

Let's have the leading contenders face a panel from Farm Bureau, Grange, NFU, and the farm press.

Not only will the outcome be educational for the general public, but the candidates themselves may learn something more about the concerns of the farm community in this country.



JOSHUA'S CHALLENGE

September 28, 1980

Background Scripture: Joshua 24:1-31; Judges 2.
Devotional Reading: Psalm 15.
If you travel to the Holy

Land, you may still see that historic place where Joshua gathered the victorious tribes of Israel. Schechem was the scene of one of Israel's most dramatic and significant events, for it was here that Joshua gathered the people and challenged them to make their choice between the gods of Canaan and the Lord.

FEAR AND SERVE

They and their forbearers have seen what God has done for them, so Joshua challenged them: "Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness." It is not the "fear" of fright and terror, but of holy awe and reverence. For God wants

not fawning words and idle gestures, but sincere worship and faithfulness.

Why is Joshua making such a formal occasion as this? Well, for one thing, he is aware that there is a subtle, yet powerful inner struggle taking place in the lives of his people. They have witnessed the goodness of God, but the lures and enchantments of the pagan gods are hard to put aside. In the spirit of the ancient world, they are tempted to give homage to both the Lord and his rivals. "Put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River, and in Egypt, and serve the Lord" (24:14). Joshua doesn't "beat around the

bush", but comes straight to the point: "And if you be unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve..." (24:15).

The people might be tempted to slide by without making a conscious choice. It is a most human trait and we still try to do that very thing even today: if we can both adhere to Christianity and still hold on to other religious values, we will do it. But Joshua knew that the people had to make a definite choice, one way or the other. God would not tolerate divided loyalties: "You cannot serve the Lord; for he is a holy God; he is a jealous God" (24:19). Jesus would echo this generations

later saying, "You cannot serve God and mammon." AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE...

Joshua made it clear that he and his family had made that choice: "...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (24:15). And the people were anxious to make the same choice: "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods." They remembered well what God had done for them: "it is the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage...therefore we will serve the Lord for he is our God" (24:16-18).

Twice they assured Joshua that they knew fully the meaning of the covenant they were making with the Lord. Very well, says Joshua, raising a great stone to commemorate this act. "Behold this stone shall be a witness against us, for it has heard all the words of the Lord which he spoke to us" (24:27). Joshua knew that covenants need to be formally recognized and specifically verbalized if they are to be guiding forces in our lives.

A ring, a baptismal certificate, or some other visible "stone of witness" is needed in every covenant relationship.

NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
Phone 394 6851



TO PRODUCE LEANER BEEF

For the past several years the trend has been toward leaner meat of all kinds; this is especially true with most

beef cuts. The pork producers have been producing less lard for the past decade and now the consumers are expecting the same thing with beef. There is little doubt that it does not pay to feed cattle to a high finish at this time. I guess the question arises as to what is a high finish. The grade of Choice seems to be

high enough and a Yield Grade of 2 or 3. Producers should be on the market enough to learn just how much finish it takes to meet these grades of finish. Recently the eastern producers have lost most of the buyers of highly finished cattle. With grain prices being higher, it is poor economics to put feed into cattle and then get discounted on the market for having too much finish.

Cattle feeders should adjust to market demands in order to make the most profit.

TO PREVENT RODENT DAMAGE

Colder weather soon be here when most rats and mice will be coming to farm buildings. With good management we should not allow them to set up house-keeping on any farm or building. They often carry diseases and will surely damage most feed and grain

crops. Good sanitation practices are in order and the use some concrete to point masonry walls and foundations. Corn cribs and grain bins should also be protected. Feed grains are too high-priced to be damaged or destroyed by rodents.

TO STORE PESTICIDES CAREFULLY

Many producers are about finished with their spray materials for this year. Many of these can be held over until next year with good results. However, it is always best to buy only enough for one season at a

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Farm Calendar

Today, Sept. 27
Eastern National Livestock Expo, Fairgrounds, Timonium, Md. Continues through Oct. 1.
Penn State Horticulture Show, University flower gardens, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Continues tomorrow.
Monday, Sept. 29
Farm - TMI Meeting, Lower Swatara, Twp. Building, Rt. 441, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 30
NEDCO Annual Meeting, Hotel Syracuse, Syracuse, N.Y. Continues on Oct. 1.

Wednesday, Oct. 1
New Holland Farmers Fair, New Holland, Continues through Oct. 4.
Calvert County Fair, Prince Frederick, Md. Continues through Oct. 5.
National Broiler Housing Seminar, University of Del. Substation, Georgetown, Del. 8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.
Northeast Egg Marketing Assn. annual meeting, Hotel Hershey, Hershey. Continues through Oct. 3.
Lancaster Conservation (Turn to Page A29)

CHRIS CLOVER

