

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



Lancaster Farming says...

It's an interesting alliance

As in any political or policy-making arena, alliances come and alliances go. But there is a new pairing which will be of interest in farm circles.

In recent months the Grange and the Farmers' Union have been standing shoulder to shoulder in a number of battles of interest to agriculture.

Their mutual support can be noted both in the parent national organizations and on a state level.

They make an odd couple at first glance. There's the Grange, generally viewed as old, established and staid, tying itself in some instances to the Farmers' Union, seen by many farmers as the young, aggressive upstart of farmer organizations.

Even its most ardent supporters will admit the Grange has been

slipping some in prestige in recent years. Still, it boasts over 100 years of service to the rural community. Its name still packs punch even if it no longer is mandatory for political candidates to make speeches at the local grange hall.

No doubt the Farmers' Union, perhaps unfairly tagged with a reputation as radical, can benefit from association with the Grange's moderate image. The Grangers' causes gain in numbers, impact, and exposure to the public, and should gain pep from Farmers' Union.

Because they don't have the restrictions about joining coalitions, Farmers' Union and Grange can gain background information and strength from diverse segments of agriculture and groups which may not seem, at first glance, to have any ties to farming at all

Where, then, does this leave Farm Bureau and its local affiliates like Pennsylvania Farmers' Association who, by organization bylaws, are forbidden from joining a coalition?

The frequent association of Grange and Farmers' Union is, in some cases, a backhanded compliment to PFA — almost an admission that it is taking two to match the strength of one.

On the other hand it certainly serves warning that any sign of a slow-down in activities by PFA in pushing farm policies will quickly be turned to the advantage of the other groups.

It should be made clear that the teamwork by Grange and Farmers' Union is not an across the board agreement on policy. In some areas the two differ dramatically on philosophy.

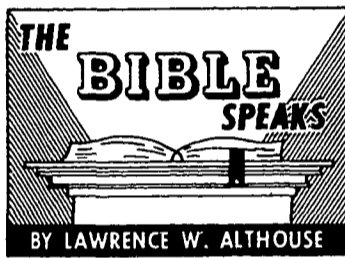
Still, it has proven fruitful on several occasions.

The teaming of a conservative group and a more activist group gives farmers a broad spectrum of support in Harrisburg, Washington, and before committees and policy setting bodies.

It's healthy for agriculture — such alliances will mean more ideas being processed at farm discussions, and more vigorous activity on behalf of farmers by all of the organizations representing the farm community.

If all of these groups are kept on their toes, there will be less danger of any one becoming fat, lazy, or complacent.

There will be a better chance of farmers being powerful when push comes to shove.



BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

ON BEING A "WHOLLY FOLLOWER"

October 12, 1980

Background Scripture:
1 Kings 11:1-13, 26-34;
12:25-33; 14.

Devotional Reading:
Isaiah 55:6-11.

What could you expect from a man who had 700 wives and 300 concubines?

The 11th chapter of 1 Kings starts off ominously: "Now King Solomon loved many foreign women....from the nations concerning which the Lord had said to the people of Israel, 'You shall not enter into marriage with them...'" (11:1,2). Apparently, Solomon had assumed that God's restrictions did not apply to so important a person as he was. Why did he audaciously do what the rest of his people were forbidden to do?

Solomon's disobedience

was not a matter of sheer lust. Actually, Solomon married many foreign women in order to form alliances with other nations. The foreign wives were all of them noblewomen, representing the ruling families of the known world's great powers. Solomon assumed that he could violate God's command because it appeared to be a political necessity for the nation.

A TURNED-AWAY HEART

Does that have a familiar ring? A leader believes himself to be above the normative ethics that binds others because he believes it

justified by the national interest. Isn't that what Watergate was all about?

But why did God forbid these marriages? It seems only reasonable that Solomon should do what he did, doesn't it? Wouldn't we give him "A" for diplomacy today?

The writer of 1 Kings tells us why Solomon was wrong: "For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God..." (11:4). It is often debated whether, in the light of some of the unwise things he did, Solomon justly deserves the

aura of wisdom he is usually given. If he was so wise, how could he have done something so foolish? But I don't doubt that Solomon was wise, only that he was wise long enough. It seems he was wise for a time, but his wisdom ran out.

NOT WHOLLY TRUE

Of course, Solomon's defenders would hurry to object that this judgement is unfair. They might argue, "O.K. in one little thing, Solomon slipped-up, but look how faithful he was to God, how wise in other things." It is true that even while he "went after Ashteroth, the

goddess of the Sidonians..." he still worshipped the Lord. Even though he built a "high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab," he also had built the beautiful temple of God that bore his name.

The point, however, is that Solomon should have known that God would not condone a divided loyalty. "Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and did not wholly follow the Lord" (11:6).

God is uncompromising with his covenant: unless we follow him wholly, we do not follow him at all.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
Phone 394-6851

TO UTILIZE CORN STALKS

Corn producers who do not make silage from their crop could have a very good livestock bedding material after the corn is picked or shelled. The corn stalks, when shredded, dried, and baled, can be brought to the barn and used for bedding purposes. Shredded corn fodder has very good water absorption abilities and can still be returned to the soil

for organic matter purposes. Since straw is more scarce than years ago, corn fodder is a good replacement and even has good market values when properly prepared. Corn growers are urged to give this bedding material some attention before bad weather arrives.

TO STORE CORN CROP CAREFULLY

This is a not a new suggestion because corn is an important crop at any time; however, as it looks at this time, corn is going to become a very valuable crop in the years ahead. With demands locally for feeding purposes, for export and now

for the making of alcohol for fuel, there is a good possibility that corn prices are on their way upwards.

Therefore, good corn storage is very important; it should be protected from the weather, given proper ventilation or drying, and then protected from rodents. This latter menace is one that needs more attention on many farms. Mice and rats like to make their homes in corn cribs and storage places when given the chance. The effort should be to eliminate all nesting places and practice good sanitation to keep the population down. They are

destructive and will cost farmers money in the long run.

TO BEWARE OF JOHNSONGRASS

If you had johnsongrass plants in your corn field this fall, you can be sure you will have more of them next summer. This would be a time to take note of the location of these plants and make plans for eradication for next spring. This fast-growing grass that resembles sorghum will take over a field in a few years, if left uncontrolled. It appears that we will soon have state legislation that will require the control and eradication

of this weed. It should not be allowed to spread over the farm. Details are too long to list in this column but those with the problem should contact their herbicide dealer, sprayer, or their Extension Agent. Crop yields will be failure, if johnsongrass is allowed to develop. Be sure to make plans next spring and summer for these treatments.

TO BECOME PESTICIDE CERTIFIED

According to current regulations most pesticide certification cards expired on September 30 in Pennsylvania. Without this card you will be unable to buy many of the needed spray

materials. Folks who did not get re-certified are urged to attend one of the many meetings that will no doubt be held in your area this fall.

Meetings conducted by pesticide dealers, vo-departments, and our Extension Service, were pesticide recommendations are discussed, should qualify a person for re-certification. A special form needs to be filled out at the meeting and forwarded to the State Department of Agriculture. Details are available from any Extension Office. The important thing is to become re-certified this fall, or winter, so that pesticide purchases can be made next spring.

CHRIS CLOVER



Farm Calendar

Today, October 11
National Trotting Pony Sale, at the Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.
Unionville Community Fair, Unionville; Continues through October 11.
PA Veterinary Medical Assn. 98th annual meeting Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion. Continues through October 14.
National Apple Queen Contest; South Mountain

Fairground, Arendtsville.
Berks County Sheep and Wool Growers tour, starts at 8 a.m.
Old time steam tractor display; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Rough and Tumble, Kinzer.
Monday, October 13
Lebanon County Holste Club banquet; Zoar's Educational Center; 7 p.m.
Poultry Servicemen's (Turn to Page A29)