

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



Lancaster Farming says..

The high cost of becoming a vet

In May, 103 students will be graduated from the School of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania.

The typical graduate in Penn's class of 1981 will be in debt \$33,000 when the University confers the VMD. For this the new veterinarian will have a shelf full of books, a bag full of instruments and a mind full of facts... but no physical property that is producing equity.

The new vet will be about 29 years of age. Most farmers who are 29 have been in their business for 10 years. Most college graduates have begun to make a name for themselves in their fields, have started a family, are established in their communities.

Shuffle through a few old receipts with a vet student and it's easy to see how a desire to work with animals was transformed in to tens of thousands of dollars in debt.

Penn's vet school has the highest tuition in the nation. State residents pay \$6660 per year. Out-of-staters pay \$7900. In addition the minimum expenditure for room and board for a Penn veterinary student is \$3700 per year and those books and instruments cost about \$800 annually. That comes to roughly \$11,100 per year.

"They are unmanageable debts," says Robert R. Marshak, dean of the Vet School.

The first job a typical graduate gets pays between \$15,000 and \$18,000 a year with the average around \$17,500.

"There's no way a person earning that can satisfy the debt burden," Marshak says.

One national study showed the manageable educational debt was \$4739 for a single vet with no dependents and a \$17,500 salary. Another study put the figure at \$8641 — but that's still far below the

\$33,000 debt load that green vet will bring to your farm along with his new boots and clean coveralls.

About half of Penn's 2500 living graduates reside and practice in Pennsylvania. A number of others are in neighboring states.

Why, then, does a state with politicians who like to brag about having the nation's largest rural population, so sadly neglect such a vital part of the rural family?

Cornell, the only nearby vet school which can compete in quality with Penn's, gets 54 percent support from the state and has a tuition rate of \$3832.

The University of Pennsylvania gets about 33 percent of its income from the Commonwealth.

Even Cornell's support, although sizable compared to Penn's, looks paltry next to the 66 percent support Texas A&M receives to keep its tuition at \$600 a year, or the

University of California, which receives a 65 percent cut from the state, and keeps its tuition at a modest \$742.

In the long haul, such tight-fistedness by the state will discourage the better faculty and researchers from remaining in Pennsylvania. That may mean less or poorer research done for state farmers, and young vets being graduated who aren't up to the school's current high standards.

Penn recently escaped alive from a budget battle to keep its nickle and dime appropriation.

Rather than worrying the school about funding, the state should take measures to help Penn's Vet School budget. An increase would relieve the onus of being the institution with the lowest appropriation in the nation, and allow the school brain trust to worry about animals, not dollars.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE
ON THE DOTTED LINE
November 23, 1980

Background Scripture:
Ephesians 2; 1 Peter 2:4-10.
Devotional Reading:
Isaiah 2:1-5.
What does it mean to be a Christian?

Ask that question today and you get a variety of answers.

Some will say that being a Christian means being a member of one of the churches. Others will maintain that it means believing in Christ, although not necessarily belonging to a church. Still others will answer in terms of the beliefs to which they subscribe. And some people will maintain that being a Christian is synonymous with simply believing in God.

A CHOSEN RACE
Some people believe that a Christian is one of those elect

whom God has called to be one of his children. This language comes from the Bible itself has led to many theological disputes. Why does God "elect" some and not others? Why would he "elect" his children before they were born, as some maintain. Wouldn't that be terribly unfair to the rest of us?

This is a hard question to resolve because the language of the Bible is not always easy to understand. Nevertheless, I believe that our problems is not one of God's exclusive and capricious love for some of us, but the semantics, the terminology which we use to

describe that love. For example, the Jews thought of themselves as God's chosen people. All others were in another class altogether. A Gentile was something to be despised and avoided.

Yet, early Christianity attempted to show the world that all people everywhere were called by God, all were invited to participate in the covenant, to come into the kingdom - not just the Jews. The writer of the Epistle to the Ephesians says to the Gentiles: "So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the

household of God..." (Ephesians 2:19,20). It appears that God chooses or elects all of us to be his chosen people, but not all of us accept that invitation. All of us can belong, choose to do so.

THAT YOU MAY DECLARE

But belonging to God as one of his chosen people is not a matter of having our names on a membership roll, nor is it even of knowing whose side we're on if it comes to declaring ourselves. God wants something more of us than merely knowing that we believe in him and identify ourselves in

some way with him. Being a Christian is not to be just one of a number of affiliations that appear on our obituary. Listen to what he expects of us:

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

What God really wants from us is a conventional relationship, a commitment to be what he wants us to be. A nodding acquaintanceship is not enough. What he requires is our lives on the dotted line.

NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
Phone 394 6851



TO SPREAD LIVESTOCK WASTE

On most farms there are only a few months during the year that manure can be applied to the ground. During the winter the ground is usually frozen, covered with snow, or too soft for heavy equipment. During

the growing season, there are very few fields on which a crop is not being grown. At this time of the year, we are in between these situations; and, a good time to empty the barns, pits, and feedlots. In addition, most non-farm folks will not be outside as much this time of the year, and the odors will not be as noticeable. Soil injection of the liquid manures is strongly suggested; or, the spreading of manure on sod or corn stalk fields. Open

ground, that is sloping and near public streams, could create problems with water pollution possibilities.

TO PROVIDE EXERCISE

Most species of animals should be given daily exercise during the winter months. This includes the dairy herd, as well as, horses and sheep. In the case of horses, it is best if they are ridden daily or given some type of exercise outside of their stall or pen. Dairy cows will be more healthy and will be better on their feet and legs if given a chance to be

out every day. Young stock, by all means, should be allowed to run in and out at all times. Sheep will do much better and the ewes will produce stronger lambs, if permitted daily outside exercise. Don't confine these animals tightly.

TO REPAIR MACHINERY DURING THE WINTER

Most of the outside field work is done for this year. Do you have any machinery that needs repairing or servicing? If you're going to get this done at your dealer, or service place, it might be

wise to get it to him in the near future. I'm aware of the spring rush next March and April; and, I'm sure your local service man will appreciate getting some work to do late this fall or during the long winter days. In some cases, the charges might be reduced because of getting the work done during the off season. The objective is to be planning for this repair work, now. Have it done when you want to use the machinery early next spring.

TO BEWARE OF WILD BIRDS

No doubt most livestock producers have faced the problem of wild birds during

snow cover days. These birds come by the thousands and feed from the livestock bunks and feeders. They not only eat feed but their droppings present very unsanitary conditions for everyone. Also, since these birds may fly from farm to farm, they are a definite source of spreading various diseases. Unfortunately, we do not have a real good cure for the problem. They can be screened out of confinement buildings. Some special pelleted feed is available but gets expensive. To the producers with the outside bunks, we are still looking for a good method to keep them out or to eradicate the threat.

Farm Calendar

Today, November 22
Berks County Beef Club banquet; 7 p.m.; Kutztown Grange.
Berks Dairy Calf Sale; Fairgrounds Square Mall; 11 a.m.
Hunterdon County, N.J. Board of Agriculture annual dinner meeting;

Quakertown Firehouse, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 23
PFA's annual convention; Hershey Motor Lodge, Hershey. Continues through 26th.
York County Farm Visit, Day, 1 to 4 p.m.
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CHRIS CLOVER

