

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



Lancaster Farming says...

Get us an ag committee seat

It does not seem fair that Pennsylvania, the state with the largest rural population in the nation, should have absolutely no representation on either the U.S. House Agriculture Committee or the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee.

Of the 60 members on the combined committee, only one can be said to represent the middle-Atlantic area. That person is Democrat Frederick Richmond of New York.

There is nobody else from New York. Nobody from New Jersey. Nobody from Delaware or Maryland. Nobody from West Virginia.

There's not even a single soul on either Ag Committee from a big farm state like Ohio which must suffer this slight because of its proximity to Pennsylvania.

Given the overall impact of the Grain Belt states on American Agriculture, it is understandable

states like Illinois and Iowa have three representatives on the Committees.

It might be taken as poor sportsmanship to say we deserve representation on at least one of the U.S. Congress' ag committees. But when the list of members is reviewed, the omission of Pennsylvania and its neighbors has to be seen as a downright insult.

A political lightweight like Vermont merits not one but two members on the ag committees. Patrick Leahy on the Senate side, and James Jeffords on the House side.

Worse yet, North Carolina has four representatives, including a trio of Democrats on the House Ag Committee.

Now we have nothing at all against Democrats, but North Carolina's over-representation in the House can't even be chalked up to an effort

to get seats for members of both parties.

Would it be too unkind to suggest this excess representation is a result of the powerful tobacco lobby there?

In fact, the South has had a strangle hold on many key positions in Congress for a long time. This includes the agriculture committees.

Seven Southerners out of 18 on the Senate Committee, and 14 out of 42 on the House side, seems like too many people representing one area at the expense of other areas. Does Dixie really merit one-third of the representation on the House Ag Committee?

We think not and would like to see something done about it.

Not being ones to grouse without offering alternatives, we'd like to nominate Arlen Specter for a seat on the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Specter, at a pre-election lunch with LANCASTER FARMING, in-

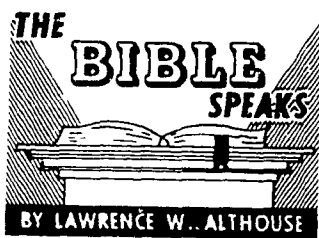
dicated he would welcome such a position. He was elected largely on the basis of support from the farm and rural areas of Central Pennsylvania.

He is, of course, a Republican. And the new Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Jesse Helms of North Carolina, should welcome some party backing on the agriculture committee even if it isn't from the South.

Specter made an effort to talk to farm groups during his campaign and we presume he will keep those lines of communication open.

Pennsylvanians, and all mid-Atlantic farmers, need a representative who understands 150-acre farms and doesn't think in terms of bales of cotton, thousands of acres, or tens of thousands of steers.

Pennsylvanians deserve an ag seat in the 97th Congress.



BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

ON A CLEAR DAY...

November 30, 1980

Background Scripture:

Revelation 11:15-19:21

Devotional Reading:

Isaiah 11:1-9

A few months ago I stood in the cave - now a tiny chapel - where, it is believed,

John wrote the great Apocalypse, the Book of Revelation. A Greek Orthodox monk showed Valere and me the place where John knelt in prayer, the crack in the ceiling through which, according to tradition, he heard the voice while "in the Spirit", and the writingstand where his disciple Prochoros took down dictation from him to write the revelation he was receiving.

A little pamphlet the monk gave us reads:

Dear visitor,

Your coming to this holy place is not a chance event in your life, God, who "wishes

all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim 2:4) who directs all things for man's spiritual benefit, has guided you here for you to listen, deep within yourself, to the secret echo of the words that were spoken to St. John and to the seven Churches of Asia Minor.

FLASHES OF LIGHTNING

I agree. I have visited many "holy" places and shrines throughout the world, but seldom have I been so moved as I was in this tiny chapel. There was nothing exceptionally beautiful about the chapel,

but there was an indefinable feeling there of God's presence. On the ceiling is a large crack, a fissure, it is believed, caused by exceptional physical and supernatural phenomena that accompanied the vision," quoting Evthymios Koutsanellos, Superior of the Holy Cave of the Apocalypse. John himself speaks of the power with which the revelation came to him.

Then God's temple in heaven was opened and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple; and there were flashes of lightning,

loud noises, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail (Rev. 11:19).

Well, I heard no thunder, saw no lightning, and felt no earthquake, but I did feel a quickening of the Spirit within me. The message of Revelation thundered inside me. Though the nations rage, God is in charge and the kingdom of the New covenant will be victorious in his own good time - so keep the faith.

SEEING THE HOLY CITY

John had been banished to the tiny, remote island of Patmos because of his effectiveness for Christ in

Ephesus. But his punishment became an opportunity as, one by one, he converted the people of Patmos to Christ. And it was in this place of banishment that on a "clear day" of God's Holy Spirit John was able to see clear through to the holy city of New Jerusalem which was still to come.

For a few moments I too was granted a "clear day" to see beyond the present to the fulfillment of God's covenant, promised from the beginning in Abraham, manifest in Jesus Christ, and still firmly in the grasp of an omnipotent and loving God.

NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
Phone 394-6851



TO CONTROL ALFALFA WEEDS

Many alfalfa growers are bothered with winter-time weeds such as chickweed and shepherdspurse. The best time to control these weeds is after the alfalfa is dormant and prior to Jan. 1. This means that December is the month to get the best results. When herbicides are applied at this time the weeds are smaller and easier to kill.

Some farmers may wait until next spring when the weeds are more mature and harder to kill. There are several materials to use depending upon the mixture in the stand and the age of the plants. I'd suggest that growers refer to the Agronomy Guide for information on materials and rates. The important thing is to make the herbicide application yet this fall.

TO VACCINATE REPLACEMENT HEIFERS

All dairy and beef producers who are raising young stock for breeding purposes should establish

the good practice of vaccinating their heifers for Brucellosis. This should be done when the heifers are from three to six months of age. The younger the better within this range.

The purpose of vaccinating is to build resistance to the disease in the young animals. If they become exposed to the infection later, their chances of coming down with a positive test is much less. Considering the fact that we do have some problems with this cattle disease in the state, I strongly suggest that producers make an effort to eradicate the infection through calfhood vaccination.

TO MARKET CATTLE WHEN FINISHED

The fat cattle market continues to have problems with too many over-finished cattle. This helps drive down the price of fat cattle. This is not a new suggestion from this Extension Agent; I have mentioned it previously. However, we still have feeders who keep their cattle too long and get discontinued on the market. In this part of the state we have lost our demand for the heavy, over-finished cattle; it never was too good but is weaker now than previously.

When cattle get so fat they are Yield Graded 4 or 5, the producer gets less per pound for the entire steer. If he

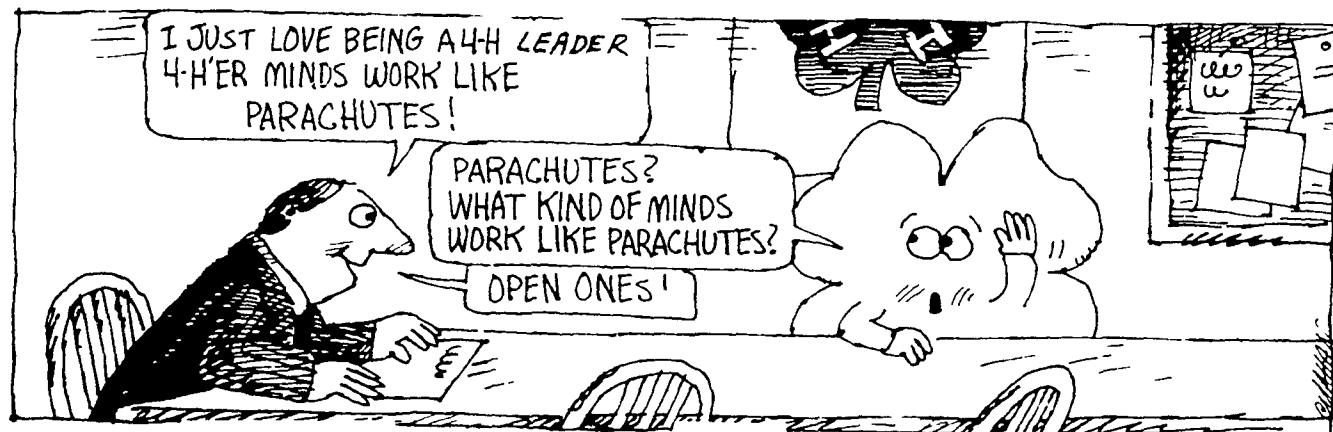
would have marketed the animal earlier when it would Yield Grade 2 or 3, he would get more per pound and have better feed efficiency. It costs money to over-fatten cattle from the feeding standpoint, plus the fact that the market will pay less per pound. All feeders are urged to pay more attention to selling when they will Yield Grade 2 or 3 (Quality Grade of Low Choice), and not put costly feed into them any longer.

TO CHECK STANDBY GENERATORS

That standby generator may be needed at any time. Is it ready? With all the uses

of electricity on the farm today we need this type of emergency department. We are in the weather season now when we can expect both snow and ice storms that can give us power outages. This means that activities on many farms will stop when we do not have electricity. To have a standby generator is very good management, however, to check it over and be sure that it will work is even better planning. This kind of emergency equipment can be a life saver for both man or beast, as well as eliminate possible financial losses.

CHRIS CLOVER



Farm Calendar

Today, November 29
Garden State Beef Cattle Classic, N.J. Polled Hereford Assoc., Flemington Fair Grounds, begins at noon
Sunday, November 30
National 4-H Congress, Chicago, Ill., continues through December 1
Monday, December 1
Delaware Pasture Conference, Hercules Country Club, Wilmington, Del., 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tuesday, December 2
New Castle-Kent Counties Crop Meeting, Clayton Fire Hall, Clayton, Del., 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Peninsula Horticultural Society Vegetable and Fruits Day, Delmar Convention Hall, Delmar, Md., 9:30 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
North Jersey Small Fruit Conference, Watchung View Inn, Pluckemin, N.J., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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