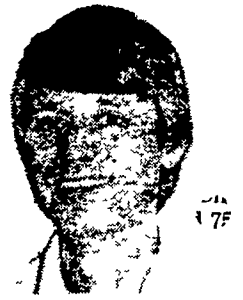


BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



# Lancaster Farming says...

## Don't chicken out on soup proposal

There's controversy brewing in the chicken soup business right now.

Poultrymen should use their noodles and raise some noise in favor of a change in the USDA requirements for chicken soup contents.

The case in point revolves around the chicken which gives the soup its name.

For a time there was a move afoot to raise the chicken content in a can of soup from the current two percent minimum to three percent. Perhaps five percent should be the goal.

Five percent is a modest enough target. USDA already requires four percent of every can of beef soup to be beef.

While having five percent chicken and 95 percent something else is hardly overdoing chicken soup, it would increase the amount of

chicken in each can by 250 percent. And that's a lot of chicken.

Consumers would get a better quality product. Laying operations, whose spent hens make up the bulk of the chicken in soups, might get a few cents extra per bird. Thursday's 17.5 cent quote is better than usual, but far from ideal.

Any change in the minimum standards would require an amendment in USDA regulations. Such a change would need strong producer backing and the usual bout with the bureaucracy.

Pennsylvania Poultry Federation endorsed the three percent plan. The United Egg Producers said they liked the idea, too.

But the Poultry and Egg Institute of America did not endorse such an action. Along with producers, the PEI has soup companies as members so

there is a potential conflict of interest there. So far soup firms have neither rejected nor backed the idea. All they say is a jump from two to three percent will not have an impact on consumers.

Nobody seems to have a good reason why today's minimum requirement for beef in soup is double that of chicken. Most poultrymen seem to agree with Pennsylvania Poultry Federation's John Hoffman who points to history.

At one time there was no minimum requirement at all for chicken content in soup. A fly-by-night firm almost could run broth past a plucked bird and the result would qualify as chicken soup.

The two percent chicken requirement not only looked good to home economists and consumer types, but it also kept the marginal

operators out of the business.

At the time the old regulation passed it was no great boon to poultrymen. Statistics show most legitimate soup companies used about two percent chicken in their soup, anyway.

Today, eggmen in the area have just three outlets for spent hens: two in New Jersey, one in Baltimore. Orderly marketing or increasing the number of outlets will help too.

The change in USDA administration means no action will be taken until Spring, and then lengthy documentation must be completed.

Still, poultrymen should not chicken out on the five percent proposal just because it takes time. When the state Egg Council meets this Wednesday, solid support of the five percent proposal would be in order.

**THE BIBLE SPEAKS**  
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE  
**MATTHEW'S CHRIST AND YOURS**  
December 7, 1980

**Background Scripture:**  
Matthew 1:1-17; 5:17-20;  
9:9; 13; 51,52; 23:1-12.  
**Devotional Reading:**  
Isaiah 35.  
Newspaper and magazine

editors throughout the world seem to have at least one rule in common: they will not print anonymous letters to the editor. "If you won't sign it, we won't print it," is the maximum in journalistic circles.

If this had been the practice current in ancient times the four Gospels of the New Testament might never have come to light (along with a lot of other literary and religious works). For, although each of them today bears a name — Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John — none of them did at the time they were written and originally circulated among

the early Christian communities. This was not because the authors did want to reveal their identities, but because authorship was not regarded as particularly important in those days. People didn't really care all that much who wrote something. It was the appeal of the contents, not the identity of the author, that was important.

**The Writer's Christ**

Thus it was several hundred years before the first Gospel bore the title, the Gospel According to Matthew. The reason for this title was tradition, rather than any evidence from the

Gospel itself. Perhaps the old tradition is correct and Matthew, one of the Twelve Apostles, was the author of or at least the source of the first Gospel. But we really don't know who wrote it and probably never will.

As a matter of personal and historical curiosity we might wish we knew the identity of the author, but as far as our Christian faith is concerned, it is not important at all. Much more important than determining and identity of the author is our recognition of the author's Christ. The writer, be he Matthew or someone else, is not writing about

himself, but his Lord.

Yet, although it is not important for us to know who Matthew really is, it is vital for us to know something about him so that we may better understand his Christ. For each one of the Gospel authors has a unique and distinctive view of Christ. It is one messianic Person of whom they testify, but each of the portraits in the four Gospels is a special viewpoint and insight into Jesus Christ.

**"New" And "Old" Treasure**

Therefore, although we do not know the author himself, we find, in reading his gospel, that he saw Jesus as

God's Messiah who was the fulfillment of all God intended in the law and the prophets. Probably Matthew was a Jew interpreting Jesus to people of Jewish background using language and thoughtforms that communicated to the Jewish mind. The writer of the first Gospel consciously portrayed Jesus as the divine link between the "old" and "new" covenants, the one in whom the unbroken continuity of God's purpose could be seen.

But Matthew's purpose is not only to portray his Christ, but to lead you ever closer to yours.



## NOW IS THE TIME

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

them from the cold winds, and to prevent heaving out of the ground. When the plants are not covered, the alternate freezing and thawing of the ground will work the plant roots to the surface. When spring comes they will die. We urge everyone with strawberry plants to give them some protection with a mulch at this time.

**TO STORE**

**PESTICIDES SAFELY**  
Now that the spraying season is about over, except for alfalfa weed control, do you have your spray materials safely stored? They should be kept in a separate room or building

under lock and key. In too many cases they may be left in the garage, or on the barn floor, where they can be mixed with livestock feed, or where stray animals can get to them.

Don't be reckless with chemicals and be guilty of harming your own family or livestock. Make every effort to store them in their original container in order to maintain identification. There have been too many cases where pesticide dust or pellets were thought to be protein feed for livestock. This is poor management and can end with serious or fatal results. Store all spray materials safely away from children, pets, or livestock.

**TO CHECK FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**

There are some very important minutes between the discovery of a fire and the arrival of the fire company. Do you have one or more fire extinguishers, and are they in good working condition? Too often we may have invested in this equipment but have failed to keep it in good working condition. Also, does every member of your family, or all of your employees, know exactly the location of the extinguishers and how to operate them?

This is very important if you are going to keep that fire under control until the fire truck arrives. If you

have a farm pond for the purpose of fighting a fire, can the fire truck get within 25 feet of the water at any time of the year. A solid lane or road to the farm pond is very important. Check your fire fighting equipment frequently and try to prevent serious losses.

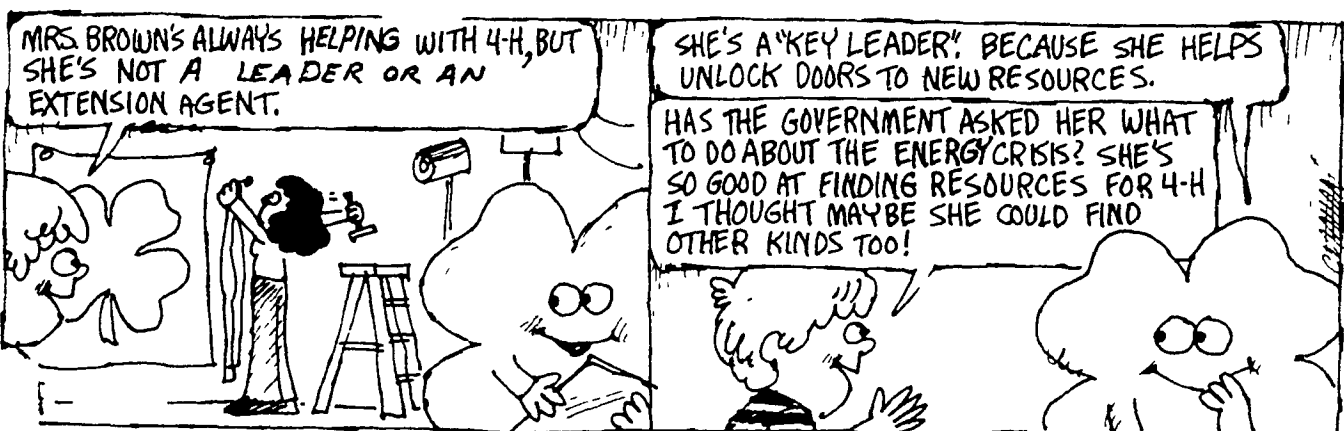
**TO BOLSTER FARM SECURITY**

Rural crime is a serious problem in some parts of our country. Every farmer should make a special effort to prevent his property from being stolen. As we have mentioned previously, this is very difficult on the farm because of the number of buildings and other items

exposed. No doubt the place to start is to have automatic lights every night; secondly, a good watch dog will signal the arrival of a stranger, or something unusual happening.

Also, the keeping of garages and workshops under lock and key will make it more difficult for illegal entering. Farm machinery should be stored under cover or near the farm buildings at all times. Machinery left in the "back forty" could be a temptation to some characters. Every farmer should try to make it more difficult for thieves to practice their dishonest intentions.

## CHRIS CLOVER



## Farm Calendar

Today, Dec. 6  
Horse and Pony Club recognition banquet, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 6:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, Dec. 9  
Adams County DHIA banquet, Heidlersburg Fire Hall, 7 p.m.  
Small grain production meeting, Room 105, Dover High School, 7:30 p.m.  
Red Rose DHIA banquet, Good n Plenty

Restaurant, Smoketown, 11:30 a.m.  
Wednesday, Dec. 10  
Farm partnership meeting, Adams County Extension Office, Gettysburg, 7:30 p.m.  
Pa Egg Council quarterly meeting, Host Corral, Lancaster, 1 p.m.  
Thursday, Dec. 11  
Bradford County Extension meeting, Monoceton Fire Hall, 7:45 p.m.  
(Turn to Page A38)