

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



Lancaster Farming says...

Call for higher grain prices

When the general manager of a 6000-member dairy co-op spends his time stumping the countryside for higher grain prices — not higher milk prices — it's a sure sign something is amiss in the farm market

But that's just what Douglas Caruso of the Farmers Union Milk Marketing Cooperative is doing

He blames much of the current disruption in the milk market on current grain prices. These prices, he argues, are low enough to encourage marginal dairy producers to stay in business. They also make it profitable for other dairy farmers to over-produce

Dairy farmers, of course, have good old Uncle Sam to protect them against any disruption in the grain market. As grain prices increase, Uncle provides an increase in the dairy blend price

Cash grain farmers would have no reason to object to higher grain

prices. After all, they have languished under an unwritten cheap food policy which allows consumers to save dollars which ordinarily would be spent on groceries and spend them instead on manufactured goods or services

The crops producer, victim of embargoes as well as Mother Nature, would argue his time has come

There is little doubt the livestock farmer, especially the ones in the grain-deficit East, would suffer from higher grain prices

Short term, the cattle, swine and poultry markets would be in turmoil until the system had a chance to balance out

More than any one thing, commodity divisiveness threatens the future of family farms. It is no good when any one segment of the farm economy benefits at the expense of others

Nevertheless the livestock

producers should be able to survive the crunch since supply-demand would force auction prices to reflect costly inputs in terms of higher beef and pork prices

Internationally, higher grain prices may be the only answer to getting the U.S. out of its uncomfortable position over the Arabs' oil barrel

Selling a bushel of wheat for \$9 rather than \$4.50, or soybeans at \$15 instead of \$7.50, effectively would double the credit side of our balance of ag trade

At present, farm products remain the only bright spot in a trade balance which goes deeper into the red each year. Selling grain at increasing and fair prices would help offset the skyrocketing price of imported petroleum

The American consumer must not be forgotten in this whole picture. Remember the scare stories about bread at a dollar a loaf? Wheat prices

did rise, but it's still possible to buy two loaves of bread for about a buck

A 25 percent increase in prices received by farmers would mean an increase in food costs of less than one percent to the consumer

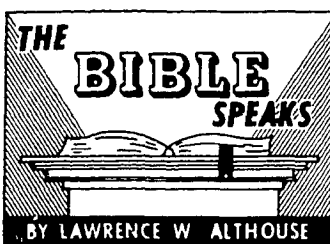
Better yet, a realistic and rational price would smooth out a lot of the hills and valleys in the grain market, benefiting both consumers and farmers although perhaps killing speculators

On the farm, gross income would increase about 26 percent and 20,000 new jobs would be created nationwide, Economist L. A. Davidson of Mississippi figures

The sickly Gross National Product would jump by about \$1.4 billion

All that if the government would revise its cheap food policy and not meddle with the market

In the long run, higher grain prices may turn out to be the best thing for our ailing economy



THE UNREPENTANT AND OTHER GENTILES

February 22, 1981

Background Scripture:

Matthew 18.

Devotional Reading:

1 Corinthians 1:26 through 2:5

Funny, how often you can

read a passage from the Bible and assume it has said all to you that it is going to say. And then one day you read it for the umpteenth time and suddenly some new meaning leaps out at you from the page

That's what happened to me this week when I read Matthew 18. I have frequently preached and taught on Matthew 18:21, 22 — Jesus's counsel to Peter on forgiveness, and I suppose, in order to quickly get to that text, I have skipped over 18:15-17 because it seemed rather irrelevant to life in our times. "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, bet-

ween you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother." There may have been a time when people could do that, I thought, but not today. As a pastor I knew how sensitive people are to criticism (not to mention my own sensitivity!)

Gaining A Brother

Yet, this week when I read this passage, I suddenly realized that here was the Biblical confirmation of something I had learned the hard way: the only way to deal with serious conflict in interpersonal relationships is to deal with them openly — redemption and reconciliation are not likely to

take place so long as we hide our destructive feelings "go and tell him his fault."

In fact, through long years of counselling and more lately working with people and groups in learning to manage stress, I have come to realize how destructive sudden anger, resentment and jealousy can be. Quite a number of psychosomatic diseases — including hypertension, heart disease, stomach ulcers, cancer and others — are related to our inadequate management of hostility. Dr. Kenneth Pelletier believes that there is considerable evidence that "internalized anger" produces more

stress than the short-term strain that we undergo when we express that anger immediately (See his book, MIND AS HEALER, MIND AS SLAYER, Delta books). In other words, we think we spare ourselves stress by concealing our feelings, but the long-range effects of that concealment are much worse to us physically and psychically

If He Does Not Listen...

Jesus also knew that burying feelings of hostility is just as harmful to the relationship and the other person. Although, on the surface, peace and calm might seem to have been served, the hidden hostility

poisons the relationship. So, said Jesus, don't let that happen. Take your grievance to the other person and face it openly. And, if that does not do it, then take along several others and confront your tormentor again. If, at last, you can work out the disagreement, both of you have gained a brother!

And if the other person still will not reason with you, what then? Treat him "as a Gentile and a tax collector," said Jesus. Of course, we all know how Jesus treated Gentiles and tax collectors: he continued to pursue them forgiving them, until at last they were redeemed!

NOW IS THE TIME

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TO PREPARE FOR DORMANT SPRAYS

Many types of trees are infested with various kinds of scale insects. These creatures attach themselves to the bark and twigs of trees and shrubs and suck strength from the plant. One of the best treatments is to apply a dormant spray (such as oil or lime sulphur) before the buds start to open. The date of the spray will vary with the weather. However, on many fruit trees and shrubbery this will be late February and early March. The spray should be applied before the buds open. In addition, a spray during May or June while the insect is in the crawler stage is strongly suggested; materials can be Malathion or Diazinon. Scale insects should be controlled and the dormant spray is most important.

TO TRANSFER SILAGE

If silage is to be transferred from a horizontal silo into an upright

structure, it is best to be done during cold weather. Some livestock and dairy producers may want to do this in order to use mechanical feeding equipment. When the material is moved during freezing weather, there is less danger of heating and spoiling. There is no need of any chemical or preservative. The quicker the silage is moved and put into the upright silo, the better. When horizontal silos are properly managed the feeding value of the silage should be very similar to a tower silo. However, the feeding quality coming out cannot be any better than it was when put into the silo.

TO DEMAND HEALTH PAPERS

The objective of having a healthy herd or flock should be very important to all livestock and dairy producers. Many farmers have been very successful in developing healthy animals until they bought a new addition. Then the trouble

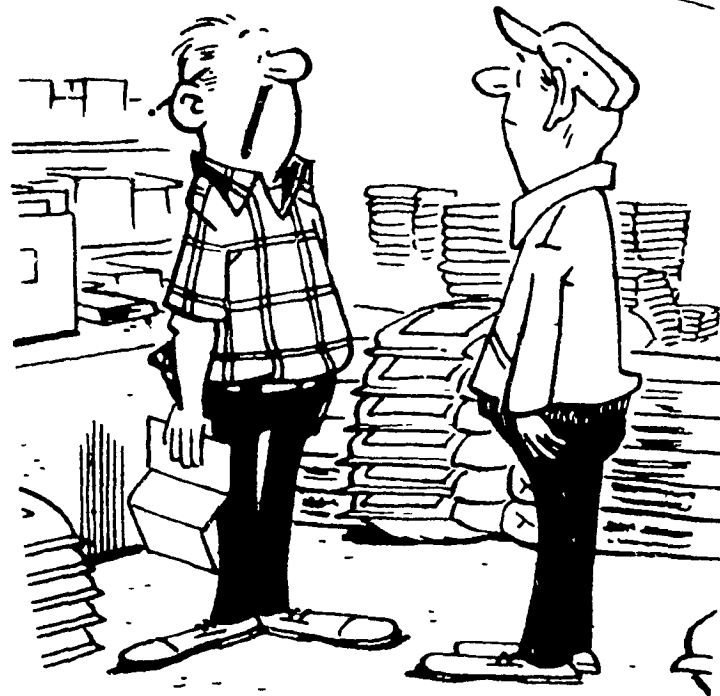
started. This is so true in many cases that we cannot stress strong enough to be very careful when buying animals. Too many farmers have bought disease when they brought new animals to the farm. This is very easy to do, especially when purchases are made several times each year. Attention to the source of the animal, or animals, is very important. Our current swine infection situation is hard to control and eliminate because of the large number of feeder pigs coming into the area each week. More careful buying and the insistence of authorized health papers needs more attention.

TO FERTILIZE EFFICIENTLY

This year's growing season is just around the corner, fertilizer and most other inputs will be at higher costs. Farmers will be pressed to realize profits from their crops as well as most of their livestock enterprises. The complete soil test should reveal the actual needs of the soil and this will be given along with the results. Farmers are urged to respect these results and buy fertilizers accordingly. Many fields may need little more than a good coating of livestock or poultry manure. When we add extra nutrients, we do not make good use of our dollars. In addition, excess nitrogen may result in excess nitrates in crops and water supplies.

HAY HAWS

BILL'S
FEED & SEED



"Yes Bob, I know I quoted that price to you over the phone — but that was this morning."