

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



Lancaster Farming says...

All together under one roof

Confined poultry, hog and cattle operations are pretty commonplace these days

As this trend continues, and undoubtedly it will, it's getting to the point that the only living things that don't see a farm are the livestock. Even the most urban-locked metropolitan residents can drive into the country to see a farm. But not the livestock, more and more are just seeing the inside of a cage, pen or building.

Animal rights continue to be controversial as was proved Thursday during the Northeast Egg Marketing Association discussions in Lancaster.

The purpose of this comment is not to argue the merits of confined housing, animal rights, the

economics of modern agriculture or any of a number of controversial topics.

But just how far is this confined housing "kick" going to go?

Recently, a story out of Utah says that a couple of researchers are working on a confined housing system for lobsters for use in that land-locked, semi-arid section of the country.

It seems that if Utah had been intended to be a center for the production of lobsters it would have been a North Atlantic coastal area similar to Maine. Of course, if lobster production shifts to Utah then the New England coastal waters can be converted entirely to such things as off-shore oil drilling and the like.

Researchers Roger W. Mickelsen and Rex C. Infanger say they have solved many obstacles in their confined lobster housing system. Cages had to be durable, rust-proof, submersible and flexible since lobsters grow in relation to the size of their cage.

"We have demonstrated that lobsters can grow and develop normally in recirculated, filtered salt water as opposed to sea water," the researchers boast.

Now we not only have cows, pigs and chickens that don't see a farm, but we may have lobsters that never get to see the ocean.

Scientists in Utah, Canada and California are also working on a diet formula, which they claim is a lot

cheaper and is just as nutritious as traditional lobster food.

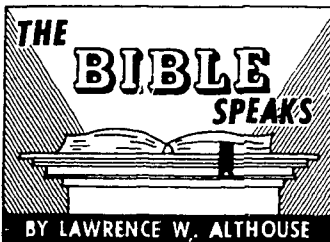
We wonder how lobster tail will taste in the future. Will it be as bland as some chicken consumed today?

And we wonder what might be next in confined housing?

Perhaps, horses with indoor riding arenas, and travelogue films projected on the walls to give riders the feeling of being in the great outdoors.

Or, maybe even farmers themselves in one big, high rise condominium.

Think of all the shipping and other costs that could be saved if all agricultural operation, including farm families, were centrally located in one, big glass-domed facility.



CALVARY 1981
April 12, 1981

Background Scripture:
Matthew 21:1-13;
27:1-61.
Devotional Reading:
Isaiah 53:7-12.
As I write these words, the

52 American hostages held in Iran 14 months have just arrived back in the U.S.A. Minutes ago their plane landed and they are on their way to West Point to be reunited with their families. All across America there is joy and relief.

But there is also another emotion we are experiencing. Having heard the hostages' stories of brutality and mistreatment, many of us are angry and some of us are crying out for vengeance. "Blast them (Iran) off the map!" one man was quoted in the morning paper, apparently speaking for many Americans indignant at what the Iranians have done.

Crucify Him!

I understand these feelings that cry out for retaliation, for I too have felt the anger and outrage that so many have experienced. In my own heart there is a terrible wound that savors retaliation, "paying them back in kind," and showing "them" that they can't get away with it. How easy it would have been, just five short minutes ago, to raise my voice with millions of others crying, "Vengeance! Vengeance! Vengeance!"

But before I could vent my anger and hatred, I sat down at my desk to write this column and the assigned passage of scripture for this

week leaped off the page at me. "But they shouted all the more 'Let him be crucified!'" For just a moment, I saw myself standing in that crowd, making the same hysterical cry, "Crucify him!"

If any man was ever subjected to injustice and atrocity it was Jesus. Unjustly arrested and accused, subjected to humiliation, physically beaten and tortured, subjected to intimidation and humiliation, rejected by the very people he came to save, abandoned by his friends, betrayed by a disciple, crucified on a cross - was there ever more cause for vengeance? It ever the treatment of one person called for outrage and

retribution, was it not the events that day on Calvary?

He Trusted In God

This was God's Son they were nailing to the cross. This was the ultimate blasphemy of creature against the Creator. If ever there was a debt that had to be repaid, if ever there was an honor that was violated, if ever virtue cried out for vindication, it was Good Friday at Calvary. For it was not just a Nazarene carpenter who was nailed to a tree, but the Lord of the Universe who was defied and taunted. Surely the Divine Righteousness of God would erupt into a response of Holy holocaust! Surely, to preserve his honor, God would have to obliterate the

barbarians who murdered his innocent Son!

Though he had the right and power to call down legions of angels from Heaven, Jesus bore his agony without a word of reproach to his murderers. Though the kingdom of heaven itself was defied that day, God sent no thunderbolts nor plagues. For God's response to the cross was one of love and forgiveness. His love conquered the worst that human beings could offer, including my own desire for vengeance.

The meaning of Calvary in this year of 1981 is what it has always been: it is love, not vengeance, which overcomes the world."

NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
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To Check Corn Planters

Corn planting season is just around the corner. And just because your planter worked well a year ago is no guarantee that it'll work this year, unless you've given it a thorough check up this past winter or early this spring. Wear and tear over the years may have taken its toll. Many farmers jeopardize their crop stands each spring simply because they don't take the time to give their planters a thorough maintenance check. Worn parts, easily replaceable, or mechanisms that need a simple shot of grease, are common reasons for reduction in yields. Check your planter to make sure the drive chains are tight, that all bearings are in good condition, the seed and fertilizer tubes are clean and free of dirt and make sure the tires are in good condition and, most importantly, be sure you are using the proper plates where plates are used and for plateless planters that the mechanisms are properly adjusted. Give the planter a good once-over ahead of time. This will help eliminate problems during the very busy planting season.

To Apply Ridomil To Tobacco Seedbeds

Tobacco growers have a big advantage over last year to get the jump on tobacco blue mold disease. The field-proven Ridomil, used on much of our tobacco acreage last Summer now has approval for use in seedbeds. County Agent Arnold Lueck tells us at seedbed preparation time or shortly thereafter apply two and a half teaspoons per 300 square feet of bed. This would be an area of 6 feet by 50 feet in size. Apply in enough water for even distribution. Since Ridomil is soluble in water it can simply be watered in at the time of application. Last year blue mold disease was a problem in seedbeds late in the transplanting season. Take advantage of a soil applied systemic fungicide such as Ridomil to grow healthy tobacco transplants this year.

To Pasture Cautiously

Pastures are a welcome reprieve for animals that have been penned up all winter; they just love to kick up their heels and frolic in the fresh air and green grass. Our dairy agent, Glenn Shirk, reminds us that Spring pastures may not be

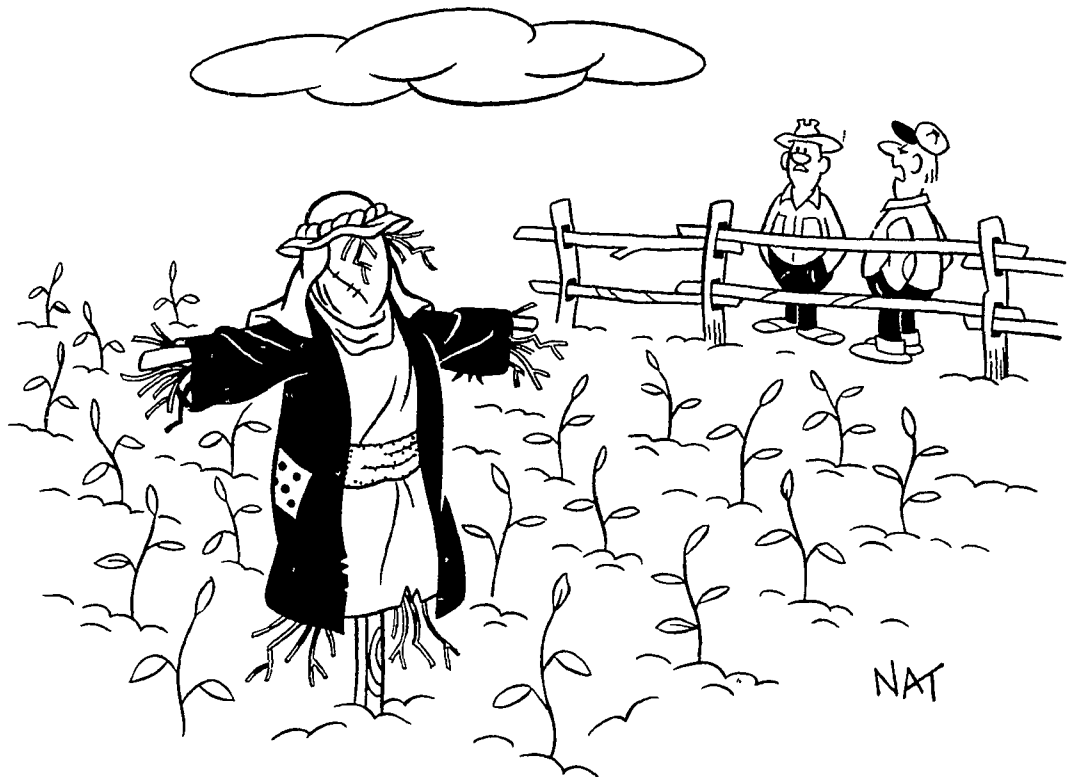
as rich as their beautiful green growth would lead you to think; the lush green grass is high in water, and low in energy and mineral content. Because of this, Shirk recommends that cattle be given additional feed prior to being turned out to pasture. This will

assure cattle sufficient dry matter, energy and mineral intake to sustain normal production and performance. This will also minimize the risk of bloat; with a full stomach, cows are less apt to consume dangerous amounts of dew-laden legumes. Similarly, this

practice also helps to prevent weed poisoning; weeds are about the first thing to start growing in the spring, and a full stomach will help prevent cattle from having to consume dangerous amounts of poisonous plants. Fortunately,

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HAY HAWS



Oh! I see you've already signed one of those oil and gas leases for your land.