

Now is the Time

(Continued from Page A10) messages. Know your pullet source and their vaccination program. Another thing, do not visit other poultry farms and do not allow your visitors in the poultry house — padlock the door if necessary. Let's do all we can to keep LT in check.

To Protect Trees and Shrubs
Your trees and shrubs can get through the winter, but they can do it better with a little help from you. Some winter protection might help save your valued trees and shrubs.

Thin-barked trees can be damaged by sunscald in the winter. That's why it's a good idea to wrap the trunks of such trees as sugar maple, tulip tree, American linden, flowering dogwood and plum. You can wrap them now, but be sure to take the wrapping off late next spring. You can use commercial tree wrapping, starting at the ground level and working up the tree, overlapping about every half-inch. Tie the wrap with twine or use a waterproof tape several places along the stem.

Smaller ornamentals should be mulched; this will not keep the soil from freezing but it helps keep the soil frozen to prevent root injury caused by alternate freezing and thawing of the soil.

The mulch should be loose, but it should stay where you put it. Do not use grass clippings because they pack too tightly. Instead, use clean wheat straw, shredded bark or peat moss.

To Protect Small Pigs
Cold weather is here and many small feeder pigs are not given sufficient protection. In our

OUR READERS WRITE

(Continued from Page A10) matching grants to states to develop a state conservation program, is also being opposed.

The reason we (the board) are opposing this feature of the program is that the monies will be taken from current federal conservation program funds and it will make them less effective. The current funds should not be reduced but matching grants monies should strengthen these programs.

The proposed new conservation program does contain several

features that we do support. The new program will allow our district to redirect local programs to solve priority problems.

The proposed program will provide better program and budget coordination between the federal agencies involved in conservation programs. The new proposed program also allows more research and pilot projects to test new conservation methods.

Mary Ann Rimby, Chairman
Berks Co. Conservation District
Leesport

Bible speaks

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circumstances: humble parents from the other side of the tracks (Nazareth), a lowly stable, an event totally unrecognized by the authorities of the community. But even more the manger symbolizes God's incarnation and appearance on the earth, not in the form of a great king, priest or prophet, but a

modern open-fronted finishing houses the small pigs may get too cold and come down with digestive and respiratory problems. We suggest that the pens be covered with boards, or other materials to form a hover over the back part of the pen. This will help maintain body heat and reduce the chance of any drafts over the smaller pigs. When the pigs pile up during cold weather, they are not warm enough. You may want to use heat lamps, or other forms of supplemental heat, on the small pigs during very cold weather.

tiny baby from a humble family. The titles, SAVIOUR, CHRIST, and LORD shout power and authority at us. But the little babe in a manger whispers to us of meekness, humility and vulnerability.

Glory In The Highest
What is God saying to us in this paradox? Obviously he is telling us that our human perceptions and values are not his. Human power is not divine power. God sees the world and judges it differently than we do.

Furthermore, he is telling us that his way of working in the world is not so much fireworks in the sky as loving works done through human beings on earth. Jesus would first have to be a helpless child — just as all of us born, grow and mature. Thus, with the manger sign from God we are reminded to mingle with our joy of celebration the humility and meekness of adoration before the manger.

'Preferred' spells disaster

The proposed program of the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture for the nation's soil and water resources could lead to the decline of northeastern agriculture.

The USDA proposed program under the Resources Conservation Act (RCA) would favor big agriculture in the Midwest at the expense of agriculture in the Northeast United States.

The Secretary plans to direct the largest amount of USDA funds where the soil erosion is the highest. This sounds good, but there's a catch. The Midwest, with its deep soils, can afford to lose ten ton of soil per acre per year, while a five ton loss in the Northeast with its shallow soils would soon spell the end of profitable farming.

Pennsylvania is located near one-fourth of the people in the nation. This means less energy use in getting the food to the consumer. It also means lower costs with shorter transportation, another benefit to the consumer.

The Secretary's preferred program also emphasizes conservation measures such as no-till farming and contour strip cropping. These practices are favored by the Secretary because they require little money on the part of

the farmer to install. Both are effective in lowering soil erosion.

The practices are effective but the viewpoint is very shortsighted. Both of these practices are as easy to remove as to install and can be eliminated from the land by the farmer with little effort and thought about the consequences. In addition, a recent Dauphin County study showed that over 80 percent of the farmers using conservation tillage made it ineffective for erosion control by removing all the ground cover over winter.

The structural soil and water conserving practices, such as diversions, terraces and waterways do require a financial investment by the farmer. However, they are very effective not only in reducing soil erosion, but in controlling surface runoff.

Due to the financial investment, the farmer is not prone to remove these practices. Based on the life expectancy of a terrace or waterway, in the long run, they may be the most cost effective method of protecting our farmland.

Carl Kauffman
Executive Director
Pa. Farmers Union
Harrisburg



Farm Calendar

Have a Merry Christmas
on Friday, Dec. 25!

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