



# Off the Sounding Board

By Sheila Miller, Editor

## Dealing with cut-throat marketing

What do corn gluten, poultry, soybeans and citrus fruit have in common? These are all agricultural products that are causing a ruckus between the U.S. and the European Community.

For some time now, the EC has been thumbing its nose at Washington farm leaders — a symbolic gesture of 'We'll do just as we please.'

What's been happening is that farmers in the EC have been cashing in on their countries' 1957 programs designed to create a self-sufficient farm economy with increased farm productivity, stable markets, reasonable prices for consumers, and regular supplies, all the while ensuring a fair standard of living for farmers. Now that they've reached and surpassed this level of self-sufficiency, the EC countries are plagued with overproduction and inescapably caught in a vicious circle.

For years they've paid their farmers to increase agricultural production so they could achieve independence from food imports. And now they have to pay them to stay in agriculture because these growing food supplies and subsequent surpluses have lowered farm prices to the point where it's impossible to make a profit.

So, what do these subsidizing countries do with the food they can't use? They dump it on the world market and underprice free-enterprise exporters.

Then, as if it's not bad enough that the EC citizens have to pay their farmers twice for the food they produce, these countries also pay a subsidy to the exporting firms that unload the surpluses. So, that's three times the EC taxpayers finance the farming industry.

In one year alone, the EC pays out \$13 billion in support programs. Compare that to the U.S. support programs that are projected to only reach the \$11 billion level over the next 4 years.

With that kind of investment in their agricultural products, no wonder the EC is willing to unload them at below-production costs. Any income is better than nothing.

As a result, the EC has been winning the competition with the U.S. for markets. According to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, the United States took less than a fifth of the \$1 billion poultry market in the Middle East last year while EC producers cornered the market,

selling \$330 million worth of poultry to the oil-rich countries.

U.S. farmers are being hurt by some rather non-kosher marketing tactics. How can we compete with these countries who always seem to be able to go a "penny" lower on their export price and don't hesitate to increase import duties to curtail any foreign trade?

Just two weeks ago, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture John Block issued a statement of concern and disappointment regarding the Commission of the European Community's request to the EC Council of Ministers for a renegotiation of the zero duty (tariff) on corn gluten which would impose an import tax. (Corn gluten is a byproduct of U.S. alcohol and sweetener production and is used to produce animal feed. In 1981, the U.S. exported \$500 million worth of corn gluten, duty-free, in Europe.)

"We have repeatedly advised the European Community that the binding on corn gluten is not negotiable because we cannot accept any measure that would further restrict our access to the market of the European Community. The intent to restrict corn gluten exports to the EC is viewed by our agricultural community as an unfriendly action," stated Block.

Senate Ag Committee Chairman Jesse Helms shared Block's concerns and stated, "There has not been a tariff on U.S. corn gluten since the 1960s. The imposition of a tariff along with additional import controls on U.S. agricultural products would seriously injure American farmers, and that is unacceptable to me."

But, according to the American Agriculture Movement Chairman Marvin Meek, U.S. grain experts in Washington are being "out horse-traded."

"Our leaders told the EC that their tariff is depressing our prices and interfering with third-world trade. They should have told the EC we were raising our prices to the protected price EC farmers enjoy, which is just about at our parity," Meek said.

Once again, it appears as if U.S. farmers are footing the nation's "foreign policy" bill. While we wait for our political leaders to reach a civil solution ensuring an export market for our farm products, EC farmers are laughing all the way to the bank.

## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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**To Practice Strict Sanitation**  
Livestock and poultry producers must make a special effort to prevent contagious diseases. Many of these infections are brought home by the owner, or with the purchase of a new animal. There are a number of infections that can be spread very easily from farm to farm.

In this part of the country where the density of poultry and livestock is so great, producers should be alert to the possibility of spreading diseases. When returning from another farm, or public place, different clothes and footwear should be used. Stray dogs, cats and wild birds should be controlled as much as possible. New purchases should be segregated and tested before mixing with the home herd or flock. In many cases vaccination should go along with

very strict sanitation practices. Every producer is urged to give attention to the prevention of diseases through good management and the use of good sanitation practices.

### To Be Careful With Fertilizer Placement

Most of the crops we plant will require additional plant food in the form of nitrogen, phosphorus and potash to obtain maximum yields. However, we must realize the potential danger of burning seeds or roots when they come in direct contact with either the nitrogen or potash fertilizer. Either of these elements will stunt or prevent germination.

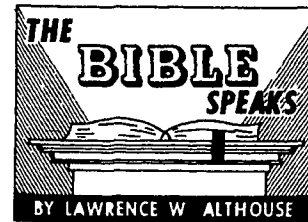
Fertilizer should be placed on the side or deeper than the plant roots or seed. Most mechanical planters are now designed to keep the seeds and fertilizer at least two

inches apart. In the case of plants the fertilizer should be either worked into the topsoil in advance of planting or side-dressed along the row after the plants have been transplanted. Proper fertilizer placement will return greater benefits from the plant food.

**To Consider Pinkeye Prevention**  
Pinkeye in cattle is a perennial problem for beef and dairy farmers. Although it is not fatal, the disease is painful and results in weight loss and decreased milk production in cattle, and ultimately in economic losses for producers, reveals Chester D. Hughes, Extension Livestock Auction.

Researchers are currently looking to preventive measures as a means of controlling pinkeye

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FROM ALPHA TO OMEGA  
April 25, 1982

Background Scripture:  
Revelation 1:13.  
Devotional Reading:  
Lamentations 3:21-27  
31-33.

### Dear Visitor:

The place which you have just entered is sacred. This small cave some two thousand years ago gave shelter to the beloved disciple of Jesus Christ, St. John the Evangelist, who around the year 95 A.D. was exiled to Patmos by the Roman Emperor Domitian on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Thus reads a small brochure given me in May, 1980 in the Holy Cave of the Apocalypse on the island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea. Tradition tells us that a small recess in the rock of the cave was the place where St. John laid his head when resting. Another recess to the right and a little higher is the place where he supported his hands when he knelt to pray. A level rock is believed to be the desk upon which his companion, Prochoros, wrote as the Apostle dictated. And that which St. John dictated and Prochoros wrote was the Revelation of John.

### He Sent His Angel

According to the Apostle John, in Revelation 1:1, this book came to him as a revelation from God. This was a message which God had for churches, and as John puts it, "he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John." So the message is from God, but what of

the strange manner in which this message is presented?

The style is called "apocalyptic," a type of Jewish and Christian literature in those days which was used to reveal a message from God through the means of images and visions of a highly symbolic nature. The style is something that is hard for most of us to understand in these days, except to note that the images and symbols are reminiscent, to some degree, of those we encounter in dreams or psychedelic experiences. They are images that seem to come from the deep recesses of the unconscious mind.

Yet, although the images may give us considerable difficulty — as sometimes our own dreams do — still the message that God imparted through the evangelist is pretty clear. Writing in a time of persecution against Christians by the empire, the Evangelist is relaying God's assurance that, no matter how great the earthly powers that persecute them, God is in control and through his Son, Jesus Christ, he will prevail.

### The Alpha and Omega

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." Since Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the alphabet, he is saying "I am the first and last of all things." In between there may be principalities, powers and empires, but "Fear not, ...I have the keys of Death and Hades."

Dear visitor, your coming to this holy place is not a chance event in your life. God...has guided you here to listen deep within yourself, to the secret echo of the words spoken to St. John...and for you to see with your mind's eye the heavenly vision revealed to the Apostle.

And the meaning of that "heavenly vision," now as then, is the assurance from God through Christ that the whole world, from Alpha to Omega, is in his hands.

## OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

### The 'eggs'act number

In the April 3 issue of *Lancaster Farming* on page B-10 in Kid's Korner's section called "Food and Fun" it stated that forty years ago the average hen laid 100 eggs a year.

I can't see any profit in eggs if the layers were on vacation 265 days a year.

I raised Hubbard New Hampshire reds 45 years ago. They laid at least 75 percent all winter. I would get 300 eggs daily from 400 birds.

I can't imagine where you get

the 100 egg story from. I suppose some people didn't get anymore than that.

Fifty years ago, Booth Farms of Clinton, Missouri trap-nested some white leghorn hens and one of them laid 342 eggs in one year. With good care, laying flocks back in those days paid their way.

If you listen to the Hollywood Squares (television show), you would have heard about how many eggs a hen can lay in 30 days. They asked the amount — 20, 40, or 60? I

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## HAY HAWS



"IT'S THE OLD LAW OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND. WE DEMAND AND YOU SUPPLY."