



Ramblections

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

(In case you're curious about the heading, "Ramblections," it's a combination of the words -- ramble and recollections. I once was an ag Rambler of sorts throughout the United States and Canada. From time to time, I'll reflect on these ramblings and other recollections from long ago on a hilly farm in southeastern Northampton County. The ramblections will be used at those times that I don't feel particularly profound. This is one of those times.)

Spring brings a return of the sights, sounds and smells of agriculture that eventually result in the tastes of farming's bounty. Things like the smell of freshly turned earth and the sounds of barnyard offspring romping off into the pasture for the first time.

Likewise, Spring activates the senses like no other time of the year. It gets the blood pumping again and an itch develops that only work out in an open field will cure.

I recall a few years back when my senses were especially activated by agriculture in two separate sections of the country. One in Texas and the other in Oregon.

Down in the Texas Panhandle in Deaf Smith County, there's a town called Hereford. And believe me, it's appropriately named. I spent three weeks in Hereford, which is located on the fringes of the High Plains. I arrived on a cool, comfortable Sunday night. Tired from the day-long travel, I went straight to the motel and bed.

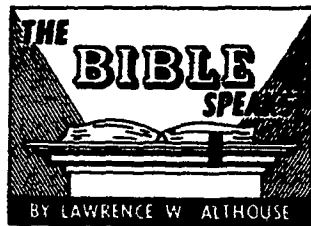
The next morning I awoke to a rather muggy, hot day and strolled outside. Something in the steamy air hit me like a slap in the face. Hereford is ringed by feedlots that are more heavily populated than the most congested city here in the Northeast.

After a couple of days, I finally asked one of my new Texan acquaintances if the local residents ever got accustomed to the heavy aroma in the air. "What aroma?" he asked. "That's no aroma; that's the smell of pure money, son."

And across the country in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, my sense of taste was equally piqued by agriculture. There, acre after acre of mint is grown and harvested much like alfalfa. It is blown into a metal, sealed forage wagon of sorts. The mint is steam-distilled right in the wagon and out comes the pure mint extract that goes as flavoring into toothpaste and many other things.

A seed farmer in the valley, who also grew mint, asked me if I had ever tasted the "real thing." Put a little on your finger tip and taste it, he said. I missed the emphasis he had placed on the word, little. Well, I dipped my finger in and got a good taste. That lick really shook up the taste buds and for days everything I ate or drank had a mint taste.

Now, when Spring stirs the ag senses these two ramblections come back to mind -- the feedlots of Hereford, Tex. and the mint of Corvallis, Ore.



RECOGNIZING THE RESURRECTION

April 3, 1983

Background Scripture: Acts 9:1-31; 22:1-21; 26:1-23; I Corinthians 15:3-11.

Devotional Reading: I Corinthians 15:1-11.

At first glance, it seemed the planners of the Uniform Lesson Services had made a strange choice of scriptural passages for Easter Sunday. Why hadn't they chosen a resurrection passage from one of the four gospels? But as soon as I read the selected background passages from the Book of Acts, I realized that the choices were not strange at all, but highly appropriate.

In his fine book, *Jesus Lord and Christ* (Harper), one of my former seminary teachers, Professor John Knox, makes the observation that when we read Paul's letters in the New Testament we are likely "to be struck by what would appear to be an almost complete lack of interest in the words and acts of Jesus." The reason, suggests Knox, is not that the Apostle was totally unfamiliar with Jesus' words and deeds, but that he attached much greater importance to knowing the Risen Lord. "WHO ARE YOU, LORD?"

We can easily understand why Paul was more concerned with the Christ he encountered on the Damascus Road than the Jesus who was known and remembered by the disciples who had followed Jesus in his ministry. It was Paul's experience of the Risen Lord on the Damascus Road that transformed

his life and Christianity as well. This doesn't mean that the words and deeds of Jesus are not important - they have spoken to, won and inspired millions - but ultimately it is our own experience of the Christ in our lives that is the only basis for a life continuously committed to his service. If the resurrected Christ had been experienced only on Easter Sunday, the whole nature and meaning of the Good News of Jesus Christ would be drastically changed.

So the essence of Christianity consists, not in acknowledging that on Easter Sunday Christ arose from the tomb, but that the Risen Lord can be experienced in our lives today as the source of our strength and faith. The resurrection must be a continuing experience in the world if it is to really mean anything to us.

This may secretly disturb a lot of people who believe they have never really experienced the Risen Lord themselves. But the problem is, not that they have not encountered Christ, but that they have failed to recognize his presence in their lives. Some people have dramatic Damascus Road experiences: visions, voices, moments of ecstasy, etc. But that is not the only way we encounter the Risen Lord. Even Paul was unsure and in midst of his Damascus Road experience, he asked: "Who are you, Lord?" **THE STILL, SMALL VOICE**

Sometimes we encounter the Risen Lord in his words and deeds, sometimes in the words and deeds of another person. Sometimes, he speaks to us in the still, small voice of conscience. Sometimes, as we gaze at a great work of religious art, he communicates with us, if we permit him to do so. Sometimes it is in a crust of bread we receive from another or give to another that we hear him say to us, "This is my body..."

We need to learn to recognize the resurrection in our lives.

NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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To Evaluate Winter Wheat Topdressing

During this season of the year many farmers ask the question, does winter wheat need fertilizing? According to Extension agronomists, topdressing with fertilizer may or may not be a good idea. There are several things that should be considered before making the decision.

In the first place, do not topdress winter wheat with a fertilizer that contains nitrogen if the wheat is to be overseeded with clover or alfalfa. Nitrogen causes heavy growth of wheat which may smother out the new seeding. Now, the winter wheat fields that have come through the winter looking thin, should be topdressed. Use only a straight nitrogen fertilizer, such as urea. Topdressing winter wheat with phosphate or potash fertilizers have not given any increased wheat yields.

Apply the nitrogen fertilizer in early spring at the rate of 30-40 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre.

To Plan For Oat Planting

I know some farmers are considering the use of feed oats for planting this spring, but this may not be a good idea. Feed oats may contain quackgrass, bindweed and other weed seeds. Planting feed oats will generally result in lower yields. You also have the problem that any weed seeds planted will be a problem for years to come. Keep in mind that high quality seed is the smallest part of producing a crop. So, saving a few cents by using inferior or weedy seed doesn't make much sense.

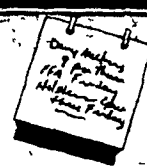
On the other hand, home grown seed of varieties proven successful on the farm can be cleaned, treated and planted if the germination is 80 percent or better. You can use the old "Rag Doll" germination method where you place the seed between two pieces of burlap - roll it and keep it moist and warm. Then count the seeds that germinate against the total and determine the percent germination.

To Increase Pasture Production

One of the best ways to improve your permanent pasture is to apply lime and plant food, practice rotational grazing and clip them regularly. This is quicker, cheaper and involves less risk than tearing up the old sod and reseeding. Most permanent pastures have sufficient seed of desirable grass species. The only thing they need is a little tender loving care and the opportunity to grow, and to recover from grazing pressures. Thus, fertility and rotational grazing are very beneficial. The more paddocks you have, the better it is. If your acreage is limited for your size herd, restrict the amount of time cattle and livestock are permitted to graze. Don't let them trample the grass unnecessarily by allowing them to roam freely over the pasture while not grazing. After a paddock has been grazed, it can be clipped to control weed growth and to keep the grass young and nutritious.

(Turn to Page A12)

Farm Calendar



- Saturday, April 2**
10th Annual Black Eyed Susan Sale, Md. Polled Hereford Assn., Frederick, Md. Fairgrounds.
- Monday, April 4**
Bradford County Dairy Princess Committee, 8 p.m., Canton Bank.
- Tuesday, April 5**
Adams County Sheep Producers, 8 p.m., Gettysburg National Bank.
Franklin County ASCS annual banquet, 7 p.m., Kauffman's Community Center.
Direct Marketing Conference, 9:30 a.m., Ramada Inn, Clarks Summit.
Bradford County Sheep & Wool Growers annual meeting, 7:30 p.m., Extension Office.
Christmas Tree grower meeting, 7:30 p.m., Berks County Ag Center.
Pa. Farm Vacation Assn., 10:30 a.m., Best Western, State College.
- Wednesday, April 6**
Lancaster Conservation District, 7:30 p.m., Farm and Home Center.
Livestock Conservation Institute annual meeting, continues tomorrow, Sheraton Meridian Hotel, Indianapolis.
Sulbra Crop Management Assn. Bd. of Directors, 8 p.m., Bradford County Extension Office.
NEDCO dairy meeting, 8 p.m., Risser's Restaurant, Rt. 422, Stouchsburg.
Hunterdon County, N.J. Board of Agriculture, 8 p.m., Extension Center.
York pesticide license update meeting, 7:30 p.m., Extension Office meeting room.
- Warwick FFA Banquet, 6:30 p.m., Brickerville Fire Hall.**
Stray Voltage presentation, Room 418, Main Capitol, Minority Caucus Room.
- Thursday, April 7**
Pa. Holstein Assn. Show and Sale, continues tomorrow, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.
DVC Lab Animal Science Club meeting, 8 p.m., Delaware Valley College.
Bradford County Extension swine meeting, 7:30 p.m., Wyalusing Fire Hall.
Woodland Owner Clinic, 4-H Center, McKean County Fairgrounds, Smothport.
NEDCO dairy meeting, 8 p.m., Vicksburg Community Hall.
- Friday, April 8**
Purina Lancaster Chow Plant Grand Opening, Hempfield Industrial Park, off Rt. 30 at Centerville exit. Ag Sec. John Block to speak at about 11:30 a.m.
Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District annual dinner, 7 p.m., Quakertown Fire House.
PEMA meeting, Sheraton Conestoga, Lancaster, 6:30 p.m.
Red & White Dairy Cattle Show and Sale, Farm Show Complex, continues tomorrow.
Annual Feeder Pig Show and Sale for FFA and 4-H projects, Carlisle Livestock Market, show 10 a.m., sale 1:30 p.m.
PFA political action FARMER annual dinner, 7:45 p.m., Hershey Country Club.
- Saturday, April 9**
Pa. Ayrshire Breeders Assn. Project Calf Sale, 1 p.m., at Cletus and Mary Rhodes farm.

(Turn to Page A12)

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