

HORSES ARE FLESH
January 22, 1984

Background Scripture:
Isaiah 30 through 31.
Devotional Reading:
Psalm 107:1-9.

and in horsemen because they are very strong;; (31:1a)! Judah's only hope of survival in the face of the powerful Assyrian Empire was its alliance with mighty Egypt. How could Isaiah even think of criticizing this vital alliance?
But Isaiah was not criticizing the alliance on political grounds. The prophet's concern was a spiritual problem, not one of diplomacy. The problem was that Judah was placing its trust in creatures instead of the creator: "The Egyptians are men and not God; and their horses are flesh and not spirit" (31:3).

ASA LION
The source of Judah's security is God himself and he chastises the leaders of Judah because they "do not look to the Holy One of Israel or consult the Lord!" (31:1b). Whereas their Egyptian allies are but human and prone to "stumble" and "perish" (31:3), Good likens himself to a lion who "growls over his prey, and when a band of shepherds is called forth against him is not terrified by their shouting or daunted at their noise..." (31:4).

The issue is simply drawn for Judah: Trust in God for your national security, not alliances, not weapons nor military might. We know that Judah failed to heed his warning and the disaster to the nation was great.

How would we respond if God were making that same pronouncement to us concerning our reliance on nuclear warheads and political alliances? And how do we know that He isn't saying to us what he said through Isaiah to Judah?

If your mind is already made up on the subject of military preparedness and the arms race, maybe you'd do just as well to skip Isaiah 30 through 31. You may not like what Isaiah has to say and, even if your response is not one of hostility, his words may at least prove unsettling.

RELY ON HORSES
Judah is a comparatively tiny country. So, when threatened by the mighty Assyrians, Judah attempts to make mutual defense treaties with some of the more powerful powers of the Middle East, chiefly Egypt.

Today, you and I would likely say that that is just smart diplomacy. Survival in this world means a strong national defense and protective alliances. Even a country as powerful as the United States cannot "go it alone."

So we can understand how upsetting was Isaiah's prophecy to the nation of Judah: "Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many

An Ode to DO

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

The U.S. dairy industry is like one big, swollen udder, With the nation swimming in excess milk, cheese and butter

This trend has continued for a number of years, As surpluses continued to grow despite everyone's mounting fears

From time to time the fed issued a warning sign, Futilely attempting to keep the market situation in line

Reagan and Block would murmur an occasional get-tough stance But they backed off, saying "We'll give you one more chance "

A new program was announced in time for dairying by the Bay, Old Ronnie couldn't resist making just one more bale of political hay

Oh, I hope dairymen DO it and relieve some of this pressure and pain.

The bureaucrats got together and wrote a mountain of rules, Which ended up being even bigger than the surplus milk pools

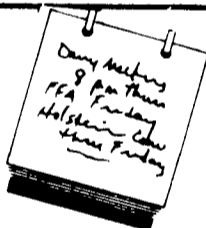
They handed the whole plan over to the people at ASCS, Who are supposed to interpret the complicated verbal mess

The call to sign up went out across the land, As farmers huddled with computer their modern, electronic farmhand

Of advice and help for dairymen there is no lack, But each alone must face the issue of cutting back

The big question now is whether dairymen will DO it, Or will they come back and say "Well, once again we blew it "

Farm Calendar



Saturday, Jan. 21
New Jersey Farmers' Week, continues through next Saturday.

Monday, Jan. 23
York County swine health diseases and prevention, 4-H Center, 7:30 p.m.

Adams County corn clinic, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., McSherrystown Fire Hall.

Third Annual Keystone Cornucopia, 6:30 p.m., Penn Harris Motor Inn.

Adams County Beekeepers workshop, 7:30 p.m., Vo-Ag Shop, Biglerville.

Chester County milk diversion informational meeting, 10:30 a.m., Cochranville Fire Hall.

Tuesday, Jan. 24
Endless Mountains Maple Syrup Producers annual meeting, 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., United Church of Christ Overton.

Delaware Vegetable Growers, Sheraton Inn, Dover, Del., continues tomorrow.

N.J. State Ag Convention, Cherry Hill Inn, continues tomorrow.

Cattle Feeders Day, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Processing vegetable growers, 1-3 p.m., Schuylkill Mall Community Room, Frackville.

Interstate Milk Producers District 3, Chestnut Level, 11:45 a.m.

Cumberland County Extension Annual Meeting, 7 p.m., South Middleton Fire Hall, Boiling Springs.

Penn Manor Young Farmers meeting on Milk Diversion, 7:30 p.m., Penn Manor High School ag classroom.

Wednesday, Jan. 25
York-Lancaster commercial vegetable marketing session, Avalongs, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

N.J. marketing institute, Cherry Hill Inn.

York County Corn Clinic, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., 4-H Center.

Berks County Dairy Nutrition School, continues tomorrow.

Bucks-Montgomery Crops Day, 10 a.m., Lansdale 4-H Center.

Mt. Joy Co-op Annual Dinner Meeting, noon, Hostetter's Dining Room, Mt. Joy.

Thursday, Jan. 26
Cumberland Corn Clinic, 9 a.m. - 3:15 p.m., Embers, Carlisle.

Delaware strawberry, raspberry & blackberry meeting, Mt. Pleasant.

N.J. Dairy Interests Luncheon, Charlie's Other Brother, Mt. Holly.

Canners-Fieldman vegetable meeting, Pleasant Acres, York, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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To Be Aware Of The Meeting Season

This is the time of year that a lot of educational meetings are held. And, they're held during this season of year for a good reason — you have more time to attend meetings. During the spring, the summer and into the fall, there's just too much field work that must be done. Take the time to become acquainted with the meetings of interest to you and your operation. Some meetings are designed to reach certain production groups such as Dairy Days, Livestock Day, Crops and Soils Day and Poultry Day, but others are programmed to reach all agri-business people like the Manure Management, Estate Planning and Farm Transfer Arrangement meetings.

Also, many agri-business and leading institutions conduct meetings to keep you abreast of the changes in their organizations. We urge you to mark your calendar as

these meetings are announced and attend as many as possible.

For An Avial Influenza Up-Date

Readers outside the Avian Influenza quarantine area are asking how things are going. The information here will be as of January 17, 1984. To that date there have been 9.6 million birds depopulated which includes 5.8 million layers and started pullets, 219,000 breeders, 3.45 million broilers, 84,000 turkey and 47,000 other fowl. A tragic loss. A total of 239 flocks have been depopulated.

Veterinarians have collected a wide variety of birds and rodents for virus isolation attempts for avian influenza. Of the 3,086 samples taken, 2,312 have been confirmed — all negative for H5N2 virus; the balance are pending.

The financial losses reach far beyond the bird losses. The loss of income to the farmer, the hatchery sales losses, the feed sales losses and the many other supportive industries to the poultry farmer. It will take everyone working together for this industry to recover — and yes, it will recover.

To Recognize Fertilizer Values

Since the cost of commercial fertilizers continues high, we should take a look at other sources of plant food; I am referring to farm manure and legume sods in the crop rotation.

The 1983-84 Agronomy Guide gives a very good comparison of these fertilizer values on page twelve. With the amount of manure that is being applied to some of our livestock and poultry farms, it is quite possible that very little commercial fertilizer will be needed.

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YA KNOW OTIS, THESE CONTRACTIONS WILL NEVER CATCH ON WITH FARMING. THEY INVOLVE TOO MUCH TIME IN LEARNING HOW TO USE THEM, THEY'RE TOO COMPLICATED, TOO EXPENSIVE ...

I'VE HEARD THAT SAME EXACT ARGUMENT FROM YOU BEFORE, OLLIE

WHEN WAS THAT OTIS?

ABOUT SIXTY YEARS AGO, WHEN WE WENT TO A TRACTOR SHOW.

WELCOME TO THE AGRI-COMPUTER SHOW

