

4 important words

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

What does the future hold for farming? As the winter meeting season is just about at its halfway point, this subject is being explored a number of times at all types of ag gatherings.

More than likely your crystal ball is as good as anyone's when you look into something that is as fluid and dynamic as the coming years in farming. But as I gaze into the future I can see four words that will keep cropping up again and again in the future of agriculture.

These words are: Research, Promotion, Checkoff and Security.

RESEARCH and PROMOTION -- These two words kinda go hand-in-hand in the future of agriculture. And it is good to see that the two are so strongly represented in the ag portion of the proposed new state budget in Pennsylvania.

Continuing ag research is essential in three main directions. Production must be tempered with operational efficiency in all farm operations. Farm-related products must constantly be updated to meet the ever changing demands of consumers. And continued progress must be made in eliminating and preventing the problems of modern agriculture.

And as progress is made in all of these areas, it must be promoted. That promotion

must not only be oriented to products. Whether we like it or not we live in a very image-conscious society. From electing a president to the most basic of purchases, image often guides our decisions. Farming has one of the most appealing and wholesome of basic images, but it must be conveyed again and again to the 97 percent of the people out there who aren't farmers.

CHECKOFF Just as many producers are already doing -- vegetable, fruit, potato and pork among them -- farmer-sponsored research is going to need to be expanded. The time is rapidly coming when producer-funded studies are going to be needed for every major crop and species found on a farm.

As federal government involvement in research becomes less and less, the slack is going to need to be picked up. And producers will be called on to play an ever-increasing role.

But let's look a little closer at paying the bill for ag research. As farmers, about three percent of the population is interested in ag research but as food and fibre consumers 100 percent of us have a vital stake in a continued bountiful and healthful food supply.

I wonder what are the chances of ever having a small surcharge on food and fibre sales to provide a broad-based source of revenue for ag research, which in its most basic definition is directed at making certain we have enough food and fibre, that it's good and economically available.

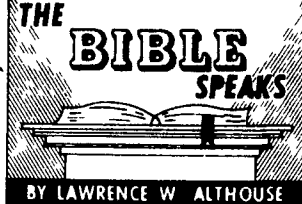
SECURITY -- Many hog farmers in the wake of pseudorabies have already changed many of their management practices, particularly those related to security. You just don't walk freely in and out of a lot of hog operations anymore.

Once Avian is checked and repopulation gets into full swing, these same stiffer security measures are going to need to be applied to chicken houses, too.

And, growing concern with John's will require some management changes in dairy operations, too.

So there you have the four words -- Research, Promotion, Checkoff and Security.

You just watch how many times you hear them coming up in the future.



THE SOVEREIGN SERVANT
February 12, 1984

Background Scripture:

Isaiah 42:1-4; 49:1-6; 50:4-11; 52:13-53:12.

Devotional Reading:

Isaiah 50:4-11.

Almost 30 years ago when I was a seminary student in Dayton, Ohio, the great Japanese Christian, Toyohiko Kagawa, came to town to speak in a public convocation.

I cannot remember anything he said that evening, for nothing he said was all that outstanding. He was not a great preacher in the accepted sense of that term.

But Kagawa didn't have to say anything to have an effect upon those of us present that evening. What he spoke louder and more eloquently than any of his words could have. His soft-spoken, shy, stumbling speech could not hide his great soul.

THE SERVANT

There is a story told about a high church dignitary who went to visit Kagawa shortly after the World War II. Kagawa's house was small, but he insisted his visitor stay the night with him. As a seasoned traveler, the visitor put his shoes outside his door that night so that Kagawa's servant could clean and shine them.

In the morning, the visitor found that his shoes had received considerable attention. Later in the

day, the visitor asked someone where he could find Kagawa's servant so that he could give him a small gratuity. He was shocked when the other person replied, "But Kagawa has no servant!"

This great Christian saint was not so great that he couldn't stoop to cleaning and shining the shoes of one of his visitors. In a like manner, Jesus had washed the feet of his disciples. Neither considered the roll of servant beneath them.

In fact, it was their willingness to be servants that gave them a status and sovereignty that would have otherwise been denied them. When one can willingly offer him or herself as a servant, it is in that free choice to live up to the highest and best in us that we experience what true sovereignty means.

GIVEN, NOT TAKEN

The difference is that the true servant gives him or herself in service; nothing is taken from him, either by force or by suasion. Our problem is that we think of the servant as one who is the unwilling subject of someone in higher status.

Yet, as Jesus tried to show us, there is nothing in God's kingdom higher than the person who willingly bears the burdens of someone else. To become a servant -- as Jesus did -- is to take a giant step upwards, not down.

Even the injustice and rejection which the servant sometimes encounters, is not something that is imposed upon him or her:

He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief...He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth... (53:3,7).

It is not the image of a hapless victim we see in these prophecies, but that of a victor who has maintained his sovereignty.

Farm Calendar



Monday, Feb. 13
Luzerne County soil fertility meeting, 1 p.m., St. James Lutheran Church, Hobbie.
McKean County Home Grounds meeting, 7:30 p.m., 4-H Center, Smethport fairgrounds.
Poultry servicemen, 6:30 p.m., Lancaster Holiday Inn North, "Potential Role of Flies in the Spread of Avian."
Delaware Safety Seminar, 7 p.m., Bridgeville Fire Hall.

Tuesday, Feb. 14
Lycoming Milkers School, 9:30 a.m., Bloomsburg Fairgrounds.
Bucks County regional soybean meeting, 10 a.m., Warrington Motor Lodge Restaurant, Rt. 611.
Turf and Ornamental School, Grantville, continues tomorrow.
Wayne County farm financial

management clinic, 10 a.m., Extension Meeting Room, Courthouse, Honesdale, continues tomorrow.
Atlantic Breeders Co-op, Solanco Fairgrounds, 7 p.m.
Schuylkill winter vegetables meeting, 8:30 p.m., Dusselink Motor Inn.
Adams County Beef Producers, 7:30 p.m., Extension Office.
Delaware Safety Seminar, 7 p.m., Felton Fire Hall.
Lebanon County 4-H Livestock Banquet, 7 p.m., Schaefferstown Fire Hall.
Delaware soybean weed control meeting, 7:30 p.m., Townsend's Inc., Mt. Pleasant.
Hunterdon County, N.J. field crops meeting, 8 p.m., Extension Center.
Elk County Milkers School, St Marys, continues tomorrow.

Wednesday, Feb. 15
Berks dairy nutrition meeting, 9:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m., Ag Center, Leesport.
York County Soybean, forage and small grains marketing, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., 4-H Center.
York County commercial fruit meeting, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Pleasant Acres.
Blue Ball National Bank Farm Seminar, 10:30 a.m., Blue Ball Fire Hall.
Bluebird Nesting Workshop, 7:30 p.m., Fort Hunter Park Barn, Harrisburg.
Luzerne County Farm Tax meeting, 1 p.m., Nanticoke Ag Service Center.
Hunterdon County, N.J. Ag Development Board, Extension Center, 8 p.m.
Wayne County local government session, 8 p.m., Extension Office, Courthouse.

(Turn to Page A12)

NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent
Phone 717-394-6851



To Be Concerned For Our Neighbors

The Avian Influenza that has dealt a heavy blow on the poultry industry in Lancaster and nearby counties, seems to be slowing down a bit. We really hope so, but it is no time to ease up on health security.

The "Poultry Watch" program was started by the Task Force two weeks ago to try to prevent the spread of the virus. To date over 400 are voluntarily participating with the program. The "Poultry Watch" program is designed to isolate the virus before it has a chance to spread to your neighbors and friends. The sooner the virus is detected and eliminated, and the quarantine is lifted, the better off we'll all be. Keep in mind that any A.I. virus detected through Poultry Watch will be rechecked by veterinarians on the Task Force. No flock will go down without positive identification.

We hope everyone cooperates. We know the quarantine will not be lifted until the A.I. virus is eliminated. For more information on "Flock Watch", call (717) 295-1800. Let's do our part to eradicate Avian Influenza.

To Plan Forage Management

A good supply of quality forages is one of the most important things in the feeding program of dairymen, cattlemen, and sheep producers. Growers should now be planning what kind of forage crops they hope to produce this year.

Both hay and silage crops respond to good management. Growers who make a special effort to obtain maximum yields of quality forages usually produce more than the average.

Some of the top alfalfa growers produce double the tonnage per acre than the average. This did not just happen. They planned and made decisions on date from their farm records. Doing all the practices that have been successful, and doing them on time, will normally bring good results.

To Evaluate Manure Plant Food

Our Agronomist has told farmers for 40 years that a ton of dairy manure is equivalent to 100 pounds of a 5-3-5 fertilizer, but recent research indicates little, if any, nitrogen is available to the crop when manure is spread daily and left exposed to the elements.

Current data has confirmed that a ton of stored dairy manure is equivalent to 100 pounds of 5-3-5 fertilizer. The nutrients in fresh manure are equal to those of inorganic fertilizer for crop

(Turn to Page A12)

