

Farm Fairy Tale

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

Another bedtime Farm Fairy Tale from Grandma Heidi down on that rock-strewn hillside farm quite a few years ago.

Once upon a time there was an ambitious king with the unusual name of "Cey V. Ag." He ruled over a small rural kingdom made up almost entirely of farms.

Good King Cey was always looking for ways to improve the lives of his farmer subjects. Some said that his continuing efforts to come to the rescue of farming like a make-believe Knight in Shining Armor was how he got his unusual name of "Cey V. Ag."

One day he decreed that every farmer in his realm must plant "artibits" -- a new miracle crop.. The crop didn't require any care, reseeded itself, provided enormous yields and

would grow under any conditions. Since noone else grew artibits, Good King Cey saw himself and his new crop as saving ag in his kingdom.

So, all the farmers planted artibits. Pretty soon, the prolific crop literally over-ran even the hedgerows. King Cey V. Ag's little country was soon bulging with artibits. Farmers ran out of places to store them. Good King Cey was faced with an artibit surplus crisis.

He called his ag council together and after long deliberations one old and learned member finally suggested that they study what the artibits are good for and if there is any place to sell them.

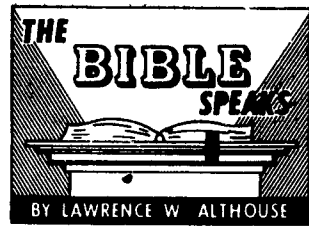
Grandma Heidi's Farm Fairy Tale kinda reminds me of the promotions that emerge every now and then in agriculture praising the virtues of new farming pursuits that are going to be the salvation of economically-strapped farmers

Once my previous ag travels took me into areas caught up in the worm farming craze. I just couldn't believe the investments being made in this wiggly livestock and the miracles that were being expected from them.

Agriculture seems to be the only business that jumps headlong into new enterprises without ever making any kind of market study to see if there's any demand or outlets for the products

As Grandma Heidi used to say

"It's bad enough to put the cart before the horse. But when you not only hobble the poor animal but put him behind such a big and cumbersome vehicle that he can't see where he's going, you can be sure you're not ever going to get anywhere



IMMEDIATELY!
March 4, 1984

Background Scripture:
Mark 1.
Devotional Reading:
Luke 3:7-17.

There is a recurring word in the Gospel According to Mark that characterizes much of the message that the writer is attempting to communicate with us. The word is "immediately" and it occurs 44 times in the gospel and 9 times in the first chapter alone.

"Immediately" as Jesus came up out of the Jordan at baptism, "he saw the heavens opened..."

"The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness."

"Immediately" after Jesus called Simon and Andrew, they followed him.

"Immediately" Jesus called James and John and they followed him.

"Immediately" on the sabbath in Capernaum, "he entered the synagogue and taught."

"Immediately" in their synagogue there was a man with an unclean spirit."

"Immediately" Jesus left the synagogue at Capernaum to enter the house of Simon and Andrew.

"Immediately" after Jesus touched the leper,

he was healed. "Immediately" they told him of their mother's fever.

THE TIME FULFILLED

This sense of urgency stays with us all the way through the Gospel According to Mark. Even when the word immediately is not used, it is often never implied. "And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee" (1:28).

It seems apparent that Mark's sense of urgency and immediacy is a reflection upon the gospel itself. It is obviously no "once-upon-a-time" story. The words with which Jesus began his ministry in Galilee reflect that sense of urgency:

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel. (1:15).

The gospel, as Jesus presents it in Mark, is a message of new beginnings. A new day has dawned. The time of waiting is over. The kingdom is here now! And all of this requires an immediate responses: "repent and believe in the gospel."

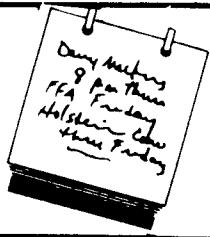
The message and the immediacy are just as words were first spoken. Today is the day if we are going to make a new beginning. Today is the day to consciously start to live the way we always said we were going to live. If you're going to follow Jesus Christ, NOW is the time.

NETS LEFT BEHIND

Not only is there an urgency to the Gospel message, there is something radical about it too. Simon, Andrew, James and John had all been fishermen. At the call of Jesus, however, they "immediately" left their nets and followed him. And that one response changed their lives forever.

It is with that same urgency that Christ speaks to each of us.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, March 3
Rabbit production & marketing seminar, 1:30 p.m., Garrett Community College, Md.

Monday, March 5
Lancaster County Dairy Days, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Farm & Home Center, continues tomorrow.

Bradford dairy princess committee, 7:30 p.m., Friedenschutten Restaurant, Wyalusing.
McKean County sheep meeting, 7:30 p.m., Extension Center, Smethport.

Carroll County, Md. Holstein meeting, Ag Center, Westminster.

Sulbra Council of Farm Cooperatives, 1:30 p.m., Bradford Extension Center.

Game bird conference, J.O. Keller Bldg., Penn State, continues tomorrow.

NE Corn Clinic, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Penn State Worthington Scranton Campus, Dunmore.

Tuesday, March 6
Regional small grain meeting, 9.40 a.m. - 3 p.m., Mountain View Inn, Greensburg.

Swine management conference, Penn State, continues through Thursday.

York County Holstein barn meeting, 12:30 p.m., Richard Smyser farm, topic dry cow management.

Outlook for Farm Commodities,

7.30 p.m., Upper Adams High School.

Cedar Crest FFA banquet, 7 p.m., Middle School cafeteria.

York Extension Soils School, 9.30 a.m. - 3 p.m., 4-H Center, Bair
Bradford dairy feeding school, 8 p.m., Extension Office

Bradford corn meeting, 10 a.m. - 12.30 p.m., Extension Office, crop insurance meeting, 1.30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 2

Potato Growers Institute, Tof-trees, State College, continues tomorrow

Bradford dairy feeding school, 8 p.m., Extension Office.

ASCS meeting, 7.30 p.m., Lancaster Farm & Home Center, Federal Crop Insurance and 1984 Wheat and Feed Grain

Thursday, March 8

Bradford County Milkers School, 9.30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Mansfield, continues tomorrow.

Farm financial meeting, 10 a.m., Bradford Extension

Manor FFA banquet, 6.30 p.m., Penn Manor High School cafeteria

Soil Conservation Society Technical Session, 9.30 a.m., Country Cupboard Restaurant, Lewisburg.

Farmiland Protection in Pa conference, 9 a.m., Allentown.

Small Orchards-Home Fruit

meeting, 1.30 - 7 p.m., Pleasant Acres, York.

Turf-Grounds workshop, 8.30 a.m., University of Delaware Georgetown substation

Poultry Progress Day, 9.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m., Lancaster Farm & Home Center.

Farm financial meeting, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Bradford Extension Center.

Woodlot management meetings, 1 and 7.30 p.m., Area woodlots and Ag Room, Biglerville.

Regional mastitis and milking seminar, 9.15 a.m. - 3.15 p.m., Mountain View Inn, Greensburg.

Cecil County mastitis program, 9.30 a.m., Extension Office, Elkton, Md., continues tomorrow

Conservation tillage meeting, 9:30 a.m., Country Cupboard, Lewisburg.

N Lebanon FFA banquet, 7 p.m., high school cafeteria.

Schuylkill crops clinic, 9.30 a.m., Penn State Schuylkill campus.

Solanco FFA banquet, high school cafeteria.

Friday, March 9
Pa. Angus Sale, Farm Show Complex.

Drug residue workshop, 1-4 p.m., Lancaster Farm & Home Center

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NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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To Apply Manure

This is the season of the year that a lot of manure is applied in preparation for corn planting. We need to be concerned with proper application of liquid and solid manure in such a way as to minimize odors and avoid pollution complaints.

Applications should be made from mid-morning to mid-afternoon to allow maximum odor dispersion and manure drying before the calm, nighttime hours when neighbors are home from work. Fields for disposal should be downwind, rather than upwind from neighbors.

Whenever possible the manure should be plowed under or disked into the soil as soon as possible after spreading. This practice not

only minimizes odors but also preserves nutrients and reduces potential for surface run-off that causes water pollution.

To Attend Poultry Progress Day

The second annual Poultry Progress Day will be held on Thursday, March 8 in the auditorium at the Farm and Home Center. Registration will start at 9:00 in the morning and the program will end at 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be available. A real good program has been developed by the Poultry Association Education Committee. This will include Trooper Romaine Edwards of the State Police with the topic "Farm Crime-Protect Your Investment"; computer specialist, Newton Bair, covering "Computer Needs in Your Poultry Business"; Dr. Robert Graves, Agricultural Engineer at Penn State covering "Energy Conservation in the Poultry House"; an Avian Influenza Update; and an important feature titled "Keeping Your Values in Perspective" by Dr. James Van Horn, Extension Family Specialist at Penn State. We expect everyone to practice bio-security before attending any meeting.

To Use Heat Lamps Safely

A portable heat lamp is a useful item around the home and farm during cold weather. The lamp's infra-red rays can be used to keep

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Otis

