

Farm Show '85 — a tribute to Pa. farmers

Well, Farm Show is over for another year, and even the weather stayed true to tradition. We always thought it was just a folksy cliché—it's Farm Show Week, it must be snowing. But the 1985 Farm Show was held a week later than usual...and the previous week was unseasonably mild for the most part...and this week it snowed. So maybe there's more than just folksy humor going on here?

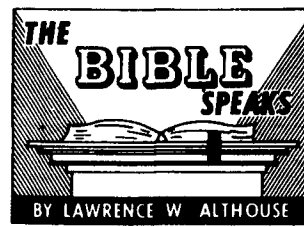
Whatever the case with the weather, the 1985 show saw a tremendous upsurge in crowds and enthusiasm over last year's Show. Opening day used to be a "quiet" day at Farm Show primarily for exhibitors and people who hate crowds, but this year's opening day drew bigger crowds than ever. And the people and enthusiasm continued all week, proof of the interest and dedication Pennsylvanians feel for their state's agriculture industry, and for the tradition behind Farm Show.

So now all the grand champions have been selected, and the ribbons given out. The luncheons and banquets have been held and recognition paid to the 1985 Farm Family of the Year, the Master Farmers, the Keystone degree winners, the agribusinesses who have played such an important part in the farm picture, and many, many

others who earned special honors. Weary exhibitors will be back home by now, settling their animals and getting themselves back into the routine of everyday life. But the glow of having done a good job will last for awhile and even while they're shaking off the dust from this year's Show, a lot of exhibitors will probably be thinking ahead to the next one.

One of the things Farm Show always make us doubly conscious of is the hard work and dedication of the young exhibitors. When we watch these young people care for and show their animals and think about all the hard work and effort they put into their FFA and 4-H activities, we feel reassured that so many young Pennsylvanians are involved in activities that teach responsibility and values. These future leaders in agriculture will be some of our finest citizens.

We also feel proud and grateful to the family farmers. Farmers feed us, it's as simple as that. It takes unique abilities and endurance to run a farm successfully, and our Pennsylvania farmers have certainly proven over and over that they have these talents. The Farm Show was just further testimony to this. The Show only lasts a week, but our appreciation and respect for farmers and agriculture last all year long.



ASKING THE WRONG QUESTIONS January 20, 1985

Background Scripture:
John 4:7-15; 7

Devotional Reading:
John 7:1-13.

Many people have an absolute knack for asking the wrong questions and at the wrong time. Appearing in Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus is attacked by those who question the authority by which he practices his ministry. Having witnessed his mighty works and heard his profound teaching, they begin to quarrel over whether he is a prophet, the Christ or an imposter. "Who is the man?" they want to know.

Jesus, however, tries to redirect their attention from who he is to what he is. "If anyone thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water'" (7:37). Jesus refused to be drawn into the controversy over what title he should be given and instead attempted to concentrate upon what he could do for those who accepted him in faith.

FROM GALILEE?

As I read the gospel accounts, I never find Jesus all that concerned about the titles people give him. They may call him "Lord," "Master," "Rabbi," "the Christ,"

but he seems content to refer to himself as the "son of Man." Much more than finding the right name to give him, he seems to want people to discover the Spirit of God within him. Christians may get very uptight about using the right title, but Jesus did not. A title was unimportant; what people could experience of God in Jesus was not.

One day I find the people missing the forest for the trees. Some of them respond to Jesus saying "This is really the prophet," while others said, "This is the Christ." And then comes the statement and question which take the real booby prize. "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem?" (7:41). After long centuries of waiting for God's promise to be fulfilled, at least there appears a man to fulfill that promise and, instead of greeting him with open hearts, they haggle over his place of birth!

LED ASTRAY ALSO?

When the officers return empty-handed to the religious officials, they are questioned, "Why did you not bring him?" And the officers answered candidly, "No man" (7:46). Jesus performs wonderful works like a messenger from God and speaks like a prophet, but the authorities do not care for the evidence, they have already made up their minds; "...you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee" (7:52).

It would be well if we could say that today we no longer quibble over such matters and continue to ask the wrong questions. Yet, all too often we do. And we will always miss the true meaning of Jesus Christ so long as we quibble over him instead of following him.

NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent
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To Attend Winter Meetings

This is the time of year that a lot of educational meetings are held. And, they're held during this season of the 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 Financial Management, Estate Planning, and Farm Transfer arrangement meetings.

Also, many agri-business and lending 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.

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 manures and legume sods in the crop rotation.

The 1985-86 Agronomy Guide gives a very good comparison of these fertilizer values on page fifteen.

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.

Alfalfa sod can add as much as 75 pounds of nitrogen per acre. This is one advantage to having legumes in the crop rotation.

A complete soil test will reveal the needs of each field. Then the need can be met by using farm manures, legume sods, or commercial fertilizer. Careful handling and storage of manure will preserve many of these valuable fertilizer elements.

To Use Farmers Tax Guide

I hate to mention it, but it is Income Tax reporting time again. For farmers this becomes quite complicated and usually there are many changes from one year to the next.

The Farmer's Tax Guide is published by the Internal Revenue Service and is a real help to farmers and others who file for agricultural concerns. We have a supply in our office, as do other Extension Offices. They are also available from the Internal Revenue Service. I would highly recommend using the Tax Guide when filing your return. The filing date of March 1 for farmers rolls around rather rapidly.

To Preserve The Top Soil

The spring of the year is an excellent time to develop some soil conservation practices on the land. Contour strips, terraces and diversion ditches can all be established before the 1985 crops are planted. These various methods of controlling water will not only prevent soil losses but will help hold more water on the higher slopes and fields. Good topsoil is a precious natural resource, and every land owner should make an effort to keep it from eroding. Farmers that are growing continuous corn should be very careful to keep their soil from washing away. In these cases terraces can be established to help slow down

OUR READERS WRITE

To The Editor:

The message of the Grace Commission's report comes through loud and clear:

We are responsible for the deficit and we are the only ones who can fix it.

The causes of the deficit are many and pervasive. Almost every federal program studied is beset with fraud, overpayments and inefficiency.

In many instances individual Congressmen will not act because local interests in their districts will be affected.

The light at the end of the tunnel

is that Candidate Reagan, and not Candidate Mondale was correct. No tax increase is necessary or desirable; we can make do with the taxes we now have if we use the money wisely. Best of all, the Grace Commission believes we can balance the budget without penalizing the truly needy.

Accordingly, I believe that we must instruct the Congress to set aside their parochial and partisan interests and vote for most of the recommendations of the Grace Commission, or suffer defeat in the next election.

Stanley N. Taylor
Vincentown, N.J.

Farm Calendar

Monday, Jan. 21
N.J. Farmers Week and State Agricultural Convention, through Jan. 26. Bradford Co. DHIA Board meeting, 10:30

the loss of both water and soil. Addition of extra organic matter in the form of crop residues, green cover crops and livestock manure will help keep the soil loose with a higher water holding capacity.

The Extension Service is an affirmative action equal opportunity educational institution.

a.m.
Bradford Co. Regional 4-H Horse Show meeting, Extension Office, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 22
Pa. Lime, Fertilizer & Pesticide Conference, Sheraton, Penn State, State College; continues through Jan. 24.

Pa. Farmers Union Annual Convention, Hotel Hershey, continues through Jan. 23.

Del. Vegetable Growers meeting, Sheraton Inn, Dover, continues Jan. 23.

1985 Farm Income Tax Area Meeting, Park United Methodist Church, Coudersport.

Lebanon Co. Rural Development Committee Seminar, "Computers on the Farm," Lebanon Co. Municipal Bldg. auditorium, 1-3 p.m.

Hunterdon Co. (N.J.) Nursery Management program, Extension Center, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 23
York Co. Dairy Day, 4-H Center, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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