

## OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

### Case Co. - IH Merger

Dear Editor:

We are watching closely the development of the merger between the Case Co. and International Harvester Co. As farmers in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, we are using 18 tractors and front end loaders, all of which are either International Harvester or Case. In addition, we have a full line of field equipment which is mostly International Harvester.

The Lancaster County area has enjoyed spirited competition between International Harvester

### Organic farming

Every major type of livestock is now under attack by disease epidemics - avian influenza in poultry, pseudorabies in swine, John's disease in cattle and Potomac fever in horses. At the same time chemicals are being used on crops and animals are being concentrated in close confinement and given more drugs and antibiotics than ever before. The use of these poisons and unnatural methods have caused these diseases to spread like wildfire. The animals' immune systems have rebelled against their mistreatment.

This past spring I noticed an incredible amount of dandelion growing in alfalfa fields all over this region. So much, in fact, that the alfalfa surely must have been unfit for feed. This was "super" dandelion, a new strain of dandelion which has become resistant to herbicides and thrives on the imbalance caused by huge doses of chemical fertilizers and lack of crop rotation.

A weed will never develop which could withstand being torn out by a plow and left to wither in the sun. Plowing also completely destroys army worms.

Many farmers have been complaining about people throwing litter on their roadside fields and pastures. I am totally opposed to people throwing their trash out of car windows and think that the amount of litter along our roadsides is a disgrace. But, I think that it is ironic that some of these farmers care nothing about the spray drift, fumes, toxic fungus and ground water and stream contamination that comes from their farms and travels onto adjacent lands and miles beyond. Not to mention the tremendous illnesses in people that are caused by the contaminated food they grow. Cancer rates continue to rise.

The American farmer is always portrayed as being very independent, but this is largely a thing of the past. The farmer today does not think for himself. He follows completely and blindly the instructions given to him by the chemical companies, the banks and the USDA, who tell him to spray more, go more into debt and work harder.

The USDA agronomy guides are  
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and Case dealers. In the past, this has served us well both in terms of fair pricing and reliable service.

A situation which is of grave concern to us at this point is a transaction we experienced in the wake of this merger with the present Case network of dealerships. In late October 1984, we purchased a Case 1845 skid loader for a net price of \$20,500. Within a

week of this transaction, another authorized Case dealer from Lancaster County was knocking on our door to tell us he could sell us the same loader for \$15,500. This sales person implied that we were taken advantage of by his competitor. In checking with the dealer we purchased the loader from and the Case Co., we were told, "Sorry, you bought too early. You missed the additional discount."

Needless to say, we are very unhappy to the tune of \$5,000. But of equal importance is our concern of the future Case-International Harvester dealerships in Lancaster County.

Pa. Master Farmers  
Abram G. Barley  
John E. Barley

### NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent  
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#### To Check Poultry Waterers

Hens without water can cost you money. In one experiment, birds deprived of water for only 24 hours required 24 days to return to normal egg production. In most experiments, after a period of only 36 hours without water, birds never returned to normal. A flock without water for 36 hours or more may molt, then go through a prolonged period of restricted production. This is especially so in older flocks. If water is restricted for 48 to 60 hours, severe mortality can result from dehydration.

As you walk through your house each day, check the waterers to make sure none are dry or a line is plugged. I am aware of a case where the water line was restricted, by a faulty valve, to the middle row of cages for nearly three days. Mortality was high and production was seriously affected in that row.

A few minutes a day checking waterers can well mean saving a lot of dollars - don't wait until molted feathers are under the cage.

#### To Be Careful With Fuels

With the greater use of wood for fuel there is need for caution about the use of gasoline or kerosene to start a fire or make it burn faster. Both of these items are explosive and should not be used near an open fire or hot coals. They should be stored in underground tanks or in metal, fireproof containers. Label all containers so there will not be a chance of any mix-up. It is inviting trouble to store gasoline or kerosene in glass jugs or bottles; also it is very dangerous to start burning trash, barbecue pits, or stoves with these materials. Be sure every member of the family understands these fire hazards.

#### 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 10-3-5 fertilizer. The nutrients in fresh manure are equal to those of inorganic fertilizer for crop production, but more slowly available. In the year of application, about one-half of the nitrogen in manure is available. Studies show that corn fertilized with fresh manure applied and worked into the soil in the spring produced the most corn silage. Yields were lowest when the manure was applied in the fall, left exposed on the soil surface all winter and plowed down in the spring. It's important to manage manure application just as you manage other areas of your operation. Another important factor, by incorporating the manure into the soil immediately, you reduce the possibility of water contamination and odors.

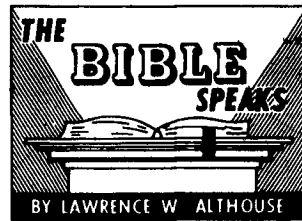
#### To Train and Prune Trees

General pruning of apple trees should be in full swing at this time of year, especially if you have a lot of pruning to do. I'd like to remind growers and homeowners not to overprune young trees or those which haven't yet started to bear fruit. There is a tendency to either prune the small trees too heavily, or simply to leave them alone. A middle-of-the-road course is best.

The training of young trees should involve just enough cutting to maintain a healthy central leader and to develop the desired number of well-spaced scaffold branches. Branches that are either poorly spaced, or ones making narrow-angled crotches should be removed.

Keep in mind, when you start pruning early - start with your harder trees, the apple and pear with plum and sour cherries next, and leave your peach till near the end; they're quite tender.

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### OF MY OWN ACCORD February 10, 1985

Background Scripture:  
John 10.

Devotional Reading:  
John 10:22-39.

The term "sacrifice" is not heard much today, either in society in general or within the Christian community. When I was young, I heard a great deal about sacrifice as part of our Christian discipleship.

Today it is an unpopular idea, it seems. "Self-fulfillment" is much more likely the ideal that is set before us. Perhaps that is why Sister Theresa is so venerated throughout the world. We can hardly comprehend someone who offers her life for others.

#### THE CHAPLAIN

It's not just a matter of being willing to die for someone else, but of living for others. Many people can't help wondering about Sister Theresa: "What's in it for her?" they want to know.

St. Martin of Tours was another Christian saint who devoted his life to others. One day, walking through a village, he saw a shivering beggar. Taking off his cloak - *capella* - he tore it in half and shared it with the beggar. Thereafter, St. Martin was called a "capella lender," from which eventually the term "chaplain"

evolved - "one who will lend his coat" to another.

There's a sense in which all Christians are called to be *chaplains* to one another. Sometimes, of course, it means more than lending a coat; sometimes, it may be one's life that we must lay down for another. This was pignantly demonstrated for us in February, 1943 when the American cargo-transport ship *Dorchester* was torpedoed in the South Pacific. As it went down, four U.S. chaplains - a Roman Catholic priest, a Jewish rabbi, and two Protestant ministers - gave up their lifebelts so that four soldiers would not have to jump into the water without them. The *Dorchester* slipped under the water as the four chaplains stood on the deck with their arms entwined and their hearts united in prayer.

#### I LAY IT DOWN

This loss of the four chaplains was a tragic loss of life, but it is important for us to remember that their lives were not taken from them; they gave their lives. In John 10 Jesus speaks of that same dynamic: "...I lay down my life that I may take it again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord" (10:18).

The four key words have are: "...of my own accord." If my life is taken from me, that is tragic. But if I lay it down of my own accord, then, as Jesus taught, I don't really lose it. In fact, the only way I can lose it is by trying to hang on to it.

There is a certain power in giving ourselves. Jesus said, "I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again" (10:18). Whether "laying it down" means to live or die for others. If we give it for our "own accord," we never truly lose it.

## Farm Calendar

Saturday, February 9  
Cumberland County Holstein Banquet, Penn Township Fire Hall, Hunsdale.

Monday, February 11  
Servicemen's Seminar, Poultry House C&D, Holiday Inn North, Lancaster.

Tuesday, February 12  
Adams County Beef Producers Meeting, 8 p.m., Adams County extension office.  
Lebanon County Dairy Day, 10 a.m., Prescott Fire Hall.

Wednesday, February 13  
1985 Winter Tree Fruit Meeting, Rutter's Restaurant (formerly Avalong's) east York, intersection of Route 30 and Route 24 (Mt. Zion Rd. exit).  
Hydroponic Vegetables Conference, Berks Co. Ag Center, Leesport, 9:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.  
York County Commercial Tree Fruit Growers meeting, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Rutter's Restaurant.  
Calf and Heifer Management, Eastern Lancaster County Adult Farmer Program, 7:30 p.m., Blue Ball School.

Northeast Regional Vegetable Growers Meeting, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Milwaukee Methodist Church, Lackawanna County.

Thursday, February 14  
Lancaster Extension Association annual dinner meeting at Farm and Home Center, 6:30 p.m.  
Atlantic Breeders Co-op, N. Lancaster #1, Blue Ball Fire Hall, 7 p.m.

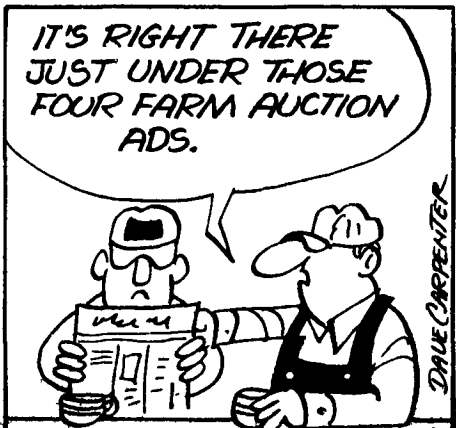
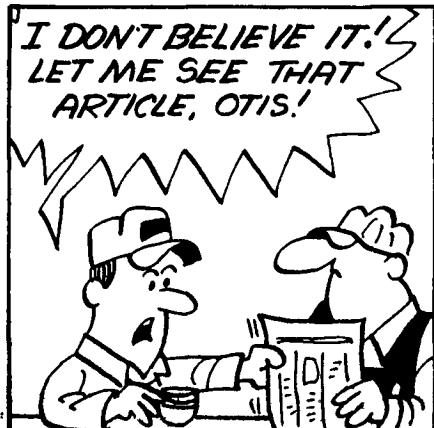
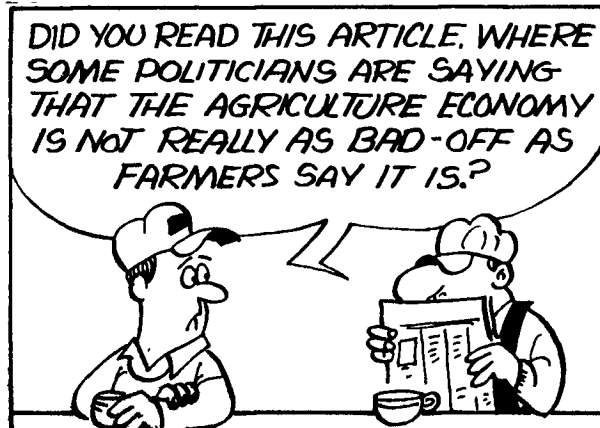
Monday, February 18  
Interstate Milk Producers #7, Hostetter's, Mt. Joy at noon.  
American Dairy Assoc. and Dairy Council, Inc., 25th Annual Meeting, Syracuse, 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, February 19  
Lancaster County Crops and Soils Day at Farm and Home Center, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Atlantic Breeders Co-op, Southern, Solanco Fairgrounds, 7 p.m.  
Mid-Atlantic Direct Marketing Conference at Cherry Hill Inn and Conference Center, Camden Co., N.J.; continues through Thursday.

Thursday, February 21  
Wolgemuth's 1985 Poultry Banquet, 6:30 p.m. at Harvest Drive Restaurant.

Keystone Pork Congress, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Penn Harris Motor Inn, Harrisburg. Porkette Annual Meeting, 10 a.m.  
Atlantic Breeders Co-op, N. Lancaster #2, Blue Ball Fire Hall, 7 p.m.  
Lancaster Farm Financial Management Conference by reservation at Farm and Home Center, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
1985 Pennsylvania Holstein Convention; continues tomorrow.

Friday, February 22  
Maryland Holstein Convention; continues tomorrow.



DALE CARPENTER