

NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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To Apply Poultry Manure Sparingly

With the large poultry population in this region, poultry manure is in good supply. Since poultry manure may contain from 15 pounds to nearly 50 pounds of nitrogen per ton, depending on moisture and litter content, over application can burn crops and result in disappointments.

Gardeners should not be using heavy amounts of fresh poultry manure in their soils. On crop land it is recommended that poultry manure applications be limited to not more than five to seven tons of 75 percent moisture content per acre.

Keep in mind that some poultry manure may contain up to 50 pounds of nitrogen per ton and can burn seeds and crop roots. Poultry manure is also the highest in phosphorus and potash content of any of our farm manures. It has excellent fertilizer value when used properly.

The 1985-86 Agronomy Guide gives additional details about the fertilizer values of farm manures. The Agronomy Guide is available through any Extension Office for a \$4 fee.

To Practice Safety

We are now into spring and that brings heavy demands on field work. This includes the use of many different types of machinery which increases the potential for accidents. We urge farmers to take time to be safe; in many cases, haste has been the reason for farm accidents.

When we are in a hurry we overlook safety measures and face additional hazards. There are three elements of safety... people, machine and environment. Controlling people is by far the most difficult, especially in farm safety.

Take time to be safe... otherwise you may be sorry for the rest of your life.

To Remove Trash

Land owners along rural roads are the victims of people who have little respect for the property of others. Too many people are dumping trash in fields along the road. In all cases when this is dumped on pasture or crop land, the trash should be removed before spring growth begins. This trash will be hard on farm equipment and may be poisonous to livestock.

We urge property owners to remove the trash in the next few

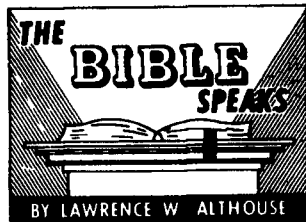
weeks. If any type of identification can be made, as to the owner of the trash, this should be reported to Township officials; prosecutions can be made for dumping trash along the highway.

To Prepare A Will

The statement "we don't own enough to justify a will" is overused by many families. If you have a family and you own anything, you should have a will. If a person dies without a will, the property is distributed according to the Intrastate Laws of Pennsylvania. These laws may not distribute your estate according to your desires. This has often happened in the past and there is little that can be done about it without a will.

We urge all family heads, and property owners to contact a lawyer and have him help with making a will. The cost will be considerably less than settling an estate without a will. There is some very good information dealing with "wills" in the Estate Planning bulletin available at any Extension Office.

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THE WITNESS
March 24, 1985

Background Scripture:

John 18:1 through 19:6.

Devotional Reading:

John 18:1-10.

John's account of Jesus' several appearances before Pontius Pilate is the story of an intimidated man — a man so intimidated that he could not bring himself to do what his conscience was telling him to do.

But the "intimidated man" is not Jesus. It is the formidable and powerful Pilate who is too fearful to exercise his power. Although Jesus is the one who is captive in chains, it is the Roman Governor who is the real captive. He knows what is right, but he cannot bring himself to do it.

A PLEA BARGAIN

Perhaps Pilate would remember and wonder until his dying day why Jesus had not sought to work out a compromise, to win what we call today a "plea bargain." All Jesus would have had to do would be to slightly modify his stand. When Pilate asked, "Are you the King of the Jews?" (18:33), why didn't Jesus seize this opportunity to say, "No, I have never made and am not now making that claim for myself!"?

But, instead of giving the direct answer that would have helped his

case, Jesus replied with "Do you say this of your own accord, or did other say it to you about me?" (18:34). And, when Pilate asks again, Jesus still gives an answer that was less than satisfying: "My kingship is not of this world" (18:36). And a third time Pilate presses him, "So you are a king?" (18:37) and Jesus' response is even less... You say that I am a king."

Pilate obviously knew that was innocent of the charges and sought to release him, but the crowd would have none of it: "Crucify him, crucify him" (19:6) So, Pilate made one more attempt to offer Jesus a respectable way out, but Jesus refused to answer the question as to his place of origin (Pilate would like to solve the problem of Jesus by sending him to some other authority.) Exasperated, Pilate demands: "Do you not know that I have power to release you and power to crucify you?" (19:11)

BORN FOR THIS

Jesus would not have had to seriously compromise himself in order to have gained his release. A few conciliatory words Pilate would probably have sufficed to get him off the hook.

Why didn't Jesus save himself at this point? Was it because he wanted to die, to assume the role of the martyr? No, I don't think either of those were his motivation. I think the key is to be found when he says, "For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth" (18:37).

He did not want to die, but even more than that he did not want to do anything at all to diminish his role as a witness to the saving love of God. And that is the kind of witness we all are called to be.

Changes ahead, manager tells

York Farm Credit

BY JOYCE BUYP
Staff Correspondent

YORK— The Farm Credit system must change to meet the changing face of agriculture was the message heard Monday evening by some four hundred stockholders and guests of the York Farm Credit cooperative.

That Monday evening meeting, at the York Fairgrounds Banquet Center, was the third in a trio of annual dinner-business sessions, held by the ag Southcentral Pennsylvania ag lending cooperative, a part of the Baltimore Farm Credit Service. Earlier sessions were held March 13 at the Embers Restaurant, Carlisle, and March 14 at the Chambersburg Holiday Inn.

York's Farm Credit Association is already responding to those changing needs, according to the directors report, presented to the York attendees by director Ralph McGregor. Earlier meeting reports were handled by Production Credit president Rolla Lehman II and Land Bank president Leroy Buyp.

In response to farmer-member needs for estate planning services, the York Association began a Business Estate and Tax Planning program in January of 1984. Six months later, a second new program went on line, with the adoption into Farm Credit System of the Agrifax farm records and

tax service program.

A third change to meet member needs came with the November opening of the Stewartstown office, the sixth branch office in the York association. Other outlying offices are at York, Carlisle, Chambersburg, Gettysburg and New Bloomfield.

York Farm Credit did maintain a healthy financial position, McGregor noted, with stock dividend returns by both Production Credit Association and the Land Bank. PCA paid an eight percent dividend to holders of "A" stock, while Land Bank returned a four percent paycheck.

Jay Rush, manager of the York Farm Credit Service, departed from the usual format of a business operations summary to instead update members on financial uncertainties facing the Farm Credit system.

He noted that, while Northeast agriculture remains relatively stable, due to the diversity of commodities and steady land values, other sections of the country are facing greater economic difficulties. And that problem is currently being reflected in the financial stability of a few sister Farm Credit districts.

West and Midwestern areas are suffering the most problems, with the Spokane, Washington, Farm Credit district especially hard hit

"Farm Credit is funded by investors," Rush reminded the farmer-stockholders. "And if one is in trouble, the rest chip in to help meet their obligations."

While he admitted just a touch of "bitterness" in seeing local funds possibly used to help stabilize the Spokane district's finances Rush emphasized the necessity of maintaining investor confidence in the entire Farm Credit system. Otherwise, investors in the cooperative's bonds will demand higher returns, thus driving up the cost of interest to all member-borrowers.

In response to member questions, Rush detailed the possible cost to the Baltimore district of \$1.1 million as their share of assistance to the Spokane indebtedness. Last year's Baltimore District's earnings were at \$20 million. At that assistance level, which represents about an interest rate of about .03 percent he predicts no change in interest rates, with the District absorbing the cost.

However, if Spokane assistance levels were raised to put the ailing cooperative district in a better financial operating position, cost could possibly add as much as a half-percent to local interest rates.

Looking further ahead, Rush predicted more sweeping changes in the structure of the lending cooperative, with possible mergers

Farm Calendar

Saturday, March 23

Elizabethtown Young Farmers Awards Banquet, Hostetters Banquet Hall, Mt. Joy. For tickets, call 653-1567 or 367-1521.
High Tensile Fence Workshop, K and B Fence Co., Route 741, Lampeter; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information call 717-464-4193.

Angus on Parade Sale, Farm Show Complex.

of the PCA and Land Bank entities, alternative lending packages for large farm operations and part-time producers, and a different approach to the established one member-one vote system.

Two new directors were elected to the Production Credit board through the series of annual meetings, while a pair of incumbents was returned for three-year terms on the Federal Land Bank board.

Newly-elected to PCA board terms are Robert Smyser, York and L. Earl Gross, Fawn Grove. Smyser is a partner in Smyser's Richlawn Farms, with 80 registered Holsteins and 650 acres of cropland owned and rented. L. Earl Gross and his sons farm 915

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Tuesday, March 26

Eastern Peach Pruning Conference, Leesport, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Penn Ag Industries "credit management" seminar, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., General Sutter Inn, Lititz.

Annual Meeting, Pa. Ag Safety Council, Penn State Sheraton.

Wednesday, March 27

Exclusive IV 332nd Garden Spot Sale, 11 a.m., Guernsey Barn.

Thursday, March 28

Lancaster Progressive Pork Producers Seminar, "Increasing profits through genetics." Lancaster Farm and

Home Center, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Pa. Holstein Association Show and Sale, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.

Fulton Grange 66 Fashion Show of Dutchmaid Fashions, Fulton Grange Fire hall, 7:30 p.m. Admission \$1. Public is invited.

Friday, March 29

Performance Tested Bull Sale, Meat Animal Evaluation Center, State College, noon.

Annual Meeting, Pa. Simmental Association, Autoport Restaurant, State College.

Pa. Jersey Cattle Club Annual Meeting, Tioga County; continues tomorrow.

Saturday, March 30

Lancaster Farm Toy Show sale and auction at Lancaster Treadway Inn.

Wednesday, April 3

Lancaster Conservation District monthly board meeting; Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.

Agricultural Employment Management Seminar, Dickinson School of Law, Carlisle.

