

NOW IS THE TIME

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To Be Aware of Fungus Problems on Wheat

Dr. Elwood Hatley, Extension Agronomist at Penn State, is quite concerned about the build up of the various fungus problems on wheat. Spot checks in fields around Lancaster and Harrisburg indicate a considerable amount of Septoria or leaf spot. Also, powdery mildew was above normal levels and leaf rust was detected on quite a bit of wheat. This indicates that even if the weather gets too warm for mildew to develop, the rust will thrive under these conditions. Another problem that has occurred is the development of the mildew race that is capable of attacking the Tyler variety of wheat. In spot checks around Lancaster, the disease is present on Tyler wheat.

Growers should check the plants and be prepared to spray if necessary. For powdery mildew and leaf rust the fungicide Bayleton is effective, but for leaf spot, Dithane M-45 or Manzate will be needed. Follow label directions for proper application rates.

To Prepare for Soybean Planting

First, we need rain because soybeans should be planted in warm, moist soil. After we get some rain to moisten our soil and

the soil temperature is at least 62° F, soybeans can be planted.

Many people planting soybeans will either end up with too many plants per acre or too few. This will happen because they will use the pounds per acre philosophy which won't work with soybeans. Because the soybean seed differs greatly in size, this also means they differ greatly in number of seeds per pound. For example, one variety may average 2,100 seeds per pound while another variety averages 3,100 seeds per pound. So, if you plant a bushel of seed with 85 percent germination, that's a difference of about 48,000 plants per acre.

The only way to plant beans is by seeds per foot of row. If a grain drill is used, three beans per foot of row is plenty. If a 30-inch corn row is used, eight to nine beans per foot is about right.

To Be Careful With Weed Sprayers

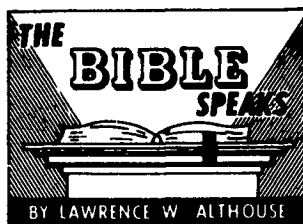
Farmers and gardeners should keep in mind that many weed killer materials will stick in the equipment for years. This is especially true of all forms of 2,4-D. Sprayers in which this material has been used should be kept only for weed spraying, or very carefully

cleaned. The use of very hot water and household ammonia (1 part ammonia to 100 parts of hot water) is suggested; this mixture should be allowed to stand for 24 hours in the equipment and then sprayed out. Extreme care should be taken with this cleaning job after each herbicide treatment.

The safest method is to have separate sprayers for weed killers. Over the years I can recall a number of tobacco and vegetable plants that have been damaged because a sprinkling can or sprayer used last fall was not thoroughly cleaned.

To Check Farm Ponds

Many ponds are showing both algae and weed infestation build up and as the weather gets warmer, these pond plants will begin to grow. Permits are needed in order for the owners to use the proper material, and to protect livestock downstream from the pond. Before any ponds are treated in Pennsylvania with any chemical or fertilizer, the owner should obtain a permit from the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. Application for the permit is available from the Pennsylvania Waterways Patrol Office or from our Penn State Extension Office.



THE FAULTFINDER FINDS GOD

May 5, 1985

Background Scripture: 40-1 through 42:6.

Devotional Reading: Job 34:10-28.

"Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty? He who argues with God, let him answer it." (Job 40:1).

God has listened patiently while Job has made his impassioned argument against the justice of God. But now, it is Job's turn to listen while God asks question after question which Job cannot answer:

"Have you an arm like God, and can you thunder with a voice like his?"

"Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook, or press down his tongue with a cord?"

"Who has given to me, that I should repay him?"

One after another come the mighty questions from God and suddenly Job begins to realize his limitations. He is not God. He is the creature rather than the Creator. "Behold," he says, "I am of small account; what shall I answer thee?"

REMEMBER WHO

When we suffer—physically, mentally, spiritually—like Job we find God saying to us, "Just remember who you are!—the creature, not the Creator." "It

seems strange for God to have to remind us of that but that is precisely what many of us need. We keep thinking we are God—unconsciously, of course. We act as if the world is being borne on our two shoulders alone. But, occasionally we run into a situation that no amount of clear thinking, hard work and persistent belief can put it within our control. We have human limitations and sometimes it is only when we suffer that we are reminded, like Job: "Therefore I have what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know."

The problems, therefore, with challenging God as Job did, is not that it is wrong or irreverent, but that we have neither the wisdom nor the capacity for wisdom to handle the answers to those questions.

FROM HEAR TO SEE

And when Job begins to realize and acknowledge his human limitations, he is at last open to experience the presence of God. It is in a moment such as this that God becomes very real to us—sometimes for the first time in our life. Like Job we can then make that great confession: "I had heard of thee by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees thee" (42:5). At this point, his intellectual beliefs are forged into a faith that does not have to have all the answers.

So, his experience of suffering became the opportunity through which God was able to change his life. God does not cause our suffering, but comes to us in the midst of it and gets our attention. He reminds us who we are and also who he is. In short, the faultfinder finds God.

April milk totals increase

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diversion program kept production from rising sharply, as it normally does in springtime.

The economists said little emphasis for the increase could be placed on the end of the dairy diversion program, since few producers in the region participated.

"There are other factors at work here," explained Dever.

Most said favorable grain prices have helped create a more favorable dairy economy.

"They're just feeding and feeding and feeding," said Lackawanna County Extension Director Tom Jurchak. And considering current prices for feed, he said, "if I had corn, I'd be better off feeding it to a cow."

Jurchak also indicated that he thought the increases in Order No. 4 reflected producers' continued recovery from the drought of 1983.

"Because of the drought, Order No. 4 is out of step with the rest of the nation," said Jurchak, and thus conclusions about the overall direction of dairy production should not be drawn from local statistics.

The number of dairy producers has dropped significantly since last year, said Mathis, but production per producer has, for the most part, managed to compensate for the loss of dairymen.

In Order No. 4, for instance, the number of producers has dropped about four percent, while production per farm has climbed enough to project a two percent rise throughout the year.

All the dairy economists said they expect the oversupply to have a negative impact on prices in the coming year.

Although the average price Mathis projects for milk should almost be the same as last year's, the month-to-month projection should almost be a "mirror image" — not a pretty sight for producers, he adds.

Last year's prices started low and rose throughout the year, as market supplies began to diminish. This year, however, prices have started high but are expected to drop continuously, ending up about \$1 per hundredweight less in December than they were the preceding January.

Mathis said he expects prices to continue dropping until there is enough "price pressure" on producers to "rebalance supply with commercial demand."

And though some experts say that the \$11.60 price support figure expected to go into effect this summer may well bring about that balance, Mathis said he's not sure the process will occur as rapidly as

the Reagan Administration would like.

He cited one USDA study that indicated a much more rapid "balancing" would occur at a \$10 support price. Specifically, government "removals" or support purchases would decline sharply to about three billion pound equivalents in 1987, down from the 8.5 billion pounds purchased last year.

NEDCO

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within the past few weeks, also will test another allegation — that the lowered prices have not been passed on to consumers.

Officials from the other organizations declined to discuss the nature of the negotiations among the co-ops. However, one did say that the efforts involve assumption of subsidiary or unprofitable services only... and do not concern a merger between Syracuse-based NEDCO and another dairy organization.

NEDCO's two major problems, officials said, involved unprofitable fluid milk contracts with several New York handlers, and a "non-performing asset" in its Fultonville plant.

The situation came to a head the end of last year, when supplies got tight, and the federation had to purchase milk on the spot market

Farm Calendar



Saturday, May 4

Apple Blossom Festival, South Mountain Fairgrounds.

Md. Sheep and Wool Festival, Howard County Fairgrounds; continues tomorrow.

Northeast Pa. Mountain Dairy Goat Association meeting, 1 p.m., in Madison Township Firehall.

Two-day BioAg seminar, Lancaster Farm and Home Center. Annual Spring Sale; Pa. Shorthorn and Polled Shorthorn Breeders Association, Mercer 4-H Park. Berks County dairy princess

pageant, Berks County Ag Center, Leesport.

New Castle 4-H Fashion Revue, 7:30 p.m., Glasgow High School, Newark, Del.

Saturday, May 11

Western Pa. Sheep and Club Lamb Sale, Mercer Co. 4-H Park; Mercer; 6:30 p.m.

Monday, May 13

Pa. Dairy Sanitarian's and Laboratory Director's Conference, Keller Conference Center, Penn State; Continues through May 15.

to meet its contractual obligations. Earlier this year, NEDCO's financial situation became critical when many of the organization's milk checks to producers were returned.

A number of producer groups and member co-ops threatened to bolt, and many served notice that they intended to leave the federation.

NEDCO officials this week said that most have decided not to leave, at this point, and membership rolls have stabilized.

At a regularly scheduled meeting held this week, NEDCO's board of directors reportedly was

considering a number of financial options, including some of the aid proposals from other cooperative organizations.

Observers said they did not think any substantive decisions on major issues would be reached at the two-day parley, and indicated that immediate action would not be forthcoming for several more days.

The New York contracts, which informants said left little margin for error, apparently are one of the major stumbling blocks precluding a marriage with one of the other co-op groups.

"Under perfect conditions, it might have been all right," said one source. But in the changing market situation of the past two years, the long-term contract has been one of the major causes for NEDCO's financial woes.

Another source also said he doubted any likelihood of a merger, noting, "they can't bring anything to the table except bad news." He also said he expected the controversial Fultonville plant to be closed "imminently."

Currently faced with a surplus situation, NEDCO announced that it is reopening its balancing plant at Middlebury Center, PA. The plant was scheduled to begin condensing, drying and churning on Wednesday.

