

NOW IS THE TIME

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To Obtain The New Lancaster County Soil Survey

The 1985 Lancaster County Soil Survey is complete and ready for distribution. This is a valuable document that lists all the soil types, descriptions and slope of the land. The aerial photography lists each farm, buildings, highways and streams in the county.

The Soil Survey can be used by various segments of agriculture, industry, transportation, real estate and water quality units. Farmers will find it very useful when completing soil testing forms or if they plan to build a manure disposal pit.

The last Soil Survey was published in 1959. The new issue will show any changes due to erosion and drainage. Also, new technologies used in testing and mapping give a more complete survey.

These Soil Surveys are available, at no charge, at the Extension Office, Soil Conservation Service and the Soil Conservation District Office. Stop in and pick up a copy for your personal use.

To Combine At The Proper Speed

We are finishing up the barley

harvest, and in a few weeks, the winter wheat crop should be ripe. Both of these crops require mechanical harvesting equipment and good weather. From the amount of volunteer grain seen growing after barley and wheat harvests, it is evident that too much grain is being left in the field.

I am concerned that high combine speed might be part of the reason that grain is thrown out with the straw. The manufacturer recommendations should be followed in this respect. Also, there are times when the grain may be too tough to combine. This is often the case when the crop is quite weedy. The important thing is to have the combine adjusted to the best of your knowledge and then drive at recommended speed. You'll need every bushel of grain and every bale of straw from your crop.

To Plan For Summer Alfalfa Seeding

It may seem early to be thinking about the late summer seeding of alfalfa; however, in another month this practice will be at hand. One of the first steps in planning for this legume seeding is to have the soil

tested. If it needs lime, then the application should be made as far as possible ahead of the seeding. Alfalfa requires a neutral soil (7.0 pH); too many farmers are still guessing at the amount of lime needed.

The investment in seed and labor is going up; therefore good advance planning is most important. In this part of the state the summer seeding should be made in late July through the first ten days of August. That time will be here shortly.

To Consider Lightning Rods On Shade Trees

How many times have you driven past a pasture field and noticed dozens of cattle or other livestock grouped together under one or two large trees. During severe thunderstorms, livestock will gather under these trees. If lightning strikes the tree, many of the animals will be killed. For the protection of valuable livestock, we suggest that some of these individual trees be fitted with a lightning rod system. If there is a woodlot in the pasture, or a number of trees, it may not be practical

Price down, output up

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for dairymen to cull further, because prices for culled cows are quite low, he said.

Part of the problem, said Mathis, is that dairymen feel they have little effect on the market as individuals. And no matter what prices are doing, the more milk a producer has to sell, the more money he'll bring in.

"Many of them feel that cutting back is just a faster way to bankruptcy," he said. "So they react as rational businessmen and produce more milk."

Government purchases of milk and milk products, he estimated, will be around 10.4 billion pound equivalents, up significantly from last year, though still far short of the record 16.8 billion in 1983.

The additional purchases will increase the pressure in Congress for further price cuts or some sort of program to cut the revenue outlay from the dairy support program, the experts said.

They cautioned that price cuts eventually will slow down production, though the Congress and Administration may quickly grow impatient with the progress.

"We're producing more than we ever did, that's the head of steam we're building up," said Jurchak. "And I'm not sure that (the \$11.60 price) will be enough to slow them down."

Jurchak cautioned against

bringing the price down too rapidly, lest an overreaction — and severe shortages of milk — result.

"Given enough time, \$11.60 would correct it (the surplus)," said Andrew M. Novakovic, assistant professor of agricultural economics at Cornell University. "It's just a question of how much time the Congress and the Administration are willing to give."

Novakovic and Jurchak both said they expect additional cuts in the support price, possibly by October and most certainly by April if the present surplus continues.

Both mentioned \$11.10 as a likely target and \$10.60 as a real possibility, as long as there are no sudden increases in grain prices or consumption.

Whatever happens, the dairy industry faces a skeptical, if not hostile, Congress, as it goes through the motions of writing permanent farm legislation, the experts said.

"It makes it very difficult to write appropriate dairy price legislation in the 1985 Farm Bill," said Mathis.

If anything, adds Jurchak, the delays in Congress may help, as the industry begins to cut back in response to the new price reduction.

If Congress does not have a new

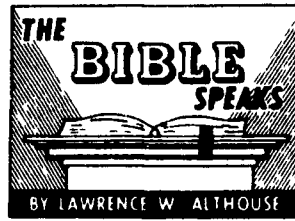
Farm Bill in place by Oct. 1, it will have to write stop-gap legislation that may well be influenced by any progress made in slowing the production surpluses, Jurchak said.

So, he said, the industry may have a chance to redeem itself before Congress actually gets around to writing both the interim and the permanent legislation.

No part of the process is easy, in that the dairy industry requires quite a bit of flexibility in price supports and is extremely dependent on what's happening in other parts of the farm economy.

Rising grain prices, for instance, can drive up the cost of dairying significantly. Or, conversely, falling grain prices can make it extremely attractive to produce large quantities of milk, as has happened recently, said Mathis.

"It's been tough to adjust our industry because the rest of agriculture is so impaired," concluded Mathis.



THE NET
YOU CARRY
June 30, 1985

Background Scripture:

Micah 7.

Devotional Scripture:

Micah 7:14-20.

Micah lived in a terrible era. Wherever he looked there was crime, violence, dishonesty and conspiracy. Our response to his gloomy view may be that in every age these factors are present to some degree.

But Micah's pessimism goes beyond that: "The godly man has perished from the earth, and there is none upright among men; they all lie in wait for blood, and each hunts his brother with a net" (7:2). Not only does Micah find the people of Israel doing evil, but he finds them doing it diligently. "The prince and the judge ask for a bribe," says Micah. In other words, at all levels of society evil is rampant.

PLACE NO TRUST

The result, says Micah, is a society in which distrust is the norm, not the exception. "Put no trust in a neighbor, have no confidence in a friend; guard the doors of your mouth from her who lies in your bosom" (7:5). In short, trust no one, because no one is trustworthy.

The reason for this climate of distrust is that life in Israel has become largely a matter of "every

man for himself." When one is concerned only with "looking out for number one," truth, integrity, and honor are in short supply. If I alone am important to me, then in order to protect and further myself I can and will do anything I must. No ties, no relationships can be allowed to get in the way of what I want, of what I think is good for me: "the son treat the father with contempt, the daughter rise up against her mother, the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house" (7:6).

Micah might well be describing the day in which we live as well as his own. A recent report revealed that the majority of violent acts in our society are against family members and friends. Similarly, many crimes of larceny are committed by people who are known to their victims. As in Micah's day, sometimes our enemies are within our own homes and neighborhoods.

HUNTING OUR BROTHER

The key to all of this evil, according to Micah, is selfishness, wanting and pursuing what others have (or seem to have). "Each," says Micah, "hunts his brother with a net."

Before you reject Micah's analogy, consider that there are many different kinds of nets with which we may hunt our brother. There is the net of deceit that is often regarded as "just plain good business." There is the net of "cutting corners," of manipulation (which is often called "finesse"), of expediency, exploitation, and scores of other harmful practices that are justified for the sake of "getting what's coming to me."

Look into our own hands. Is that a net you're carrying?

Farm Calendar

Saturday, June 29

Bedford County Beef Preview Show, Bedford Fairgrounds. Phone Bedford Extension - 814-623-5148.

Berks Wool Pool, Reading Fair Livestock Building, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Annual Meeting, Pa. Red Cherry Growers Association, Holiday Inn, Gettysburg.

Wednesday, July 3

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

Sunday, July 7

Pride of York County Day and Silent Auction, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Indian Steps Museum, Airville. Summer Youth Program, Pa. Association of Farmer Co-ops, Juniata College; Continues

through July 10

Youth Camp, Pa. Farmers Union; contact Cheryl Cook at 717-234-4311; Continues through July 11

Wednesday, July 10

Semi-annual Delegate Meeting, Milk Marketing, Inc. Ohio State University.

Thursday, July 11

Annual Meeting, Pa. Inland Fertilizer Association, Landisville Experimental Station.

Friday, July 12

Pa. Angus Breeders Show, Centre Hall.

Saturday, July 13

Pa. Polled Hereford Association Field Day, Falklands Farm, Schellsburg Phone: 814-733-2818.

CCC permitted to reject excessive rates

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has amended its offer rate system for contracting grain storage space

by giving the Commodity Credit Corporation the right to reject offers by warehouse operators when the handling rates exceed acceptable

levels, according to a USDA official.

"If a warehouse operator makes an offer for either receiving or loading out rates that is excessive, CCC can reject the offer and terminate the storage contract, unless the operator subsequently submits acceptable rates," said Everett Rank, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Rank said that acceptable ceiling for handling rates will be determined by using rates charged by other elevators in the area or region.

