

NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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To Check Barn Ventilation

Proper ventilation of all types of livestock and poultry buildings is very important during the winter months. When the warm, moisture-laden air is not moved out of the area, we usually see condensation on the windows, walls and ceilings. This is especially true with little or poor insulation. Exhaust fans will move the air out and protect the building.

This time of year the barns are filled with livestock; these animals give off large amounts of body heat. When condensation occurs it is a sign that some attention is needed; in most cases it is a problem with ventilation or with insulation.

To Review Your Will

With the provisions of the Economic Recovery Tax Act back in 1981, major new benefits are available in the estate planning area. The new laws prompt three major actions. First, you should thoroughly review your will; second, examine how you own

property; and third, check for application of the new tax laws to determine savings.

Everyone should have his will thoroughly reviewed if it hasn't been done since September 1981. One major point of the review should be to determine ways of applying the new unlimited federal estate tax marital deduction.

Any amount of property can now be transferred tax-free to a spouse at death. However, this option should be considered carefully. Medium and large estates may pay more tax if the entire estate is passed to the surviving spouse. Consult your attorney about making necessary changes.

To Prepare For Slippery Conditions

Slippery roads, walks and steps will be a common hazard in the next few months. Many people use salt too freely in cutting the ice; it may get the job done but also may injure nearby turf or shrubbery. I'd suggest the use of sand or sawdust. These materials will make the surface safe without possible injury to vegetation. In

areas without any vegetation, salt will give good results.

Along our main highways there is some evidence that the constant use of salt is inflicting injury to nearby trees and shrubs. Don't let this happen to your favorite tree, shrub or the turf lining your walk.

To Protect Orchard Fruit Trees

While most of the hard work for fruit growers may be over, it is that time of the year for mice, deer and rabbits to get busy.

On young trees preventative measures are necessary. The commercial heavy plastic wrap works well on small trees. Another very effective way to keep rabbits and deer from chewing branches and buds is to "paint" tree trunks and limbs with a mixture of five to six pounds of powdered rosin in one gallon of ordinary alcohol. Simply uses a whitewash brush to apply the material. The rabbits and deer find the rosin too gritty, and aside from an occasional nip, will usually leave the tree alone. Be sure to apply the material to a height well above the reach of the deer.

FmHA backs off check rule

BY JAMES H. EVERHART

WASHINGTON — Farmers Home Administration has clarified a ruling that presumably would have required all borrowers to receive agency approval before cashing checks for routine sales of livestock, grain or equipment.

The initial ruling, which would have required checks from all farm sales to be issued jointly to the borrower and FmHA, apparently resulted from a misapplication of agency regulations, according to Jack Hertzler, head of FmHA's Farmer Programs.

It received widespread circulation during a recent training meeting of FmHA field personnel, Hertzler said, adding, "Most folks

came away from the meeting with the understanding that all checks had to be issued jointly."

The various FmHA field offices had not been notified of the clarification at press time, but Hertzler said he expected the new guidelines to be available early next week.

In effect, the new plan will allow borrowers to continue their operations with only major sales of stock requiring FmHA involvement.

"We don't want to impose any undue burden on farmers," Hertzler said. "In most cases, the new guidelines will not require checks to be issued jointly."

In effect, the rules will require that borrowers establish a plan of farm sales each year, with those that will reduce farm equity being clearly designated. Any sale proceeds that would require reduction of the borrower's debts will have to be jointly issued to FmHA, Hertzler said.

"As a rule, we should be able to let farmers conduct their business normally," said Hertzler.

According to FmHA spokesman Joe O'Neill, the review of farm sales has been required because of an increase in the number of problem borrowers who have sold off assets piecemeal, leaving little equity left to pay off remaining loans.

Delaware honors bumper sticker contest winners

DOVER — Secretary of Agriculture, William B. Chandler, Jr., today announced the winners of the Delaware Department of Agriculture's first Farmland Protection Bumper Sticker Contest. First place winner was 10 year old Kristi Herbst, a student at the Gunning Bedford Middle School in Delaware city.

"Her entry, 'Provided by Nature, Protected by Man', conveyed the message of farmland preservation in a concise, but very articulate way", Chandler said.

Herbst's prize, a \$50 savings bond, will be presented by Delaware Governor Michael N.

Castle this afternoon at 3:30 p.m. in his office in the Carvel State Office Building. Attending this ceremony will be representatives of Delaware's Senate and House Agriculture Committees, officials of the Department of Agriculture, as well as the students', parents, teachers, and school officials.

Rachel Bullock of Smyrna Elementary School in Smyrna was the second place winner and third place went to Chris Corbin, a student at Frederick Douglass Stubbs Elementary School in Wilmington.

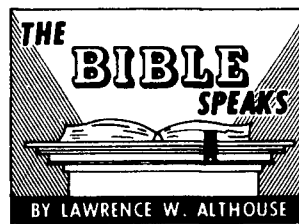
Kristi's entry will be used by the Department's Aglands Preservation Section in our 1986 cam-

paign to educate Delawareans about the need to preserve the State's prime farmlands", Chandler noted. He added that this farmland contributes over 500 million dollars annually to the State's economy.

The contest was open to all elementary school children in grades 1 through 6. Thirty-one schools participated with a total of 945 entrants.

NOTE TO EDITOR:

Attached is a list of school winners. Persons desiring black and white photographs of the presentation should contact Kevin C. Donnelly at 302-736-4811 or 800-282-8685.



DOES JESUS
LIVE HERE?
December 29, 1985

Background Scripture:

Mark 4:26-32; Matthew 22:34-40;
Luke 18:9-14.

Devotional Reading:

Mark 4:26-32.

Somewhere many years ago, I read of a man who would knock on doors and ask: "Does Jesus live here?" No matter what response he would get, that was all he would ever say: "Does Jesus live here?"

You can imagine the different kinds of responses he encountered. Some people were deeply offended at the question and told him so. Others were annoyed at being disturbed and slammed the door in his face. Some tried to engage him in a discussion of their religious views. A few found the man's question an occasion for reflection and self-examination.

SELF-EXALTING

The man didn't want to discuss religious ideas, nor was he interested in which church the various people attended. All he wanted to know was whether these people were living with Christ in their lives and homes.

When we are concerned with God's reign in our lives, we are pretty much dealing with what Jesus termed the "Kingdom of God" or the "Kingdom of Heaven." Some day, Jesus promised, God will rule this earth completely and fully. In the meantime, what he seeks to do is to rule in the lives of each and every one of us. If he is Lord of our lives, to that extent his Kingdom is established in our midst.

And how can we be sure that he

is reigning in our lives? Jesus actually gave us some pretty important tests. In the parable of the tax collector and the Pharisee who went to the temple to pray, Jesus makes it clear that, if God reigns in us, then we will humble, not exalt ourselves before him. If our relationship with Christ causes us to feel pride, as the Pharisee did, then Christ does not really dwell within us.

AND YOUR NEIGHBOR

Jesus never gave his disciples a clearer explanation of what it means for God to live in us than when he said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and...mind. And...you shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:37-39). If any person does this, he will be living the Kingdom on earth, for God in Christ will be ruling his life.

Have you ever stopped to think what kind of world this would be if from one end of it to another people would master those two commandments? They wouldn't need any more theology, creed, or confession of faith. If only one page of the Bible were to survive for future generations, this page would be sufficient to provide the world with the reign of God in all its fullness.

And no one would need to fear being asked: "Does God live here?"

Farm Calendar

Saturday, January 4

Lebanon County Beef and Swine Roundup, Lebanon Fairgrounds.
Cumberland County Extension Farm Financial Management Workshop, Extension Building,

Carlisle, 9:45 a.m.

Friday, January 10

Pa. Association of Conservation District Director's "Year of the Forest" Forum, Grantville Holiday Inn, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Delaware seeks Master Gardeners

NEWARK, DE — The Delaware Cooperative Extension Service is accepting applications for its Master Gardener program, which will be launched next spring in New Castle County. Similar volunteer programs are operating successfully in 38 states across the country.

Participants need not be county residents, but they must be able to work in New Castle County after they complete their training. They will receive 45 hours of intensive horticultural training in return for

an equal number of hours of volunteer service to be spent helping the extension service increase gardening awareness, solve gardening problems and serve the gardening public.

"If you have gardening experience either professionally or as a hobby, enjoy gardening, would like to help your community, want to learn more about gardening or are interested in developing new extension horticultural programs, then master gardening is for you," says University of Delaware extension horticulturist Sue Barton, organizer of Delaware's pilot program. Eventually she hopes to see it expand to all three counties in the state.

The first Master Gardener training course will begin March 3, 1986, in Townsend Hall at the University of Delaware in Newark. Sessions will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Deadline for applications is January 14. For more information write the New Castle County Extension Office, Townsend Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19717-1303. Or call 451-2506.

