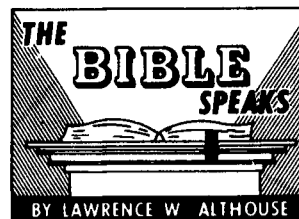


NOW IS THE TIME

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WHAT ARE YOU WORTH?

January 5, 1986

To Be A Better Manager

As we look ahead to 1986, it is difficult to realize just what major problems will confront the average farmer. It remains to be seen what affect the new Farm Bill will have on agriculture. However, it is evident that profits will be more difficult to realize and some very good management will be needed to come out in the black.

Today's farmer must be a better businessman than his forefathers. A farmer must be able to handle labor, money, equipment and keep up-to-date on all regulations and cultural practices.

A farmer must be able to plan ahead and to be organized with all the responsibilities. A farmer should practice good public relations with neighbors and respect the rights of others.

Good management is just as important in farming as it is in any other industry or business. Work at it and it will pay dividends.

To Attend Farm Show Events

Time has a way of creeping up on us, and here it is...nearly Farm Show time. The Farm Show will open again this year on Sunday, Jan. 12 and close on Friday, Jan. 17. The theme for the exhibition is

"Pennsylvania Agriculture — Growing Ideas For The Future."

Well, we are proud of our agriculture because of the hard work of our family-operated farms. And here is an opportunity for our farmers to show the consuming public the high-quality products raised on our farms today.

Active farmers should recognize the many educational meetings and banquets that are held during the week. Many of these are state-wide organizations and should have economic benefits to the producer.

To Be Sure Ice Is Safe For Skating

Farm ponds make great ice skating rinks...that's so long as the ice is strong enough. The general rule on thickness is that two inches will support one person and three inches will support a line of people.

Thickness is not always the most accurate guide though. Other factors include color and age. New ice is stronger than old ice. And clear blue ice is stronger than slush ice. Be especially cautious with ponds that are either fed by a spring or have a fast moving current. The thickness of these ponds will vary considerably. The most important thing is to

have rescue equipment at the pond site. It is wise to have a straight ladder, rope and inner tube nearby — it could save a life. I would urge owners of farm ponds to use caution in permitting skating unless the ice is thick enough.

To Move Farm Equipment Safely

As farm equipment has gotten bigger and taller, a new hazard has appeared. Cabs on larger tractors or combines may approach heights equal to ground clearance of high voltage electrical lines. Accidental contact between equipment and the electrical line can be fatal for the operator.

This is especially hazardous where long spans cross fields, creating considerable sag at mid-span. CB antennas or other additions to large equipment are almost certain to create a potential hazard of contact with the electrical line.

Wide equipment, such as planters or tillage equipment, folded up for transportation, can also reach heights that are dangerous. Also be careful when moving portable elevators. Instruct all operators and other workers about this hazard and how to avoid danger.

Background Scripture:

Matthew 10:28-31, Mark 2:23 through 3:6.

Devotional Reading:

Luke 13:10-17.

They used to say that the human body, calculated strictly on the basics of the value of its various chemical components, is worth about 97 cents. Of course, with inflation being what it is today, I'm sure that that figure would have to be recalculated upwards.

Someone else might respond to the question of "What are you worth?" with a statement of capital net worth—a reflection of what they own. Another measure of your value might be indicated by the face amount of an insurance policy your employer might take out on you to insure against the premature loss of your value to the company.

OF MORE VALUE

Of course, your value to some people cannot be stated in dollars and cents. No amount of money can compensate a husband or wife for the loss of a spouse, or children for the loss of a parent. Your worth to some people is incalculable.

So it is with our value to God. One of the greatest revelations about God which comes to us from Jesus is the assurance that each of us is valued by God. Lots of people do not find it difficult to believe in a Creator who brought the universe into being and guides it to some predetermined destiny. What they find difficult is the concept that the Creator of the solar systems and the galaxies could possibly be aware of, let alone care about individuals.

Yet, this is the precise assurance Jesus give us: "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's will" (Matthew 10:30). If God is aware of and responsive to so small and frail a creature as a sparrow, how much more must he care for each and every one of us?

This one teaching alone turns belief in a God into a belief in the God who is revealed in Jesus Christ. For the God that Jesus reveals to us is God our Father and not just God the Creator. It not only tells me something about God, but it also tells me that this world in which I live is in essence a benevolent one—or in the jargon of the computer, "user friendly." It is not just a cold, impersonal cosmos, but a universe that despite its harsh appearance, is essentially founded upon love.

MADE FOR MAN

It also tells me something about myself—and yourself, too—for it reassures me that in God's eyes I count. I cannot comprehend why it should be so, but God loves me—as he loves you, as he loves my enemies. In fact, he loves us so much that everything else he has created is for us. Even the rules and regulations, including the scientific laws which often seem so impersonal and even hostile, are created for us and our enrichment. The sabbath, the Ten Commandments, the Golden Rule—all of these and more were given, not to penalize us, but to enrich our lives—all of us.

That's how much each of us is worth in God's eyes.

NFO head hits Farm Bill; calls for joint bargaining

CORNING, IA. — National Farmers Organization President DeVon R. Woodland, of Blackfoot, Idaho, commented, "The 1985 farm bill sets up producers of the major commodities and small business operators for continuation of the economic chaos now prevailing in most farm communities.

"Even our best mid-range owner-operators who depend solely on farm income are in deep trouble if they are carrying some debt. They need more cash flow to survive.

"This bill reduces CCC loan rates that support market prices. It implements the view that we can underprice other export competitors in the world market. Most of those countries subsidize their commodity movements, making it nearly impossible for our surplus production to move at prices profitable for the American producer.

"The bill contains a few commendable provisions that will encourage soil and water conservation. There are provisions discouraging more sodbusting and plough-up of wetlands.

"The dairy title of the bill authorizes a whole-herd sell-off program but establishes assessments on all milk marketed

over the 18 months of the program to pay for this provision. The bill establishes new federal check-offs on all hogs and cattle going to market to pay for advertising and promotion. It is estimated that these provisions will cost livestockmen \$150 million a year. They have no opportunity to vote on these promotional check-offs until about two years after the check-offs are effective.

"Although the Congress undertook to shore up cash income by maintaining deficiency payments on grains for two years, these too, will decline during the last three years covered by the bill. It is quite

likely they will also be reduced in the first two years as a result of other new budget-balancing legislation known as the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings bill.

"The net effect of this bill will be public criticism for its high cost, increasing assistance for the exporters and central banks engaged in foreign lending, and more bankruptcies among our independent farmers and businessmen. It is now obvious that farmers must organize their own bargaining effort to control their marketings and cash flow if they are to survive in farming."

Democrats slate ag meeting

HARRISBURG — Democratic candidates for United States Senate will address Rural Democrats during Farm Show week in Harrisburg. Both Auditor General Don Bailey and Congressman Bob Edgar will be on hand to share their views on agricultural issues and to meet rural voters.

The event is part of the Annual Meeting of the Penn Ag Democrats taking place at noon in Dining Room C of the Farm Show Complex on Monday, January 13th. The Penn Ag Democrats is a statewide

political action committee of farm and rural democrats organized for the betterment of agriculture. The group is recognized by the State Democratic Committee and has actively participated in campaigns since 1980.

Reservations for the meeting, which includes a buffet luncheon, are available through the organizations vice-president Warren Lamm. He can be reached at (717) 787-7083 (day), (215) 678-8326 (evening) or by writing RD #5, Box 371, Sinking Spring, PA 19608.

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.

Monday, January 6
Farm Business Agreement Meeting, York Extension Office, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, January 10
Pa. Association of Conservation District Directors "Year of the Forest" Forum, Grantville Holiday Inn, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, January 11
Farm Show opens; continues through Friday. (See complete list of events in C section).

Sunday, January 12
American Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Tuesday, January 14
Pa. Dairyman's Association Annual Meeting and Banquet, Penn Harris Motor Inn, Harrisburg. For tickets contact John Blyholder at 717-938-5404.

Egg production down two percent

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania's November 1985 egg production totaled 407 million, more than two percent below the November 1984 production, according to the Pennsylvania Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. The average number of layers on hand during November 1985 was 18.9 million, the same as a year ago. Egg production per 100 layers was 2,155 compared with 2,209 for November 1984.

U.S. laying flocks produced 5.66 billion eggs during November, down one percent from the 5.74 billion produced a year ago. The total number of layers during November averaged 280 million, one percent fewer than the 283 million a year ago. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,020 compared with 2,022 eggs for November 1984.

