



OPINION

Wise To Do Likewise

If you are having a traditional Thanksgiving meal for 10 this week, it will cost you \$26.61 according to a survey conducted by the American Farm Bureau Federation. Led by higher prices for turkey and sweet potatoes, the nationwide survey reveals the holiday feast will cost 8.5 percent more than last year.

Among the items included on the menu in the survey were: turkey and dressing, sweet potatoes, peas, rolls, cranberries, pumpkin pie with whipped cream, a relish dish and beverages. The price for a comparable meal in 1987 was \$24.51. In 1986, a comparable meal cost \$29.75.

Of course, the cost is only relative. In many countries around the world, not only do they not have the resources to buy food, they don't have the food to buy.

When the Pilgrims sat down to dinner with their Indian friends more than 350 years ago, we're sure they had no idea how great this nation's farmers would become. Today our farmers and supporting agribusiness not only feeds the nation, they help feed the world.

Even in a year of drought as this one has been, our ag industry calls forth from our farmland more food than we can possibly eat. Our harvests of wheat, corn, soybeans, fruits, vegetables and the food products like cereals and dairy products keep us well fed with excess to export.

At this Thanksgiving season, it's time again to reflect on our abundant blessings and on our heritage. Our ancestors endured great hardship to come to the place of that first Thanksgiving feast. And while, according to the national survey, our feast this year may cost us a little more, in comparison to those earlier times it really hasn't cost us much at all.

So, like the first celebrants of a feast of Thanksgiving who sat around their bountiful tables and bowed their heads in gratitude to the Lord for all that had been bestowed upon them, we would be wise to do likewise.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Tighten Farm Security

Rural crime is a serious in many parts of our country -- Lancaster County included. We need to take every precaution to protect our property from theft and vandalism. This is more difficult on a farm because of the number of buildings and exposed items. A good place to start is to install automatic lights; also a good watch dog will signal the arrival of a stranger or something unusual happening.

Another preventive measure is to keep garages and workshops under padlock to make it more difficult for illegal entry. Farm machinery should be stored under cover or near farm buildings at all times. It's a good idea to engrave all tools and equipment with your driver's license. Social Security numbers are non-retrievable so your driver's license number is a much quicker identification. Neighborhood watch is very successful -- notify your neighbors if you see something unusual.

To Use Only Needed Fertilizer Elements

Fertilizer prices continue to be high, so we suggest that farmers act now to hold this production cost in line. A complete soil test now will reveal the exact fertilizer elements that are needed in certain fields for certain crops. The idea of applying the same amount of the same analysis of fertilizer each year might help but is not the best way to obtain the most from your fertilizer dollar. Some fields may have sufficient amounts of potash, or be in excess of some elements; in these cases it is not economical to apply more of these same elements. Testing in the county over the last several years has revealed that some fields will require no additional fertilizer. So with high fertilizer costs we suggest that farmers do soil testing and then apply only what is needed for each crop, and be sure to include the nutrient value of manure when calculating your needs.

To Observe Withdrawal Time

The use of drugs and antibiotics are needs in many cases to protect the health of livestock, poultry and dairy animals. Their use is quite common in many farm operations. However, the misuse of these materials is where trouble can start. When these items are administered to animals or poultry, the

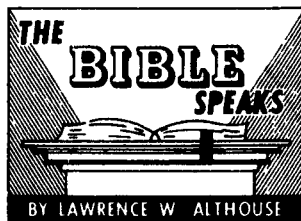
owner should read the label for directions relating to withdrawal periods for milk cows or time between treatment and slaughter for meat. It's only good common sense that those regulations be followed. To short-cut the period of time is only jeopardizing the product and the entire farming business. Don't take chances with our valuable food products. Also, keep accurate records of all treatments. In case excess tolerance is found, it might save time and money.

To Consider Feeding Soybeans to Cattle

High producing cows require a lot of energy and protein, but the amount they consume is limited by the amount of dry matter they can eat, according to Glenn Shirk,

Extension Dairy Agent. Therefore, dairymen usually increase the amount of concentrates fed while also observing cows' minimal needs for forages and fiber. Another alternative is to replace some of the concentrate mix with oil seeds, such as soybeans, which are rich in protein and energy. Beans are also high in oil, and too much oil can impair rumen function and digestion. Thus, intakes should be limited to about 5 pounds per cow per day. Heat treated beans are more palatable and contain more by-pass protein which can help meet protein needs of high producers.

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THE BOND November 27, 1988

Background Scripture: Jeremiah 31:27-34.

Devotional Reading: Jeremiah 32:36-41.

"The most important single teaching of Jeremiah," is what Biblical scholar James Philip Hyatt says of Jeremiah 31:27-34. And for once, there seems to be no scholarly disagreement with that assessment. This passage and the proclamation of the New Covenant is not only the climax of Jeremiah's thought, but also one of the great mountaintops of the Old Testament. The concept was so important that later the Bible would be divided into two parts, the Old and the New Covenants--or Testaments.

So, what is a covenant? If you look in a Bible dictionary you'll find that there is no one word that serves as an adequate synonym. It is a concept that is easier to explain than it is to define. Essentially, a covenant is an agreement and one can't help of thinking of a contract, a legal document that defines the promises made by two or more parties. Yet, the covenant that God made with the people of Israel was more than just a contract of promises. In a sense, the Old Covenant described the relationship between God and his people: the Lord would be their God and they would be his people. Perhaps we might say that the covenant was the bond between God and the people of Israel.

BROKEN BONDS

Unfortunately, the Old Covenant didn't seem to work very well. The reason: the covenant was dependent upon both parties--God and his people--keeping their respective end of the agreement. But again and again Israel broke the covenant and ended the relationship. In fact, the old Testa-

ment is a continuing story of the numerous breakings of the covenant by the people of Israel.

So long as the covenant was dependent upon Israel fulfilling its part of the agreement, it was doomed to failure and disappointment. That's where Jeremiah came in with a radically new concept. Since the Old Covenant didn't work, Jeremiah prophesied that God would bring into being a New Covenant: "Behold the days are coming when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant which they broke" (7:31,32).

The people who listened to Jeremiah must have been shocked when the prophet spoke of God establishing a new covenant with Israel. For centuries the Hebrews had lived by the covenant that was based upon the giving of the Ten Commandments. How would this covenant be "new"?

First of all, this covenant will be written, not on stone tablets, "but I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts" (31:33b). No more will the people need to rely upon written codes, instead their lives will have an inner motivation and power that will lift them beyond the mere fulfillment of written law.

Secondly, it will be a personal bond, each person relating to God directly. "And no longer shall each man teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest..." (31:34).

Finally, it will be a covenant of forgiveness. What the new covenant will depend upon will not be the faithfulness of the people, but the forgiveness which God offers them for their sin: "for I will forgive their iniquity and I will remember their sin no more" (31:34).

And that is the covenant by which we live even today. That is the bond that unites us with God.

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Farm Calendar



Saturday, November 26
Mercer County Holstein annual meeting, Mercer extension office, 8 p.m.

Monday, December 5
Lancaster County DHIA Red Rose Annual Banquet, Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland, 11:30 a.m.

"Locking In Feed Prices For 1989,

Soybean Meal", Kent County Extension, Chestertown, Md., 12:30-2:30 p.m. Runs through December 8.

Animal Patents International Symposium, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. Runs through December 6.

Maryland Farm Bureau Annual (Turn to Page A31)

FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

Editor:

Here is a non-fictitious letter to the National Secretary of Agriculture written by a farmer who's been around for a while.

Dear Sir:

Let's take a look at the other side of the big picture. We go back

a number of years when a check from the United States government was not as commonplace as it is today. We go back to the time when the extension department of the land grant colleges taught us that in order to preserve our valu-

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TO BE SAFE, YOU SHOULD PERIODICALLY CHECK OVER YOUR VEHICLES



FOR EXAMPLE: A SMALL CRACK IN YOUR BRAKING SYSTEM COULD LEAD TO...



A BIG CRACK IN THE BACK OF YOUR GARAGE.

