



OPINION

The Christmas Story

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

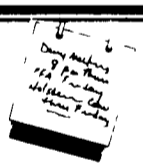
And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning the child. All they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, December 22

Sunday, December 23

Monday, December 24

Tuesday, December 25
Merry Christmas!

Wednesday, December 26

Thursday, December 27

Friday, December 28

Saturday, December 29

Sunday, December 30

Monday, December 31

Tuesday, January 1, 1991
Happy New Year!

Wednesday, January 2

Penn State area tax meeting, Shadow Brook Dairy Barn, Tunkhannock.

(Turn to Page A36)

Farm Forum

Editor

Having just read article P.F.A. speaks out on galt collapse by farm leader Keith Eckle. I as a dairyman and farmer have some questions or comments I would like to make.

1. Mr. Eckel says the E.C. was stealing U.S. farm income and markets. If these prices are so high with their subsidy why can we not

compete with our much lower prices.

2. Why should any country cut their farmers prices to match ours or have their farming community in the dire straits ours is in today.

3. Is bringing their commodity prices down to ours where the cost of production sometimes is not even covered going to help

(Turn to Page A31)



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Take Inventory

An area of our operation that is very important at this time of year is inventory. With the close of the year most of our farmers close-out their records for the year. This means that if you are going to have a Farm Analysis made you should take inventory of all your supplies.

You'll need this to do any kind of farm analysis, because the amount of grains, hay and other supplies that are in storage will vary from year to year, and unless this is taken into consideration, you cannot have an accurate analysis of your year's operation. So, as accurately as possible, record the amount of hay, grains, feed, seeds and fertilizer that are on hand. This is the first step in an accurate farm analysis.

To Evaluate Cows Need For Niacin

It is impossible for high producing cows to consume enough feed to support the amount of milk they produce in early lactation, according to Glenn Shirk, Extension Dairy Agent. Thus in an effort to sustain their will to milk, high producing cows must draw upon their body reserves in early lactation. For this reason, it is very important to feed cows properly during their dry period so they will be in proper condition at calving time.

Researchers have found that niacin (vitamin B₃) can help cows mobilize their body reserves and reduce the risk of ketosis, which is the excess production of ketones. They accomplish this by feeding 6-12 grams of niacin per cow per day starting two weeks before calving and continuing for 100 days after calving.

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. During this time of year 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.

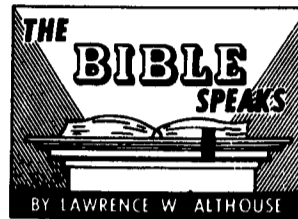
To Protect Orchard Fruit Trees

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 preventive measures are necessary. The most effective way to prevent rabbit damage is to use tree trunk guards on individual trees. Cylinders of 1/4-inch mesh hardware cloth 18 to 24 inches high, set into the ground surrounding the tree, will help prevent gnawing damage to the main stem. The "self-wrapping" plastic wrap also does an excellent job.

Another way to keep rabbits and deer from chewing branches and buds is to "paint" tree trunks and limbs with a mixture of 5 to 6 pounds of powdered rosin in one gallon of ordinary alcohol. Simply use 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.



DARE WE LET THE CHILD GROW UP?
December 23, 1990

Background Scripture:

Luke 2:1-20; John 10:1-18.

Devotional Reading:

John 1:1-14.

About 40 years ago, the late Rev. Frederick W. Meek, then Minister of the Old South Church in Boston, preached a sermon that was entitled, "Dare We Let The Christmas Child Grow Up?" I remembered that fine sermon a few minutes ago while I was in the midst of silently complaining that the Christmas narrative in Luke 2 had been linked with a very unchristmas passage from John (10:1-18) by the Committee on the Uniform Series. The idea of treating the baby Jesus in the manger of Bethlehem with the adult image of the Good Shepherd seemed incongruous.

Then, I, remembered Meek's sermon buried for four decades in a book on my shelves (*Monday to Friday Is Not Enough*, Oxford University Press, 1951). I remembered that Meek said that Christians were constantly trying to keep Jesus in the stable, because a child in the manger is much easier to manage than a grown-up Jesus on his way to the cross. The infant Jesus, like all infants, cannot say anything to us. He can only coo or cry. But the adult Jesus that grows up from the infant in the manger can call and challenge us as Jesus does.

WHAT'S THE GOOD NEWS?

So, it may be difficult for us to merge these two images — the baby in a manger and the Christ on a cross — but neither has any meaning for us until we can hold on to both of them. What makes the birth of Jesus so celebrative is

not just that a very special child is born, but that that child will also become the Good Shepherd who assures us, "I lay down my life for the sheep" (John 10:15).

Actually, the passage from John 10 about the Good Shepherd helps us to better understand the celebrative theme of Luke's birth narratives. The "great joy" of which the angels spoke is to be found in the quality of love that later was to be manifest in this Christ child grown to manhood. That is what makes it such "good news of a great joy"! The child in the manger is but a promise of the "Savior who is Christ the Lord."

CAMPAIGN PROMISES

Otherwise, Christmas just puts us in the position of being disappointed again. How often we celebrate a fellow human being who promises to right our wrongs and meet our deepest needs, only to find that we have been tricked and betrayed. As Jesus put it, "He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees..." (John 10:12). What makes the Christ child born in the manger such "good news" — unlike our contemporary messiahs — is that he makes good on his promise: "I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me...and I lay down my life for the sheep" (10:14,15). This is no mere political campaign promise, certain to be broken as soon as the votes are counted. It is a covenant that Christ kept and still keeps.

So, the image of the good shepherd is most appropriate at Christmas. That is why Christians interpret a familiar Advent test, Isaiah 40:11 as a fulfillment of the prophet's promise: "He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms...and gently lead those that are with young." In the Gospel of Luke, it is only to the "shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night" that the angelic proclamation is given.

(Based on copyrighted Outlines produced by the Committee on the Uniform Series and used by permission. Released by Community & Suburban Press.)

Lancaster Farming

Established 1955

Published Every Saturday
Ephrata Review Building
1 E Main St
Ephrata, PA 17522

— by —

Lancaster Farming, Inc.

A Steinman Enterprise

Robert G Campbell General Manager
Everett R Newswanger Managing Editor

Copyright 1990 by Lancaster Farming

