

Lancaster Farming

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, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Holy Bible



Now Is The Time
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Do Cash Flow Budgets

Alan Strock, extension farm management agent, gives us five reasons to do a cash flow budget for your farm business.

First, to show the seasonal timing of cash in and out of the business. This will help you determine when you can pay your bills early and receive an early payment discount.

Second, to show lenders your business' loan repayment capacity especially in times of transition.

Third, to see if sufficient cash exists for the business to support a capital investment or should you borrow money for the capital investment.

Fourth, to measure your business' ability to meet its obligations, that is, cash expenses, debt repayment, taxes, etc.

Fifth, to determine the timing and limit of your line of credit.

To Properly Inflate Tractor Tires

Proper inflation of tractor tires can save the operator money according to Dr. Randall K. Wood, Ohio State University. The revisions of the recommended pres-

ures for radial ply tires made since 1992 are saving operators fuel and time in the field.

The new lower pressure will create a slight bulge in the tire that makes them look underinflated. In general, research has shown that the correct radial tire pressure can save 10 to 20 percent of the cost of operating a tractor.

In one study, the new lower pressure recommendation saved 36 gallons of fuel and 3.6 hours of work time in a field test on a 280-acre farm in Ohio. In this study, 18.4R46 dual radial tires were inflated to the new pressure recommendation of 8 psi compared to 14 psi.

For the correct inflation of any tire, you should check with the tire manufacturer. In addition to saving fuel, the lower pressure will extend the useful life of the tire and reduce the amount of soil compaction.

To Study The Nutrient Management Regulations

The proposed nutrient manage-

ment regulations will soon be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

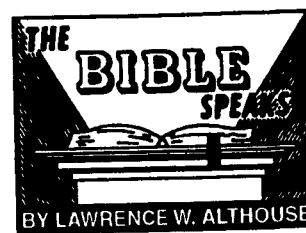
These are very important regulations that will effect all poultry, livestock, and dairy farmers and many crop farmers. These regulations will be the framework for how nutrients will be applied to cropland.

There will be a series of meetings over the next three months to explain the new regulations and receive public comment. It will be very important to have farmers comment on the regulations and ask questions.

Because of the impact these regulations will have on farming, it will be very important for all farmers to become knowledgeable of them.

Read everything you can and attend as many meetings as possible. The more informed you are about these regulations, the better you will be able to make comment and be in compliance.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "It is wise to remember that no success or failure is necessarily final."



THE QUIETEST CHRISTMAS
December 24, 1995

THE QUIETEST CHRISTMAS

December 24, 1995
Background Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-9; Luke 2:1-20

Devotional Reading: Hebrews 8:6-12

When God discloses some great new thing

He does so with fanfare and drum;

But when God sent His only son to earth,

*Only silent shepherds heard Him come.**

Does it ever strike you that, for all of its great significance for our world, for all the noise and pomp of our celebrations, Christmas in its essence is a supremely quiet event. And the first Christmas was the quietest of all.

There were no TV cameras or newspaper reporters, no official delegations from city hall, no canned carols or civic decorations. The event took place, not in the convention center or even a downtown church, but in a lowly stable. The principal characters were not celebrities, but humble travelers far from home. The "anointed one" came, not as a charismatic leader, but as a newborn baby and they laid him in a manger, not to "make a statement," but "because there was no place for them in the inn."

SILENTLY, SILENTLY

It was not the VIPs of Bethlehem that came to pay homage to the newborn child, but simple shepherds keeping watch over their flocks on nearby hills. To be sure, Luke tells us that an angel brought them the good news and "suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God..." Presumably the shepherds heard this "heavenly host," but, if they did, they didn't say much about it. The next day there was no report of it in the local papers.

In 1868 Bishop Phillips Brooks wrote his carol, "O Little Town of Bethlehem," and gave poignant testimony to the serenity of the incarnation:

*How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts*

The blessings of His heaven.

But this Christmas was no less real and earth-shaking because it was relatively silent. In fact, the power of Christmas seems to be bound to its quietness. It is the still, small voice of God revealing to his children the best good news the world has ever heard: "I bring you news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord." Note: the newborn Savior is given by God to "all the people," not a chosen few.

THE HINGE OF HISTORY

The late Ralph Washington Sockman has said, "The hinge of history is on the door of a Bethlehem stable." All the hopes and aspirations of all human beings are enfolded in this baby Jesus who grew up to be Christ the Lord — a savior who would bring peace to the world, justice for the poor, equity for the meek, and judgement for the wicked. (If that's what Christmas really means, are you sure you want it?)

Isaiah's vision — the wolf dwelling with the lion — is a beautiful one, but many of us would settle for human reconciliation and peace. It is not beyond possibility, for every year Christmas demonstrates to us, however imperfectly, that peace on earth is God's plan for us and anything that is in His plan is within our grasp — if we let the "little child" lead us.

Let us be silent

That we may perceive

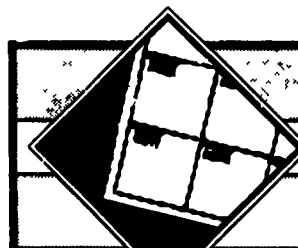
The silent sounds

And the unseen sights,

Let us be still that we know

*The wonders of this holiest of nights.**

(*From a Christmas carol, "Let Us Be Silent," by Lawrence W. Althouse.)




FARM CALENDAR

- Saturday, December 23
- Sunday, December 24
- Monday, December 25
Merry Christmas!
Lancaster Farming office closed.
- Tuesday, December 26
- Wednesday, December 27
- Thursday, December 28
- Friday, December 29
- Saturday, December 30
- Sunday, December 31

- and 11.
Lancaster County Tobacco Show, Farm and Home Center, youth 9 a.m., adult 10 a.m.
- 4-H Tractor Safety Program, Lebanon Valley Ag Center, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 3
Berks County Dairy Day, extension office, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Dairy Managing For Success Program, Hoss's Steak and Sea House, Gettysburg, also Jan. 17.
- Water rights meeting, Lancaster Farm and Home Center.
- Thursday, January 4
Northeast Regional Tomato meet-

- 1996
- Monday, January 1
Happy New Year!
Lancaster Farming office closed.
- Tuesday, January 2
Solanco Young Farmers meeting, Reproduction of the Future, Solanco High School.
- Computerized Farm Financial Records Workshops, Centre County Extension, Bellefonte, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., also Jan. 4, 9,



FARM FORUM

Editor:
There are few times in life when dreams actually become reality. In this holiday season I'd like to share with you one of those times.

Six months ago a husband and wife brought to my attention the need to address the issue of farm safety for kids. They were con-

(Turn to Page A11)

Lancaster Farming

Established 1955
Published Every Saturday
Ephrata Review Building
1 E. Main St.
Ephrata, PA 17522
—by—
Lancaster Farming, Inc.
A Steirman Enterprise
Robert G. Campbell General Manager
Everett R. Newswanger Managing Editor
Copyright 1995 by Lancaster Farming