Opinion

Farm problem: We're too good

For more than a decade, one of the favorite themes of most politicians and many metropolitan editorial writers has been "Save the family farm." It's also popular to oppose "the corporate farm." Both sound good, but have little connection with reality.

What corporate farms there are, in the truest sense of the word, are mostly found in Florida and California, producing citrus fruits and vegetables.

But in our part of the world, and that goes for all of the midwest, there are all kinds of "family farms" which are corporations. And the president and chief executive officer is likely the oldest guy driving the combine, or the tractor pulling an eight, 12 or 16-row planter, while the chairman of the board is canning tomatoes, driving a grain truck to the elevator, or taking the kids to a 4-H meeting.

The same politicians, usually those who are "out" and hoping to get "in," also berate the administration for having a "poor farm program." They thus hope to place the blame for a farm economy which in recent years has been lagging, with low prices for products and sagging sales of new equipment.

Actually, the entire farming economy, both farmers and equipment manufacturers and their dealers, is in trouble because they're too good.

The cause is over-production. Overproduction brought on by scientists and engineers, mixed with the energy of the American farmer.

For 60 or more years, scientists, at our agricultural colleges and in private industry, have devoted their lives to research. Research on nutrition, to make hogs, cattle and poultry grow larger, quicker and on less feed; produce more pounds, produce more milk, and more eggs per year; and to resist disease.

The latest is embryo transplants, where the best cows, instead of one calf per year, can produce hundreds through embryo transplants, even spanning oceans. The same researchers have constantly developed seeds to give better yields per acre, and fertilizers to do even better.

And while all this has gone on, the engineers at the factories have developed machinery which goes wider, faster, farther and in greater comfort, for the plowing, planting and harvesting operations.

In truth, American Agriculture has become its own worst enemy. It is too good, too big, too efficient, even as compared to family farms.

Sixty years of research and plain human energy have enabled it to produce far more than this country can use. Unless farm agencies and government step in and limit overseas markets which were lost by the Carter administration's grain embargo more than four years ago, farmers will continue to be in trouble for that simple reason. — Fairbury (Ill.) Blade

For a merrier Christmas

All of a sudden it's full steam ahead for Christmas. Main Street is sporting holiday lights, the tree is up on the courthouse balcony, wreaths adorn doorways of homes and churches and an occasional carol comes over the airways.

Some earlybirds already have greeting cards in the mail.

And in less than three weeks it will all be over.

It's too early to tell, but some local merchants are cautiously optimistic about moving more merchandise this Christmas season, what with burley prices holding fairly steady, and up considerably from last year.

There are also those who feel nothing short of a new factory in Santa's pack will spur the future economy. They cite the mobility of our society to shop discount stores as the major obstacle.

Certainly it's a factor. You can't blame people for wanting the best value for their money. And when those attractive ads flash across the screen or fall from your daily newspaper, it's no wonder dollars find their way out of the county and into the coffers of neighboring merchants.

Too, many big purchase items just aren't available here. And when people shop for them elsewhere they are likely to take advantage of well advertised sales and promotions...especially the Friday after Thanksgiving, the biggest single sales day of the year.

Personally, I'd like to see two things happen here next year.

Old bird

This old eagle, once perched over stage in Carlisle High School auditorium, is now in NCES cafeteria. — Photo submitted

Here Abouts
...with Emily A. Wolf

1, Have a city-wide sales promotion, such as the Chamber of Commerce sponsors every year, **but start it early enough, (say Thanksgiving week or the week before) to intercept a few of those dollars. It will take planning but it can be done, but not at the last minute.**

As this is written, several merchants had no idea what store prize they would offer in connection with the shop-at-home promotion and give-away Dec. 21. That should have been decided weeks ago and promoted heavily by now. It wasn't.

2, Stress the importance of shopping at home through an effectively worded campaign that leaves little doubt that every dollar spent elsewhere stays elsewhere. It won't change everyone's buying habits but if it causes everyone to buy one more gift here at home, that would be a start.

You'd be surprised how many dollars that would put in the cash registers...dollars that affect the livelihood of all of us who make our living in Carlisle and Nicholas County.

This type of promotion needs to start early in 1985. After all, people do shop other than at Christmas.

Small towns have to scrap for every penny the consumer has to spend. They also have to make consumers glad they traded at home. It takes a little extra effort and competitive pricing but the alternative is even bleaker times down the road.

To anyone who has waded through this missive, may I suggest a sure way to raise your spirits. Buy a present at a local store and see how good it makes you feel. Tell 'em Hereabouts sent you!

Seriously, we welcome any comment along these lines.

*****

Here 'n' there — The odds of two Carlisle families meeting for breakfast at the same Holiday Inn in Marietta, Ga. without pre-planning are one in a thousand. So you can imagine how startled Billy and Jayne Parker were to hear, "Hello, Parkers" as they sipped their coffee during a recent trip to see relatives in Tifton.

The voice belonged to an equally surprised Hurst Frey who spent several days in Florida...

Everett Fryman has a different way of keeping his pooch, Little Bit, warm these December days. When he leaves his home on Sugar Creek Road he simply buttons Little Bit under his jacket, with its head sticking out just below Everett's neck. Different, huh?

Alpha Brierly and Charles Rawlings were among those in to renew subscriptions during the past week, neither of whom I've seen in many a moon. Alpha is sending The Mercury as a Christmas gift to the Floyd Wills in Falmouth. Welcome, Wills.

*****

Congratulations are certainly in order for **Gary Dotson, Rocky Young, Jody Duncan and Pat Pope.** They are the four young men the CEC honored at its annual football awards ceremony in Lexington Saturday.

Dotson, along with his coach **Ben Pumphrey**, was on hand for the presentation by CEC president **David McMillan**. As noted elsewhere this week, Gary, just a junior, was named to the conference's first team as an offensive end. Rocky, the lone senior, was named to the second team as an offensive back. Juniors **Jody Duncan**, center, and **Pat Pope**, running back, were selected to the honorable mention team. Way to go, guys!

This marks Ben's last trip to the awards ceremonies, since he's retiring as a coach (25 years) and teacher (30 years) come June 1985. Or is he?

Knowing his devotion to and love of high school sports, it wouldn't surprise me in the least if he did some kind of coaching somewhere in these parts, not too far down the road. It would be a shame if he didn't.

*****

A pet peeve of mine is the mis-pronounciation and misspelling of the word congratulations. For some reason, the young generation has replaced the letter "t" with a "d."

Which brings to mind the sudden passing of Mrs. Adalene Shepherd. No student of hers ever spelled it incorrectly, I'll bet.

Her long-time colleague, **Mrs. Marjorie Wilson**, predicts that there was never a child the veteran teacher (of some 50 years, all told) ever taught who failed to learn how to read, write and spell.

"She worked so hard so her students could learn the basics," Mrs. Wilson recalled this week. "She was a dedicated person who was so special to me."

To a lot of people, we suspect.

EAW

'Dear Santa'

Dear Santa,

I would like to have Luv-A-Lot Bear, My Pretty Pony, Crystal Barbie, Purple Soaks, Cabbage Patch doll, Gizmo and Barbie's Silver Vette.

My brother Wes would like to have a radio, Care Bear, Gizmo, John Deere tractor, wagon, Boy Cabbage Patch doll and Battle Cat. We are trying to be very good. We will leave something under the tree.

We love you,
Danita and Jared (Wee) Livingood
Rt. 3, Carlisle

Agree or not
Tax changes affect schools

by S.C. Van Curen
Frankfort — President Reagan's proposal for restructuring the federal tax system is an important factor that Kentucky must take into consideration in planning its education improvement program to be submitted to the 1986 legislature.

The only thing about the education program it will affect in Kentucky is revenue. This includes our own tax structure as well as the amount of money received in federal grants.

According to the latest report of the Kentucky Education Association, the federal government provides 19.51 percent of the total spent for education in the state.

There has been considerable discussion in the Reagan inner circle for cutting out or reducing some of these entitlement programs.

ON THE PLUS side could be a considerable windfall in tax revenues to Kentucky in federal changes in the income tax system. Early suggestions last week mentioned a reduction in personal income taxes at the lower and medium income levels while boosting federal income from the higher incomes as well as corporate and business taxes.

For example, corporate income taxes presently produce roughly $200 million per year, while individual income taxes produce $700 million.

An early proposal would increase the personal exemption to $2000 each for the low and middle income brackets while corporate taxes may be increased as much as 24 percent at the higher levels.

Since Kentucky allows subtraction of the federal taxes as an expense in computing state income taxes, a reduction in personal federal income taxes would mean higher net earnings to be taxed by the state to the tune of an additional $1000 per person.

The federal proposal will not have any effect on the studies now underway from which will come recommendations to the governor for improving the educational program in Kentucky.

IT WILL TAKE Gov. Martha Layne Collins and Schools Supt. Alice McDonald some time to prepare the proposals for improvement. When all of this is completed, the financial package or bills can be prepared for submission to the 1986 legislature along with the educational improvement package.

After all, the cost is necessary, but the most important long-range element is improving the education opportunities in this state.

Gov. Collins asked the 1984 legislature for an increase in taxes amounting to $324 million to finance her proposals for improving education, but the proposals were too vague and had not been sold to the taxpayers.

This is a mistake that the two committees along with the governor and Ms. McDonald are trying to correct with the studies which should enable them to present a concrete package the taxpayers can understand.

THE ONE RELIABLE factor in the entire picture is no one can anticipate what Congress will do with the tax structure, if anything. History tells us it may get more complicated instead of simpler.

After all, the full year of 1985 is available for Congress to let us know what the tax structure might be for 1986 when the Kentucky legislature meets in its next regular session. This alone would seem to cancel any possibilities of a special session for education.

Down Memory Lane
Country ham sells for $1,200

Thursday, December 10, 1964

At a meeting held Monday by the Nicholas County Memorial Library Board of Trustees, they were informed by Miss Margaret Willis, state librarian, that their application for a federal grant for construction under the Title II of Public Law 597, 84th Congress has been approved by the board of review at a meeting held November 30. The approval is for a total program of $92,718.39 or federal funds of $50,320.77 and local funds of $32,378.62 with anticipated construction cost of $79,000. The building will be built on a site on North Broadway.

At the recent seventh annual Nicholas County School dinner held December 2 at the Nicholas County High School, Mrs. William Giller was honored with a retirement gift of brass candlesticks. The gift was presented by Miss Robbie Harney from the Nicholas County Teachers Organization.

Mrs. C. Wayne Shumate and Mrs. Margie H. Wilson have been appointed to a statewide committee for clean-up and beautification by the Kentucky Department of Natural Resources.

According to a newspaper release Thursday, December 3, it was announced that Nicholas County High School was accredited by the Southern Association of Schools.

R.L. Talbert, member of the Nicholas County Board of Education, submitted a resignation dated November 5, 1964 in which he stated the resignation was to be effective immediately. The Board considered the resignation at its regular meeting December 3, but failed to take any action on the acceptance of the resignation.

First prize of $75 was awarded the Carlisle Junior Woman's Club float Saturday night in the Jaycee Christmas Parade; second prize of $50 went to the Carlisle Elementary PTA float and third prize of $25 went to the Carlisle Community Woman's Club.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Mitchell, Ewing, a son, November 30 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. James Hamm, a daughter, Margaret Ellen, December 1 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Roy Ratliff, a son, Roy Jr., December 3 at Nicholas County Hospital.

MARRIED — Miss Linda Diane Clayton and Jimmy Gayle Vanlandingham, December 4 by the Rev. Frank Simons. — Miss Carolyn Faye Morris and Arthur Buzzard, November 27 by the Rev. Frank Simons.

DIED — Clarence Burke, 75, December 4 at home on Cane Run Road. — Dr. Henry Clay Blount, 84, December 2 at Central Baptist Hospital, Lexington. — Mrs. Nora King Vickers, 75, widow of Robert G. Vickers, December 5 at Bourbon County Hospital. — Mrs. Mary Jane Green, 73, wife of Morton H. Green, December 3 at home in Mt. Sterling.

Thursday, December 14, 1944

Last Tuesday a program was presented by the Drama Club on behalf of the Sixth War loan drive. At this time special recognition was given to the service flag of Carlisle High School. The flag, dedicated May 8, 1942 had 92 stars but today it holds 389 for men and women in every branch of service serving all over the world.

Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Harper of Main Street received a message from War Department Friday that their son, Pfc. James T. Harper is missing in action since June 6, 1944 in the European area.

Fifty-two certificates and emblems were presented members of the Tip Top 4-H Club of the East Union School, November 11, 1944 to those members who had completed a year's club work.

Roy Dalnell was given emergency treatment at Haywood Hospital, Maysville, Monday morning for minor injuries suffered when the truck in which he was taking a load of tobacco to the Maysville market overturned near the top of the Flemingsburg hill five miles from Maysville.

An auction at the Lyric Theatre last Thursday night netted $1,202.50 for the Sixth War Bond Drive according to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wyrick, owners of the theatre. Cleary Fightmaster was the auctioneer and articles for the sale were contributed by citizens of Carlisle and Nicholas County. A country ham sold for $1,200.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Caswell, a son, Stanley Wayne, December 11. — To Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Woodall, a daughter, Barbara Sue, December 11 at Johnson Memorial Hospital.

MARRIED — Miss Dannabel Palmer and S-Sgt. Ray H. Myers, last Saturday in Versailles

DIED — Miss Frances Wilma Powell, 36, Ewing, December 14 at home. — Dr. Turner Harris Brown, 63, Tuesday in Harrison Memorial Hospital, Cynthiana. — Mrs. Elmer Clinkenbeard, 78, Monday at home.

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Op-Ed page

A class act . . . how to kill a turkey and survive in today's butterball society

A Louisville, Ky. middle school teacher got himself in hot water for a class project he created. In social studies class, he was trying to teach his eighth grade youngsters how pioneers lived.

One phase of the project was to take a turkey, kill and dress it and serve it for dinner, with the kids doing all the work, including chopping off the gobbler's head.

So the kids stretched Wally Wally the turkey out on a log, held his head in place with strings and the official executioner lopped off its head with an axe. Called an "enrichment project," the kids were all volunteers and seemed to enjoy being enriched this one time.

But parents and Humane Society officials were appalled, saying it was cruel to let the children kill the turkey. The teacher maintained it was a valuable lesson. "Butterballs just don't come that way," he said. "They have heads and necks and move before processed for stores."

Russ Metz

I guess we are supposed to insulate our children about this fact of life. Or maybe opponents are afraid the experience will turn all the girls into Lizzie Bordens.

The kids at least had a choice, whether or not to have their personalities warped. I didn't. When Mom told me to go out and kill a rooster for Sunday dinner, I either did it or got my rear end warped. I valued my rear end more than my personality at that time. My personality was expendable. My rear end wasn't.

I did have some redeeming advantage over the Louisville kids. Our big Rhode Island Red roosters had a nasty habit of attacking me every time I walked through the barn lot. They must have sensed I was a coward and would sail in and try to spur me on the legs.

Come time for me to provide meat for the Sunday table, I went about selecting a lord with a vengeance. I'd walk out in the lot and the first old rooster to come barreling in to fling me and his neck I pounced on the chopping block with a corn knife.

"Don't get blood on your britches," Mom would caution. it that teacher had been an old tuner, he would have also offered the art of wringing a bird's neck as an alternative to the chopping block. That would have given those city parents and Humane folks apoplexy.

What you did was grab the lord by the head and, using his body for weight, give it a couple of good circular jerks, like cranking up a Model T Ford. Then you threw the victim under a wash tub.

That way it didn't disturb the other chickens — or yourself if you were squeamish — as it flopped around with a broken neck. And if you felt the least bit guilty, it helped to hide your crime.

The "finger licking good" slogan came only after you could keep your fingers out of the messy pioneering business.

—RM—

An item by J. Holt Byrne, writing in the West Virginia Hillbilly, reported thatfifty years or so ago a candidate turned in this report to state officials in lieu of a formal expense account of his campaign:

"Lost 1,349 hours sleep thinking about election.

"Lost two front teeth and a lot of hair in a personal encounter with an opponent.

"Donated one beef, four shoats and five sheep to county barbecues.

"Gave away two pairs of suspenders, four calico dresses, $5 in cash and 15 baby rattles.

"Kissed 126 babies.

"Put up four stoves.

"Walked 4,076 miles.

"Shook hands with 9,508 people.

"Told 10,101 lies and talked enough to make in print 1,000 volumes, attended 16 revivals and was baptized four times by immersion and twice the other way.

"Contributed $50 to foreign missions and made love to nine widows (five grass, four sod).

"Hugged 49 old maids.

"Got dog bit 39 times and lost the election by 353 votes."

—RM—

Remember in high school health class when they told us to eat a lot of eggs as our bones would be strong?

Eat a lot of eggs, they tell us today, and you might have strong bones, but it won't do you any good because eggs cause cholesterol and cholesterol causes heart attacks and heart attacks cause funerals.

Milk was also supposed to be good for your bones and youth teeth, but milk also causes cholesterol. So, you have a choice: weak bones and rotten teeth or the Last Ride.

Coffee can cause cancer. So can eating bacon. Eating breakfast used to be a pleasure. Now you eat it only at your own risk.

There is also second-hand smoke to worry about, saccharin, drunk drivers, satellites falling on your head, killer bees, walking catfish, nuclear leaks, staying out in the sun too long and getting skin cancer, interest rates going up, acid rain coming down and sweat glands under our arms and ring around the collar.

You have to worry about stress and asbestos and preservatives and the Middle East, Afghanistan, Central America, Libya, the Russians, the Chinese, Moonies, terrorists and standing too close to your microwave oven.

If that isn't enough, there isn't a mechanic alive who can fix one of our fuel injected, computer-controlled cars. And, as you stand on the highway waiting for a tow truck, there's a good chance a thug will step out and do you in.

Cheer up, things could be worse. When they develop baldhood brain transplants and all the politicians there will be then. Or when they transplant the reproductory organs of a rabbit into humans.

—RM—

Some travel truths the American Automobile Association never disclosed:

— The day you want to drive the longest distance will be the day you encounter the most road construction.

— Gas is always cheaper at the first station you see after filling up.

— If you turn right when your wife says you should have gone left, you will learn she was correct when you stop to inquire 29 minutes later.

— When this happens, she will remind you that she told you so.

— The night you have to unload every bit of luggage will be the night you are assigned a room on the fourth floor of a motel without an elevator.

— When you return home and are asked what kind of mileage you got, someone with a similar car will say he got a lot more.

— When you tell someone where you went on vacation, he will ask if you saw such-and-such and when you say "no," he will say he and his wife saw it and that you shouldn't have missed it for the world.

— About the time you haven't seen a highway patrolman for hours and decide to speed up, you will see one and he will see you.

— A guy who returns from any trip of more than 1,500 miles and claims he's not tired is lying.

— If a couple of old war buddies check into a motel to engage in some drunken remembrances and revelry, you will be assigned the room next to theirs.

Onward, upward.

Adalene Shepherd

Continued from page 1

The ceremony was attended by former pupils at Blue Licks, East Union, Pygua, Burbka, Carlisle and Nicholas County Elementary schools. It was also held in connection with the ground-breaking for the new playground at the Community Action Center, where she later taught for 10 years in the Head Start program.

Congressman Larry Hopkins and city and county dignitaries were on hand to pay tribute to the former teacher.

Mrs. Shepherd attended Midway College and received bachelor's and master's degrees from Georgetown College.

Services were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Mathers-Gaunce Funeral Home, with burial in the Carlisle Cemetery. Contributions may be sent to the Nicholas County Christianity Action Playground, P.O. Box 11618, Lexington, Ky. 40576.

Advertisement

Vacation Tours Chartered By Richard Jett

Many fun-filled tours have been chartered by Richard Jett of Campton, for people who would like to enjoy a low-cost vacation but would like to leave the pressure driving to someone else. His 1985 schedule is listed below:

Spring Grand Ole Opry Tours, March 16-17, 23-24 and 30-31.

Daytona Beach, Florida, June 10-15.

Opryland Music City, June 25-26.

Washington-Gettysburg-Mt. Vernon, July 8-12.

Rocky Mountain Tour, July 21-Aug. 2.

Kentucky State Fair, Aug. 14.

Opryland Clogging Contests, Aug. 18-21.

New England Fall Foliage, Sept. 23-Oct. 6.

Smoky Mountain Fall Foliage, Oct. 14-18.

Fall Grand Ole Opry Tours, Nov. 2-3, 9-10 and 16-17.

Additional tours can be arranged for civic and social organizations, clubs, schools and churches. These tours are filled with pleasant and interesting features that are programmed for your enjoyment.

The tours include lodging accommodations and transportation in ultra-modern motor coaches. Most tours leave from Campton and pick up participants along the route. A Grand Ole Opry tour from Carlisle is scheduled for Dec. 23-24.

For complete information on any of these exciting low-costs tours, please contact Mr. Jett at P.O. Box 396, Campton, Ky. 41301. Telephone 668-6650.

Homecare training series benefits Nicholas elderly

Helping older individuals remain in their own homes with maximum independence and dignity is a priority of all senior citizen centers in the 11 county Bluegrass Area Development District region.

In fact, this goal is clearly stated in the "Bill of Rights" of the Older Americans Act under which senior centers operate.

Hiffiucky's answer to this charge was the establishment of the Homecare program. "Through this program, locally-based Homecare aides are trained to provide the highest quality of care to functionally impaired older persons within their own environment," explains Virginia Bell, MSW, family counselor and training coordinator for the program.

VARIOUS MEMBERS of communities needing Homecare services, including Nicholas County, participated in a training series offered at the UK Multidisciplinary Center of Gerontology. Sponsored by the Kentucky Cabinet of Human Resources with funds from the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Homecare services are limited to recipients who would otherwise have to be in a hospital, a nursing home, or some other care-giving institution.

GUARANTEED WEIGHT LOSS

Heard about the newest discovery in the war against fat? It is absolutely amazing. Believe it or not, this great discovery allows you to eat your favorite foods and still lose weight! It's called FULL N FREE DietPlan, a natural dietary food fiber from the Oriental Konjac root. Simply take 2 capsules at least 30 minutes before each meal. The capsule absorbs up to 60 times its weight in water . . . turning from powder to gel . . . expanding to fill your stomach, you experience a naturally FULL feeling without even packing up your fork. Imagine how you'd look carving up to 7" off your hips or waist . . . up to 5" off your thighs or buttocks. FULL N FREE is safe to use and FREE from any harmful chemicals . . . and it's so effective it is being sold with an unconditional money back guarantee.

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Deluxe Club Deli Kahn's Bologna ..... lb. $2.09

Register for Stocking!
IGA is supporting the Chamber of Commerce "Shop At Home During Christmas" Campaign. Come in & register for the WORLD'S LARGEST CHRISTMAS STOCKING. Tickets used for Stocking Drawing will also be used for the Chamber of Commerce drawing.
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