**Farming**

**The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth,**

**being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.**

***(James 5:7)***

**In a business class at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, we had to interview a variety of local people and write a report. I thought the assignment was a waste of time until I spoke with a 78-year-old farmer. “How much education do you have?” I asked. “Six years of schoolin’,” he replied. “And 72 years of learnin”. (S. G. H., in Reader's Digest)**

**At an agricultural-management seminar for dairy farmers held at a Vermont college, the subject of business mission statements came up. "There must be something that prevents dairy people from writing a mission statement," the course instructor complained. There was silence before one farmer rose. "That would be chores," he said. (J. Clifford Carpenter, in Reader's Digest)**

**An enterprising salesman was trying to persuade a farmer to buy a bicycle. The farmer thought for a while and then said, “I’d rather spend my money on a cow.” “But think,” insisted the salesman. “What a fool you’d look like riding a cow.” “Not half the fool I’d look like trying to milk a bicycle,” the farmer replied. *(Marianna Schwartz, in Country magazine)***

**An elderly farmer was finishing his haying one Sunday morning as the pastor of the church drove by. “Brother,” said the preacher, “don’t you know that the Creator made the world in six days and rested on the seventh?” “Yes,” said the old farmer, “I know all about that but he got done and I didn’t!” *(Rev. Leon Hill, in O for the Life of a Preacher, p. 63)***

**Do you worry too much? Consider this reader’s comment: “Farmers don’t worry as much as other people do. They stay so busy days they don’t have time. They’re so tired nights they go right to sleep.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The school of agriculture’s dean of admissions was interviewing a prospective student. “Why have you chosen this career?” he asked. “I dream of making a million dollars in farming, like my father,” the student replied. “Your father made a million dollars in farming?” echoed the impressed dean. “No,” replied the applicant. “But he always dreamed of it.” *(Steve Goodier, in Quote)***

**Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil and you’re a thousand miles from the cornfield. (Dwight D. Eisenhower)**

The name “George” came from the Greek for “farmer.” *(L. M. Boyd)*

**A preacher prepared for Sunday morning service, but only one person, a farmer, was there. He asked the farmer, "What do you think we should do?" The farmer replied with a drawl, "Well, if only one cow came into the barn, I'd feed it." So the preacher mounted the pulpit and began to preach . . . and preach . . . and preach. After about two hours, he concluded. Then he stepped down and said to the farmer, "So, what did you think?" The farmer replied, "Well, if only one cow came into the barn, I certainly wouldn't try to feed it all the hay." *(Tidbits)***

**The farmer is a man of faith. He knows that the crop will be harvested in due course and so he confidently drops the seed into the waiting earth, taking no anxious thought for the eventual result of his work. He trusts and knows the day of the harvest will come. And so it does! *(Jack E. Addington, in All About Goals)***

**At a farmers’ convention, a Minnesota dairy farmer was talking about the harsh Midwestern winters. “It gets so cold that we have to put heaters under the cows before we milk them,” he said. “That’s nothing,” replied a Texas farmer. “In summer, it gets so hot that we have to feed the chickens ice cubes so they don’t lay hard-boiled eggs.” *(Chriss Stutzman, in Country magazine)***

**A farmer never plowed a field by only turning it over in his mind. *(Elizabeth Leon-Harris)***

**Driving on newly graded gravel roads can be a little like driving on ice. I proved it one day when my daughter Amy was about 3. Our car went into a spin, and we ended up halfway inside a farm field, facing the opposite direction. I turned to the backseat and asked Amy if she was okay. She seemed to be staring thoughtfully out the window and didn't answer. So I asked again. Finally, she firmly replied, "Mommy, only tractors are allowed here." (Jan Fleming, in Country magazine)**

**On the plains of West Texas we don’t get much rain. But when rain does come, it usually comes in torrents. One spring, after several days of downpour, I discussed the problem with a 96-year-old retired farmer. “Son,” he said, “I’ve farmed in these parts for eighty years, and I’d say, all told, that I spent seventy years of that time praying for rain, and ten years praying it would stop.” *(D. H. J., in Reader’s Digest)***

**Oppressed by the noonday heat, a farmer sat under a walnut tree to get some rest. As he sat there, he looked at his pumpkin vines and said to himself, “God is really foolish and inexperienced. He put big, heavy pumpkins and a frail vine that has so little strength it has to be on the ground and then he puts small walnuts on a tree with branches that can hold a man. Any man can do better than that.” Just then a breeze dislodged a walnut from the tree under which the farmer sat. The walnut fell on the critic’s head. The old man rubbed his head ruefully and mused, “It’s a good thing there wasn’t a pumpkin up there instead of a walnut.” *(Capper’s Weekly)***

**An ambitious farmer, unhappy about the yield of his crops, heard of a highly recommended new seed corn. He bought some and produced a crop that was so abundant his astonished neighbors asked him to sell them a portion of the new seed. But the farmer, afraid that he would lose a profitable competitive advantage, refused. The second year the new seed did not produce as good a crop, and when the third-year crop was still worse it dawned upon the farmer that his prize corn was being pollinated by the inferior grade of corn from his neighbors’ fields. *(Ralph L. Woods)***

**An enterprising salesman was trying to persuade a farmer to buy a bicycle. The farmer thought for a while and then said, “I’d rather spend my money on acow.” “But think,” insisted the salesman. “What a fool you’d look like riding a cow.” “Not half the fool I’d look like trying to milk a bicycle,” the farmer replied. *(Marianna Schwartz, in Country magazine)***

**Here’s a little girl who is destined to succeed: She visited a farm one day and wanted to buy a large watermelon. “That’s three dollars,” said the farmer. “I’ve only got 30 cents,” said the little girl. The farmer pointed to a very small watermelon in the field and said, “How about that one?” “Okay, I’ll take it,” said the little girl. “But leave it on the vine. I’ll be back for it in a month.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**A farmer was asked what time he went to work in the morning. “I don’t have to go to work,” he said. “I’m surrounded by it.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**A good farmer is nothing more nor less than a handy man with a sense of humus. *(E. B. White)***

**A wealthy farmer decided to go to church one Sunday. After services, he approached the preacher with a great deal of enthusiasm. Farmer: “Reverend, that was a damned good sermon you gave, damn good!” Reverend: “I'm satisfied that you liked it, but I wish you wouldn't use those terms in expressing yourself.” Farmer: “I can't help it, Reverend. I still think it was a damned good sermon. I was so impressed that I put a hundred-dollar bill in the collection basket.” Reverend: “The hell you did!” *(Nebraska Smoke-Eater)***

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