

South American Wild Tobacco Cross Shows Good Results at Landisville

PROGRESS REPORT No. 32, Pennsylvania Agriculture Experiment Station, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa.

Wild tobacco from South America crossed with high producing varieties at the Field Research Laboratory at Landisville over a period of years has produced strains of cigar-leaf tobacco that are resistant to two serious diseases, wildfire and mosaic. Pennsylvania agricultural experiment station personnel report the new strains are now in semi-final stages of testing.

As with any new cigar-leaf tobacco, the final test will be the acceptance or rejection of

Quantities of the new materials are now completing the curing periods and soon will be manufactured into cigars for critical testing by a panel of smokers.

Wildfire has long been investigated by scientists in Pennsylvania. The disease appears nearly every year as a moderate flecking of the lower leaves of the tobacco plants as they grow in the field. However, in certain years this disease sweeps through the fields to devastate the tobacco-growing area with entire crops made worthless within a few days of harvest.

Mosaic, commonly called calico, also is common in tobacco fields where it stunts plants and crinkles the leaves. Mosaic is easily spread by workers carrying the infection on their hands or on cultivating tools.

Strains of the resistant varieties have been bred since 1948 and have been tested at the Lancaster County Laboratory. While the experiments have concentrated on developing disease resistance, the new cigar-leaf strains have been selected for high yielding ability and good growth characteristics. To further test the new materials, the 1953 crops were evaluated by tobacco buyers after stripping was completed in the spring of 1954. A similar check was made on the 1954 crop, and both these crops are now being processed. Final testing of these samples, when made into cigars, will stress the flavor and aroma, as well as general acceptance of the end product. Chemical analyses have supported the conclusions of the buyers that the new resistant strains are "good tobacco."

Short Courses in Farming to Open At Penn State U

The College of Agriculture at The Pennsylvania State University will again offer four-week short courses in general farming, dairy farming, and livestock farming for persons 16 years or older.

The general farming course will be from Jan. 4 to Feb. 1. The dairy farming and livestock farming courses will run simultaneously from Feb. 1 to 29.

These short courses, taught by the faculty of the College of Agriculture, are made as practical as possible and much instruction is conducted in the laboratories, shops, and barns of the University.

In the general farming course, the following subjects are emphasized: farm machinery and tractors; farm management; farm mechanics; forage crops and pastures; grain crops; poultry farming; rural economics and social problems, and soils and fertilizers.

The five-breeds of cattle in the University dairy barns and the laboratories in the dairy building provide facilities for the dairy farming course. The following topics will be emphasized in this course: animal diseases; dairy cattle breeds and selection; dairy cattle feeding; dairy herd management; milk secretion; pasture and grassland management; grain crops and fertilizers, and reproduction of dairy cattle.

The subjects of the livestock farming course offer up-to-date information on livestock breeding, feeding, selection and management. Subjects emphasized in the livestock course are: animal diseases; barn practice; farm slaughtering; feeding of farm animals; livestock breeding and selection; livestock judging, livestock management; pasture and grassland management, and grain crops and fertilizers.

Hunters Urged To Help Prevent Forest Blazes

HARRISBURG (Special) — The hunting season is also the period of the greatest forest fire danger in the Keystone state, the Pennsylvania Forest Industries Committee warns.

E. O. Ehrhart, Johnsonburg, chairman of the wood-using group, urged hunters to be extra careful with fire during the fall season when the woods are full of dry leaves. He pointed out that nine out of ten forest fires in Pennsylvania and throughout the nation are caused by man's carelessness and therefore are preventable.

Vesicular Exanthema Curbed by Garbage Bans in 46 States

Forty-six states have now passed laws banning the feeding of uncooked garbage to hogs, the American Veterinary Medical Association said recently, quoting figures secured from the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The USDA also announced that after Jan. 1, 1956, special processing will be necessary before swine fed raw garbage at any time, or products from such swine, will be allowed in interstate movement.

In 1953, upon severe outbreaks of vesicular exanthema, the USDA ordered restricted movement of hogs fed raw garbage. At that time over three-quarters of a million hogs were being fed raw garbage. However, since that time satisfactory garbage cooking equipment has become available and now only 281,000 hogs are being fed such garbage.

VE is the highly contagious disease that causes vesicles or blisters in the mouth and on the snout and feet of infected hogs. It resembles foot and mouth disease. If such symptoms are noted, a veterinarian should be contacted immediately.

The disease, vesicular exanthema, is now limited mostly to isolated premises in 39 counties in California and five northeastern states, the USDA reported.

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DHIA Names Three To Formulate Plan For Procedures

Vactor Plastow, assistant county Lancaster County agent, has been named chairman of a three-man policy committee to formulate procedure for the Red Rose Dairy Herd Improvement association.

He was appointed Tuesday night in a meeting at the Lancaster post office. Others named by President J. Lester Charles were Melvin Stoltzfus, secretary, and Charles M. Long, treasurer. Allen J. Hinsh, from Curryville in Blair county, will start soon as a tester for the association, and Glenn Case, Troy Rl, may accept a testing job.

A leaflet describing these and other agricultural short courses offered by Penn State may be secured by writing to: Director of Short Courses, College of Agriculture, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa.

Other short courses in agriculture are being offered by the Pennsylvania State University this fall and winter.

The courses include: Dec 5-7, Farm Income Tax and Social Security; Dec 5-10, Ice Cream for Supply Men; Jan 2-7, Testing Milk and Cream; Jan 4-Feb. 1, General Farming; Jan. 9-21, Ice Cream for Plant Men, Jan 23-27, Rural Electrification; Jan 23-Feb 4, Market Milk.

Jan. 30-Feb. 11, DHIA Supervisor Training, Feb 1-29, Dairy Farming; Feb. 1-29, Livestock Farming; Feb 27-29, Sheepmen; Mar. 5-9, Feed Dealers and Milkers; Mar 6-8, Beef Cattle Herdsmen; Mar. 12-16, Grassland Farming; Mar 12-16, Lumber Grading and Inspection; Mar. 26-30, Dairy Cattle Herdsmen.

Some Game Perishes

While everyone loses when forests burn, Mr. Ehrhart said, sportsmen and wood-using industries probably suffer the greatest losses. "Sportsmen lose because every woods fire takes its toll of bird and animal life," he declared. "Some game perishes in the path of flames, other wildlife escapes only to starve later because food and cover are destroyed by fire. We in industry lose because we depend on a continuing flow of forest crops to keep our mills operating."

Mr. Ehrhart called on hunters and other forest recreationists to help in the fight against fire by following these simple rules:

1. Use the car ash-tray while driving
2. Crush out cigaret butts and pipe ashes thoroughly
3. Break used matches before discarding them.
4. Thoroughly douse or bury all camp or warming fires

Other Committee members

The Pennsylvania Forest Industries Committee is a group organized to promote wise use of the state's forest resources. In addition to Mr. Ehrhart, members include: George F. Patterson, Wellsboro; W. P. Arnold, Pittsburgh; Ray F. Bower, Erie; F. Marshall Case, Troy, A. J. Dieck, Jr., Pittsburg.

John E. DuBois; William B. Eisenhardt, Easton; James L. Elliott, Coudersport; William L. Faull, Jr., Bradford; R. J. Gustafson, Endeavor; Russell E. Headlee, Garards Fort, J. John Herz, Williamsport; D. E. Hess, Gettysburg, Charles Holtzapfel, Lewisburg; Louis Krumenacker, Carrolltown; John C. Lenman, Everett; William H. Lynn, Tyrone; Edward A. Pontzer, St. Marys, H. E. Sanford, Windber, and James B. Watson, Sr., Uniontown.

Lancaster Farming Galley (20)

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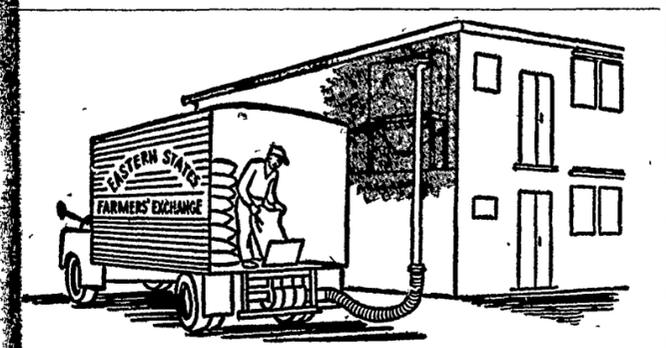
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Pennsylvania Cigar Leaf Tobacco Falls Below Normal Total

This year's crop of cigar leaf tobacco in Pennsylvania is estimated at 40,815,000 pounds, according to surveys as of Oct 1, the State Department of Agriculture announced.

Production in 1954 came to 43,416,000 pounds and the 10-year average is 49,472,000 pounds, the Department said.

Growers report that September weather was good for growth of late-planted tobacco and maturity and cutting of earlier set acres, the survey showed. Late set tobacco had the best growth, the same as last year, but rust or wildfire hit some fields rather hard.

A little late tobacco was damaged by heavy rains accompanying the hurricanes in mid-August, from both drowning and water logging. Generally, the crop is reported curing well with only a little pole burn.

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