

Wage Cost on Farms Now at Record Highs

HARRISBURG — Farmers of Pennsylvania are now paying all-time record wage rates for hired help in spite of a 10 per cent decline in total cash receipts for their products during the past four years, Dr. William L. Henning, State Secretary of Agriculture, declared today.

Competition with industrial and other employment in holding skilled workers on the farms has aided in tightening the "cost-price squeeze" on Keystone State farmers, he said.

Costs Up, Receipts Down

During the year 1954 production costs on Pennsylvania farms advanced \$11 million while farm cash receipts dropped nearly \$36 million, according to Federal-State surveys.

As of January 1, 1956, the index of composite farm wage rates was 591 per cent above the 1910-14 base for Pennsylvania, the records show. The composite rate per hour was 72.5 cents compared with 68.8 cents a year earlier. The composite rate is an average of all classifications of farm wage payments, including those to workers who are supplied with houses and those paid by the day, week or month with or without board, Dr. Henning explained.

From \$112 to \$158 Monthly

Between January 1, 1955 and January 1, 1956, the farm wage rate per hour without board or room advanced from an average of 90 cents to 95 cents. Farm workers supplied with a house this January were averaging a return of \$158 per month, an increase of \$6 for the year.

Wage rates with board and room now average \$112 per month, an advance of \$6. Rates average \$29.50 with board and per week went up \$2 and now room and \$42 without board and room. Farmers are now paying an average of \$720 per day for workers engaged without board and room, an advance of 40 cents during the year.

More Turkeys To Be Raised In Coming Year

HARRISBURG — More turkeys will be raised by Pennsylvania farmers this year than last, it growers carry out their Jan. 1 intentions reported to the State Department of Agriculture.

U. S. Increases 6 Per Cent

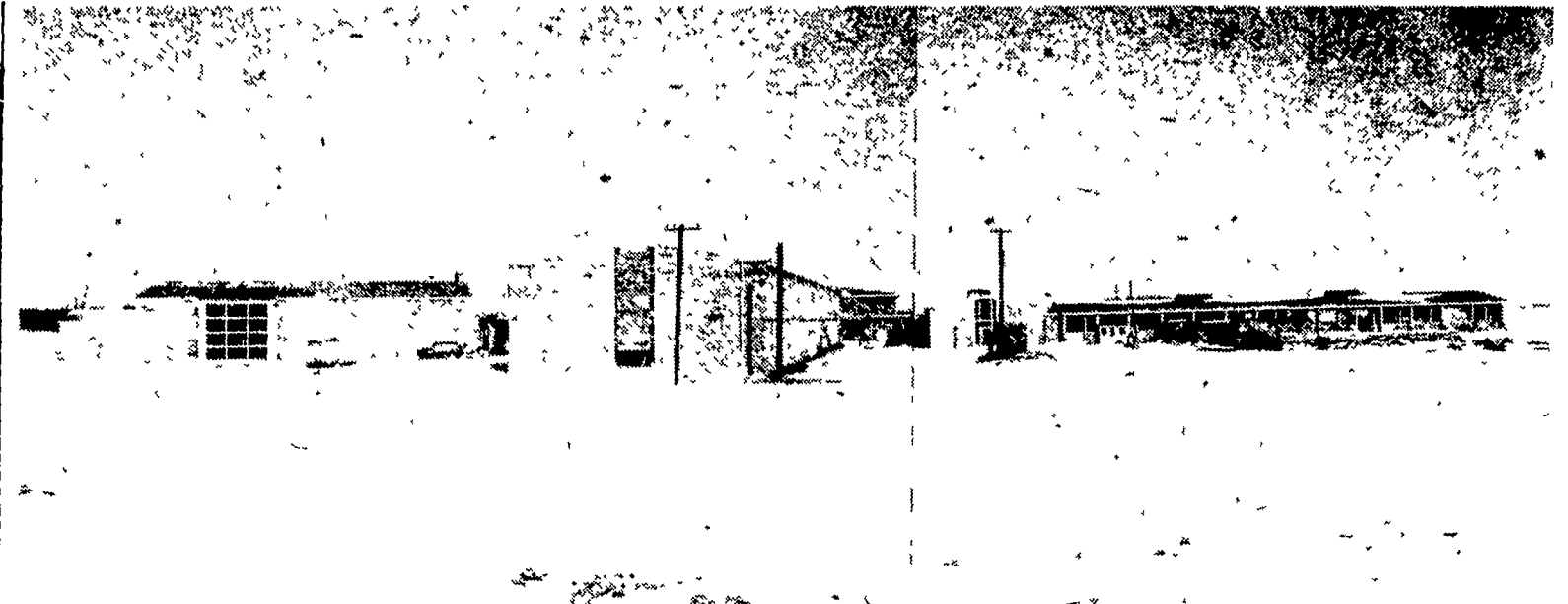
Surveys conducted by the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service show an intended advance of 2 per cent in turkeys to be raised. If growers do not change their minds the 1956 Pennsylvania turkey crop should total 2,114,000 birds compared with the 2,978,000 raised last year.

The 2 per cent Pennsylvania increase compares with reported intentions of turkey growers of the United States to raise 67 million birds, an advance of 6 per cent over production for 1955. All parts of the country plan increases ranging from 3 per cent in the North Atlantic to 8 per cent in the South Central and West, the Department said.

Later Surveys Planned

In Pennsylvania, turkey growers intend to raise 1,616,000 heavy breed birds this year, about 6 per cent above the 1,525,000 raised in 1955. The trend away from light breed turkeys will continue this year. Light breed intentions are expected to total 498,000 — down 10 per cent from the 553,000 raised last year, the survey showed.

Keystone State turkey growers may increase or decrease their 1956 production as they learn results of the state and national surveys of intentions, observers said. Later surveys are planned to determine the actual number to be raised.



June 1 will be the probable completion date of the new \$2,500,000 Octoraro Junior-Senior High School, the construction superintendent advised Octoraro Newspapers today.

Throughout, cooperation from all concerned in the construction has been 100 per cent," Ed Latshaw told, reviewing progress on the extensive project where ground was first broken on Sept. 15, 1954.

Next fall, the doors of this magnificent school, whose dimensions are almost phenomenal, will open for approximately 1,000 students from southeastern Lancaster County and south-

western Chester County.

Roughly in the shape of a huge X, split by a semi-circular entrance hall, the structure covers more than two acres of the 40-acre school grounds.

Modern design has been incorporated in every inch of the 100,000 square foot floor space. The auditorium, with a massive brick proscenium, covers 9,000 square feet and will seat 1,100. Just off the 12,000-square foot gymnasium is a cafeteria that will accommodate 350, and a kitchen is located behind a low-ceilinged secondary stage.

The cafeteria itself occupies 6,000 square feet; while class-

rooms cover 42,000 square feet—almost an acre—in two floors. Students will be drawn from Octoraro, West Fallowfield, Highland, Londonderry, West Sadsbury and Sadsbury Townships, and Christiana, Atglen and Parkesburg.

Two 300-foot wells provide the water supply for the new school. Two oil tanks, holding 10,000 gallons each, will supply the low pressure steam heat system through two 100-horsepower Kewanee boilers.

Bill Snyder is supervisor of the elementary school in that district, which includes grades 3 through 11 at Christiana, 4

through 6 at Gap, 4 through 7 at Atglen and 3 through 12 at Cochransville.

Properly, the school is known as the Octoraro Area Junior-Senior High School, under the Octoraro Area School Authority, Parkesburg, Pa.

Architects are Lawrie & Green, Harrisburg; contractors: general—Rice and Weidman, Lancaster; electrical—C & W Electrical Contractors, Kennett Square; National Plumbing Contractors, Woodbury, N. J.; Twin Arc Welding, Lancaster, heating contractors; and Warren Watson, Gap, painting subcontractor.

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