

# Lancaster Farming

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\$2 Per Year

## Blustery March Brings Spring Somewhat Late

HARRISBURG — Blustery March weather halted all outside field activities and forced late arrival of spring on Pennsylvania farms, the State Department of Agriculture reported today following Federal-State surveys as of April 1.

However, officials were not discouraged. They said in many areas of the State growing conditions later in the season have greater influence on the final crop outcome than the vagaries of March weather.

Improved soil moisture supplies in major producing sections strengthened confidence in production prospects for grains and hay, observers declared.

### Wheat Acreage Lower

The April 1 forecast for winter wheat is for a Pennsylvania crop of 14.4 million bushels, two million under last year and five million under average. The 1956 wheat harvest will be from 656,000 acres, lowest recorded in 90 years.

Preliminary reports from Pennsylvania fruit sections indicate that cold weather kept fruit trees dormant. Only slight signs of growth development appeared on April 1. A heavy set of fruit buds was reported at that date. Unless sudden cold snaps damage tender growth the season's prospects appeared highly favorable, the survey showed.

Heavy snowfalls and low temperatures during March failed to affect winter grains to any great extent, the Department said. Prospects were largely maintained or improved over much of the State as most fields were protected by dormancy or by snow cover preceding the coming of severe cold weather the latter part of March.

### Freeze Damage Debated

Some fields of wheat in the south central and southeastern sections which had greened before the March cold wave struck turned brown and growth was retarded. But rising temperatures and April showers are expected to overcome this situation, officials pointed out.

Much more serious, and of considerable concern to farmers on April 1 was the extent of undetermined freeze damage which may have occurred to late seedings last fall.

Supplies of feed grains on Pennsylvania farms the first of this month, on the whole, appeared to be ample. But dairymen in the east central, southeastern and south central counties indicated rapidly diminishing supplies of hay and forage. Most areas in the western half of the State reported plentiful to surplus supplies.

## Springtime — Lancaster Farming



Registered Holsteins on the Mowery Frey Farm, R7 Lancaster, paint this pastoral picture as true of Lancaster Farming in springtime as can be found. White fences, white barns, black and white cows, add to this the budding trees and greening pastures which give Lancaster County at its best.

## Oats Seeding Well Underway Across State

HARRISBURG — Seeding of oats is well underway on Pennsylvania farms except in central and northeastern areas but is one to two weeks behind normal, the State Department of Agriculture reported today following the first weekly Federal-State weather and crop summary of the 1956 season.

Spring plowing has been delayed and crops retarded by cold weather in late March and the first week in April, the Department said. In most areas during the week ended last Monday the weather has been good with soils drying rapidly, encouraging field work on farms.

### Temperatures Lower

The first part of the week was cold, warming toward the end of the period. Night time temperatures dropped to below freezing in many places. Rainfall was subnormal, averaging only .37 inch compared with the normal of .88 inch for the week.

With the cooperation of the Harrisburg office of the U. S. Weather Bureau, the weekly Federal-State report this season for the first time will include a 5-day weather forecast.

The current forecast, April 17 through 21, follows: "Temperatures averaging two to five degrees below (Continued on Page Five)

### FARM BUREAU ROBBED

Burglars caused an estimated \$1000 damage to the Farm Bureau Building on Dillerville Road in Lancaster Friday night in a robbery that netted them \$217 in cash. Five doors were broken and several windows smashed.

## Guernsey Convention Program Set

The program for the 79th annual meeting convention of the American Guernsey Cattle Club, scheduled for Philadelphia, Pa and vicinity, May 7-10, has been announced.

The AGCC and the Pennsylvania Guernsey Breeders Association, hosts for the 1956 meeting, have announced a four-day schedule of events that include farm visits, tours, a top-quality sale, the Club's annual business meeting, and a special Golden Guernsey breakfast, as well as numerous entertainment features.

On Monday noon, May 7, members and guests will meet at the Pennsylvania Guernsey Sale Pavilion in Lancaster for a chicken barbecue. After viewing the animals consigned to the following day's sale, the group will head for Philadelphia and an evening welcoming reception at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, sponsored by the Delaware GBA.

Tuesday will find folks heading right back to Lancaster for the National Convention Sale, expected to be one of the years greatest. The sale is scheduled for 12:30 noon, and should be (Continued on Page Five)

## Benson Gives Comments on Farm Bill Veto

WASHINGTON — (USDA) — Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson Monday commented as follows on the Presidential veto of the farm bill: The President's message indicated some of the important steps that we will take administratively to improve farm prices and farm income. Because we do not now have the benefit of the Soil Bank on, which we had been counting, we therefore plan to take promptly such alternate measures as the President outlined.

"Our technicians in the Department of Agriculture are already — today — taking administrative action to implement the steps outlined by the President. The Department will make specific announcements regarding these steps as promptly as practicable.

"We regret, of course, that we cannot begin at once to institute the beneficial provisions of the Soil Bank which had been requested of Congress. We sincerely hope that the Congress will promptly enact the Soil Bank, as the President requested again in his message today (Monday). It is important that we proceed with this as promptly as possible in order that farmers may plan their fall seeding programs with more certainty than is now possible. Farmers will be plowing for fall crops within 90 days.

"There is no conflict concerning the desirability of the Soil Bank nor of the measures we will take administratively. These measures will benefit the entire nation and the welfare of all our citizens."

## President Vetoes Farm Bill Plans; Seeks Soil Bank

Calling the proposed farm bill self-defeating, President Eisenhower Monday night vetoed the measure and requested Congress to pass a straight soil bill as promptly as possible.

Members of the House Wednesday evening upheld the President's veto. Democrats failed to muster even a majority to override Mr. Eisenhower. Harold Cooley (N. D.), chairman of the House agricultural committee said the soil bank request is now a dead issue, and doesn't stand a chance of passing this year.

The President's action followed conferences in Augusta, Ga. with Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson and other agricultural department men. He returned to Washington, where the veto was announced, then went on radio and television to explain his actions.

Major fronts outlined by the President in his preferred approach to the farm problem include

1. In 1956, price supports on five of the basic crops — wheat, corn, cotton, rice and peanuts — will be set at a level of at least 82½ per cent of parity. Tobacco will be supported as voted in the referendum in accordance with existing law.

Within this range of price support flexibility, the Administration intends to set minimum support levels that will result in a national average of:

Wheat at \$2.00 a bushel.  
Corn at \$1.50 a bushel.  
Rice at \$4.50 per hundred lbs.

A separate support for corn not under acreage control in the commercial corn area will be announced at an early date.

Price supports on cotton and peanuts have not yet been announced but will be at least 82½ per cent of parity.

The Secretary of Agriculture will announce shortly the details of the new cotton export sales program.

2. For this year the support price of manufacturing milk will be increased to \$3.25 per hundred pounds. The support price of butter fat will be increased to 58.6 cents a pound.

3. We will use Department of Agriculture funds, where assistance will be constructive, to strengthen the prices of perishable farm commodities. We will have well over \$400 million for that purpose for the year beginning July 1.

Cost of the plans presented by the President would run in the neighborhood of one billion dollars per year. Revival of the soil bank program, which lost in Congress, could produce another \$500 million farm income this year.

Congress remained firm on its original stand, and moves were made to attempt to override the Presidential veto.

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### APRIL—WET, COLD

April will continue to have temperatures below normal and precipitation will be higher than normal, according to the 30-day weather forecast issued by the U. S. Weather Bureau.