

CONSUMER EDUCATION

Four busloads of Philadelphia Homemakers included Lancaster County in a consumer education tour this week, visiting the Producers Cooperative Exchange at Coatesville, and Hubbard Farms Hatchery, Manheim Pike Barbe-cued chicken was furnished by Hubbards

Nut Crops in State Ruined; Moisture Good

HARRISBURG - Late spring freezes just about ruined prospects for nut crops this year in the mountainous areas of Pennsylvania, the State Department of Agriculture reported today

Freeze damage on May 15 and 25 killed buds and leaves on walnut, hickory, oriental chestnut, butternut, oak and other nut-bearing trees over wide areas in higher elevations. Southeastern Pennsylvania nut trees apparently escaped with little or no damage, according to reports received from areas southeast of the mountains. Damaged trees are shooting new leaves but the fruit buds were killed.

In the Federal-State weather and crop survey, the Department said Pennsylvania farmers for the first time this spring put in a full week under good working conditions when

Farmers Must Sell Higher Consumption

Farmers today must sell their way into increased consumption of surplus agricultural commodities in order to build farm income.

This warning came from Herschel D. Newson, master of the National Grange, this weekend at Harvard, Ill. where he spoke before the centennial Milk Day celebration during Farmers and Pioneers Day.

To do this, "we must modify or get rid of unsound government programs that channel major portions of these commodities into the hands of the government and destroy the balance between feed grains and animal production."

Little rain and rising temperatures prevailed during the week ended Monday.

Farming in northern counties benefited greatly from the breaking up of the late, cold spring. They worked strenuously to get the last of their oats planted, preparing and planting corn. In southern counties farmers were cultivating corn, spraying hay fields, cutting hay and filling silos.

Over the State, soil moisture conditions are generally good. Rainfall was light during the week but hailstorms struck parts of southeastern Pennsylvania on Sunday. Fruit generally sized rapidly during the week.

Federal-State inspection of peas for processing started Monday at vineries in Hanover and New Freedom, the Department said. Leaf lettuce and radishes are being marketed in volume. Planting and replanting of tomatoes is completed. Some cutworm damage was reported from the southern areas. Sweet corn planting and replanting continues.

Strawberry harvest has reached its peak in southeastern counties. The crop will be reduced due to the late season frosts. Potato planting is almost completed, with early fields showing good growth. Planting of tobacco is general in the Lancaster area.

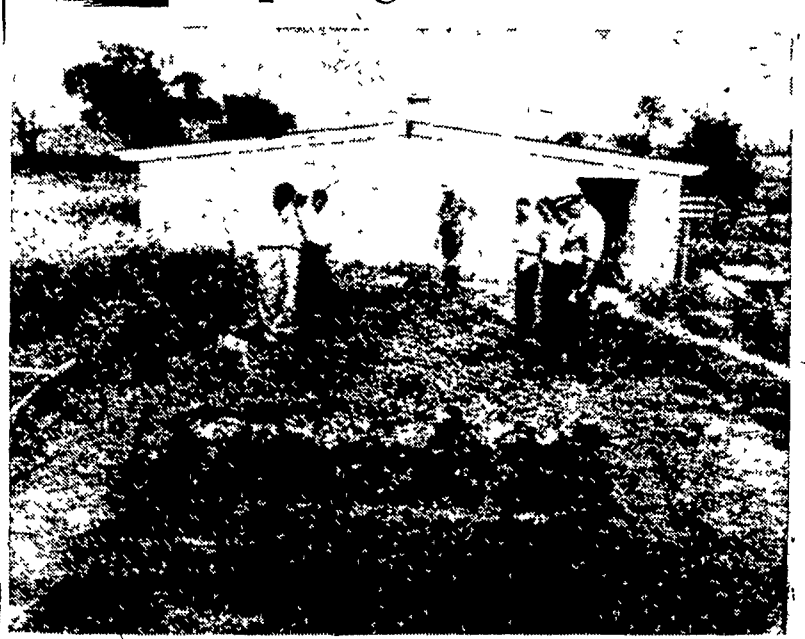
Spittle bug infestation of hay fields and pastures is much lighter than last year. The alfalfa weevil has spread and is causing more damage than in 1955. Generally, hay fields and pastures made good growth. Small grains are making rapid progress. Wheat is heading to milk stage in southern areas. Rust infestation appears light at this time. Barley and oats were making satisfactory progress.

In addition to fruit, many fields of beans, strawberries, potatoes, corn and legume hays suffered damage from freezing. Tomato planting began on schedule but successive freezes forced much replanting. A few growers planted four times to get a stand and many others re-set fields once or twice. Scarcity of plants reduced acreage for harvest in some sections, the Department reported.

The June 1 forecast for wheat production is for a crop of 15,957,000 bushels. This is only 579,000 bushels under 1955 production due to an estimated average yield of 27 bushels per acre, one bushel more than last year. Pennsylvania farmers, operating for the third straight year under government wheat acreage allotments and marketing quotas, last fall planted only 656,000 acres, lowest of record.

Temperatures during May averaged 4 degrees below normal. Rainfall for the State averaged a little under 4 inches, slightly below normal. It was excessive in western counties and lightest in the York and Bradford County areas. In spite of improved planting and growing conditions in early June, field work and crop growth remain behind schedule.

Comparing Treatment

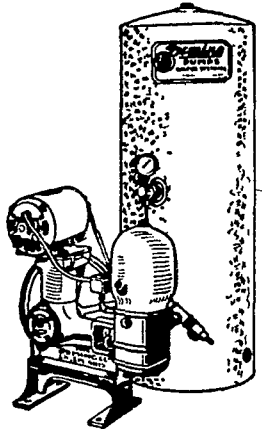


Shown at the farm of Willis Z. Esbenshade, Esbenshade Road, Lancaster, are a group of tobacco growers, industry representatives and agricultural extension service men, one of several stops on a countywide tour. In the tour, it was concluded chemicals do not prove as satisfactory as steam in eliminating or controlling weeds. The plot above was laid out especially to provide close comparison. Spring steaming, as a rule, proved better than fall steaming due to better spring weather conditions. (Lancaster Farming Staff Photo).

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