

Lancaster Farming

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Some Spots in County Are Dry; Combining Now

Although some scattered parts of Lancaster County are dry, hot weather has brought corn and tomatoes right along, Associate County Agent Harry S. Sloat reports today.

Haymaking is generally in full swing throughout the Garden Spot, although work is somewhat slow in the northern parts of the County where damp weather has slowed work.

Cherry picking is underway throughout the County, and the bulk of the strawberry crop has been picked and packed.

Barley, Oats Combining

Combining of barley started Tuesday, and winter oats will be combined starting next week.

Mr. Sloat warns that pink aphids and green peach aphids are very heavy at this time, and spraying is urged in tomato and potato fields.

Severe wind struck parts of the County Saturday night, with a little rain. Rain was heavier in the southern end of the County, according to Bernard N. White, in charge of the Lancaster Weather Bureau Office. A brief windstorm struck again Sunday night.

Cooler Weather Due

Parts of the County reported a little shower Tuesday night, with .05 of an inch reported in some places. Temperatures have been ranging above normal for the month, at least one degree, Mr. White added. Precipitation in Lancaster has totaled 2.77 for the month to date against a normal 2.81.

Cooler weather is moving in, and the five-day forecast indicates lower temperatures Thursday and Friday, warmer Saturday, cooler again by Monday with showers and thunderstorms, totaling one-half to one inch, over the weekend.

Sessions Underway

On Migrant Workers

Sessions are extending through today for the Migrant Worker Staff Orientation Conference of the Eastern Region, who are familiarizing themselves with activities of nearly 1,000 migrant workers who will be employed in Lancaster County this summer.

Meetings are being held in the Evangelical and Reformed Theological Seminary in Lancaster, with the county's new chaplain, the Rev. Donald E. Smith in charge. County chairman is Mrs. R. Morris Weaver, Millersville.

16 Sail for Germany Under Pax Program

Sixteen young men sailed Monday for Germany where they will start alternative work projects in lieu of military service. Victor A. Olsen, former Manheim Township resident, addressed the group Friday at the Mennoite Central Committee headquarters, Akron.

Sunday evening a farewell service of consecration for the young men was held at Metzler's Mennoite Church.

Heavily Laden Cherry Branch



Despite frost, hail, wind and other vagaries of weather, the Lancaster County cherry crop this year is tops, sweet, sour — delicious. Here is a heavily load-

ed branch on the farm of H. L. Shank near New Danville. (Lancaster Farming Staff Photo).

4H, FFA Meet In Workshop, Tour Co-Ops

Sixteen Future Farmers of America and Four-H Club members last night attended a meeting that is preliminary to attendance at the 28th summer meeting of the American Institute of Cooperation.

This annual event this year will be at Raleigh, N. C., July 30 to Aug. 2.

Topic of last night's meeting at the Farm Bureau Auditorium in Lancaster was "How Farmers Can Organize to Do Business." A tour of Lancaster County cooperatives is also being made.

Attending were representatives of all cooperatives in Lancaster County, Four-H and FFA leaders. George M. Myers, secretary of the Pennsylvania Association of Farmers Cooperatives spoke.

Named for the workshop were Dean Hoffer, R3 Manheim; Glenn L. Porter, R1 Washington Boro; John D. Eshleman, R1 Willow Street; James L. Hastings, R2 Kirkwood; Kenneth Garber, R1 Willow Street; LeRoy Esbanshade, Esbanshade Road, Lancaster; C. Kenneth Young, R1 Mount Joy; Dale L. Shirk, R1 Quarryville; Lloyd Denlinger, R4 Lancaster; Carl Metz, Lampeter; Mervin H. Bare, Witmer, C. Eugene Groff, R1 Ephrata, Donald Rafferty, R1 Mount Joy, Robert L. Deppen, R1 Marietta; Richard Ober, R1 Mount Joy; Kenneth W. Watts, R1 Elizabethtown.

Cherry Picking Headlines Season's Activities on H. L. Shank Farm

By ERNEST J. NELL

Pickers, by the thousands, are working this week on the excellent cherry crop produced along historic Conestoga River in Lancaster County by H. L. Shank.

Before the season ends, towards the last of next week, some 9000 or 10,000 pickers may go home with 60 tons of white and dark sweet cherries, and the tangy red pie cherries.

It's been 20 years since Mr. Shank, now nearing 72 years, began his popular pick-them-yourself program. And already, the day before the Tuesday opener pickers were in there pitching, checking in through the weighing stand at the highway entrance, leaving after paying charges by weight.

Covered Bridge of 1836

Some of Mr. Shank's orchards lie west of New Danville, others back of his residence along the New Danville pike north of town on the way to Lancaster. All in all, they cover some 125 acres of historic Lancaster County farmland, and some overlook historic Second Lock Bridge in a field aptly named Second Lock Ridge.

Second Lock Bridge dates back to 1836, and, Mr. Shank, an able historian, related the 308-foot structure, longest covered bridge in the County, cost \$3,800 when built. "It is well preserved, and should stand another 100 years," Mr. Shank, told, adding that maintenance by the County is exceptional.

His neighborhood, where cherry picking is the leading item today, dates back much farther than that. His people ar-

rived there in 1727, and in the ensuing years, the region around the covered bridge was one of the busiest in this section. Location of the lock on the Conestoga Canal helped much in the early-day prosperity of this section.

Fruit Production 50 Years Ago Some of the cherry trees still producing are 30 years old. People from miles around, from Lancaster and adjoining counties, come by car and truck, containers rattling empty as noisily as some of the many devices Mr. Shank uses to discourage invasion by crows, blackbirds, robins.

Flashing pieces of tin hang from trees, but the caw-caw of the crow grows into more of a vociferous complaint from aloft when a shotgun blast interrupts his feasting, or when a cherry bomb or two-inch Fourth of July salute impresses him that he is doing wrong.

"It's a battle with the birds," Mr. Shank told. "I use artificial owls, and the crows respect them. Blackbirds and robins don't he added. Use of firecrackers is restricted, because the birds soon get used to the racket."

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Wool Incentive Set At 44.9 Per Cent

Some wool growers, USDA reports, are still under the impression that under the incentive payment program it makes no difference what they sell their wool for, and that the government will make up the difference between their individual price and the 62-cent incentive level.

July 1 Date For Transfer At Landisville

By Ernest J. Neill

July 1 will be the official transfer date of the new Pennsylvania State University experimental farm north of Landisville where Tuesday some 20 persons toured small grain plots and heard reports from experts in the field.

Dr. C. S. Bryner, agronomist in charge of the plots, planned the meeting for farmers and seed growers where it was disclosed the new Dual winter wheat seems best adapted to Lancaster County growing conditions.

Produced at Purdue, Dual is the first winter wheat developed that shows great resistance to both leaf rust and Hessian fly. Results are still unknown fully, the visitors were told, but yielded two to five bushels more than Pennoll on experimental farms at University Park.

Grain Studied

During the morning sessions, seed certification inspectors studied grain diseases, the appearance of weeds in plots on the Landisville station. Weeds were identified, as well as the particular strains of wheat, oats and barley.

Most of the new varieties of winter wheat produced in the United States are now in test plots at Landisville, and all varieties of barley grown in the world are on test at State College.

Discussions were conducted on Tetra Petkus rye, and there are several selections of Ken Bar—developed at the University of Kentucky and released simultaneously with Kentucky U by the Pennsylvania State University—that are promising, but not yet ready for release.

Leconte and Dubois winter oats, the group was told, do best in Lancaster County.

Seeding Rates

One of the top topics of the day was seeding rates to produce early fall pasture. "That's where Dual works best," the group was told.

At University Park last year, varying rates of nitrogen were applied in the spring, and it was found addition of the fertilizer made growth too rank, with yields of 61.3, 53.3 and 56.3 bushels per acre, to average 57. Dual did not do so well at Lancaster County plots, yielding 47.3, 47.1 and 47.2, still averaging 52.1 in two years at both stations.

"The only varieties doing better are some still very much in the experimental stage," the experts advised.

Tetra Petkus comes later in the spring for pasture, and can outyield wheat for grain. In oats, both Dubois and Leconte promise satisfactory yields. Dubois is the better for general use, Leconte better for straw, but is not as hardy Canadian selections, as Ken 8, the Dayton variety from Ohio and the Kenbar are also under test.

Late September Planting

In a seeding date of 2½ bushels per acre, satisfactory yields (Continued on page three)

ILLINOIS PEACH CROP UP

Prospects of a 920,000 bu. peach crop this year will be about far above yields last year, the State-Federal Crop Reporting Service in Springfield advises. The 1956 crop is still about 58 per cent below the average for the last 10 years.