

## Huge Volumes Of Water Lost In Curing Hay

**PROGRESS REPORT No. 50 — Pennsylvania Agriculture Experiment Station The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania**

Huge volumes of water are removed in curing hay. They seem unimpressive and are unnoticed if the hay is allowed to dry out-of-doors in a warm breeze and bright sunshine. But the amounts of water which must be carried away in mow drying, a process now common on many farms, is startling to the uninformed.

In a test in 1954 at the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station, 53 tons of chopped alfalfa and clover of 40 per cent moisture content were loaded on a tiered air duct mow drying system. In order to reduce the moisture to a safe storage level of 20 per cent, 13 tons of water had to be moved from the mow, according to W. L. Kjølgaard, P. M. Anderson, E. F. Olver and A. W. Clyde, Station Agricultural Engineers.

Similarly, in 1955, after the duct system had been improved, nearly 72 tons of chopped forage having a moisture content of 38 per cent were dried. In this operation, nearly 19 tons of water were carried away. A complete report of this experimental work appears in Station Bulletin.

## Tomato Spraying Urged Right Now

Presence of aphids, noted moving into many Lancaster County tomato fields this week, brought a warning from Associate County Agent Harry S. Sloat that spraying should begin at once. Also reported were hornworm and potato beetles feeding on young plants.

Early blight (alternaria) is less this year, and it is still too early to determine severity of anthracnose which strikes usually when tomatoes reach a diameter of one and one-half inches.

Spraying started sometime back in the Washington Boro neighborhood. Recommended is two pounds of Ziram (Zerlate) and one pound of 15 per cent Parathion wettable powder to each 100 gallons of water.

Electrically driven fans were used to raise the air pressure in the ducts and move air through the hay. Approximately 45 kwh of electricity per ton of dry hay were used.

The improved tiered air duct system provided air channels into all parts of a 20-by-40 foot experimental mow filled with chopped hay to a depth of 15 to 20 feet. The quality of the hay cured last summer was very good even in the corners of the mow.

This is the time of year to enjoy nature's fresh fruits and vegetables and grow them.



And such is the case today, as the cherry harvest gets into full operation throughout Lancaster County's productive orchards. Here is one of the thousands who took H. L. Shank's advice,

near New Danville, to "Pick-Them-Yourself." Hundreds appeared Tuesday morning, and scores more will be on hand before the 1956 produce is completely all. (Lancaster Farming Staff Photo).

## USDA Seeking New Site for Animal Disease Research Laboratories

WASHINGTON — (USDA) —

Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson June 6 took initial steps toward selection of a site for construction of new facilities for work on animal diseases. The action is in accord with suggestions from leaders in both houses of the Congress.

Originally, it was proposed by the Department that such facilities be located at the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md., and \$18,915,000 was included in appropriation requests for construction purposes. Congress, in considering this request generally favored the new facilities, but at a location other than Beltsville.

### Near Livestock Centers

The suggestion was made that the U. S. Department of Agriculture — in cooperation with the livestock industry and allied interests — select a site located close to centers of livestock production, near or in conjunction with one of the State Land Grant Colleges having a strong veterinary medical program, and away from concentrated metropolitan centers. The Secretary, following these suggestions, invited submission of site proposals and set up procedures to consider them.

Notices of interest and preliminary proposals are to be in the hands of the Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service, Washington 25, D. C., by Thursday, June 21. This deadline does not, however, preclude consideration of other proposals or presentations directly to the site committee. All proposals and oral presentations will be considered by the site committee at a meeting in St. Louis, Mo., beginning on June 27 at the Statler Hotel, at 9 a. m.

### Livestock Industry Leaders

The site committee will consist of leaders in the livestock industry representing beef cattle, swine, dairying, sheep, and poultry, and representatives of the Land Grant Colleges, the veterinary medical profession, State Departments of Agriculture, livestock sanitary officials, and other livestock interests. The site committee is to have full freedom of action in making its recommendations but will be guided by certain factors related to the functions and operating economy of the laboratory, as follows:

1. Scientific center — near a Land Grant College or Uni-

versity having a veterinary school or a strong animal disease research department, which would provide the advantages of library facilities and opportunity for cooperation and association with other scientific work.

2. Human population — near a community that could readily absorb 100-200 new families and having adequate personnel to fill 100-200 nonscientific positions; not close to an industrial, metropolitan strategic area.

3. Accessibility — near major railroad and airline connections on a site adjacent to permanent hard-surfaced roads.

4. Land — from 200 to 400 acres is needed.

5. Construction costs — high-cost areas will be avoided.

6. Utilities — (a) Water 250,000 to 300,000 gallons of potable water per day required.

(b) Sewage Provision for disposition of 150,000 to 200,000 gallons of sterile and treated effluent per day required.

(c) Electricity 4,000 to 4,500 kilowatts per hour connected load required.

7. Availability per year of 1,000 each locally produced cattle, swine, sheep.

After hearing all proposals presented at St. Louis, the site committee will choose from three to five locations for further on-the-ground consideration. The members will then visit each of these proposed locations and will review the advantages of each of them. They will present their recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture.

### Can Test 25 Simultaneously

The new animal disease facility as planned will include laboratories for research simultaneously on 25 different animal diseases so arranged that there will be no possibility of expo-

sure of animals in one section to any of the diseases on which work may be under way in another section. Complete protection for laboratory workers against diseases that may be communicable to humans will be included. Safety measures also will be adopted preventing the escape of disease organisms from the laboratory that might infect livestock herds and flocks or humans. In addition to the research, the facility will have space and equipment for testing and diagnostic work required in the livestock disease control and regulatory activities of the Department.

The livestock industry and agricultural leaders consider the need for the new laboratory to be urgent as a result of the necessary abandonment of 50-year-old inadequate facilities in Washington on July 1, 1955. This action, on the recommendation of an inspection committee of three widely known research experts on communicable diseases, resulted in the closing down of research on tuberculosis, anthrax, and other diseases of animals that also can affect humans. Similar work at Auburn, Ala., and Denver, Colo., also has had to be discontinued because of antiquated and inadequate facilities.

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