

Lancaster Farming

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\$2 Per Year

Figures Show Larger Farms, Better Living

Farming in Pennsylvania seems headed for bigger business, labor saving on the farm and in the home, and improved communications. These trends are reported by Anna T Wink, research associate in agricultural economics at the Pennsylvania University.

With the present income situation, competition is keen between spending for improved farming and for better living, Mrs Wink points out. By 1954, 96 of each 100 farms had electricity and 83 had piped running water. Almost 70 per cent had telephones. Home freezers were reported on 48 per cent of the farms and more than half had television sets.

Trends toward bigger farm units are apparent when the 1955 Census of Agriculture figures are shown as averages per farm, she explains. Milk sold wholesale in 1954 was 1087 hundred weight per farm or 40 per cent more than in 1949. However, in the total number of farms selling milk there was a 5-year decrease of 15 per cent. The number of chickens sold per farm increased 114 per cent although one-third fewer farms sold chickens. The gain in egg sales from 1949 to 1954 was 58 per cent, although one-fourth fewer farms sold them.

Importance among field crops seems to be changing. Increased acreages were used in 1954 for high quality roughage. Corn for silage was grown on 12 per cent more acres and alfalfa hay acreage more than doubled. Corn for grain and oats held their own during the period. Wheat occupied one-fourth fewer acres and mixed hay one-fifth less in 1954 than in 1949. Surpluses of some farm products and changed feeding practices helped determine cropland use.

Despite the decline in number of farms, most kinds of livestock increased from 1949 to 1954. Total number of milk cows increased 4 per cent, other cattle and calves 22 per cent, sheep and lambs 5 per cent, and chickens 17 per cent.

Pownall Renamed Council President

Laverne Pownall, R2 Quarryville, has been reelected as president of the County Agricultural Council at a meeting held last week at the Farm Bureau Cooperative Assn.

All other officers were also reelected. They are: Vice president, Charles Cowan, 621 Grand View Blvd., Lancaster; secretary treasurer, Lee Brobst, Leola, and reporter, Wayne B Rentschler, Lampeter.

The council cited the county's new U. S. Weather Bureau office for its services in the past year.



4-H Members Prepare for Farm Show

GETTING HER FEET trimmed in preparation for the farm show is the registered Holstein heifer Daisy J Stonhurst owned by Donald Welk. She is held by Johnny

Welk. Donald, 16, has shown in the Farm Show since he was 10. Another brother, Paul, will also show. They are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Le Roy Welk, R1 Strasburg

German Soil Scientist Visits Farms in Lancaster County

A German soil scientist who has discovered a new soil conditioner is visiting in Lancaster County this week. He is H. J. Steinbach.

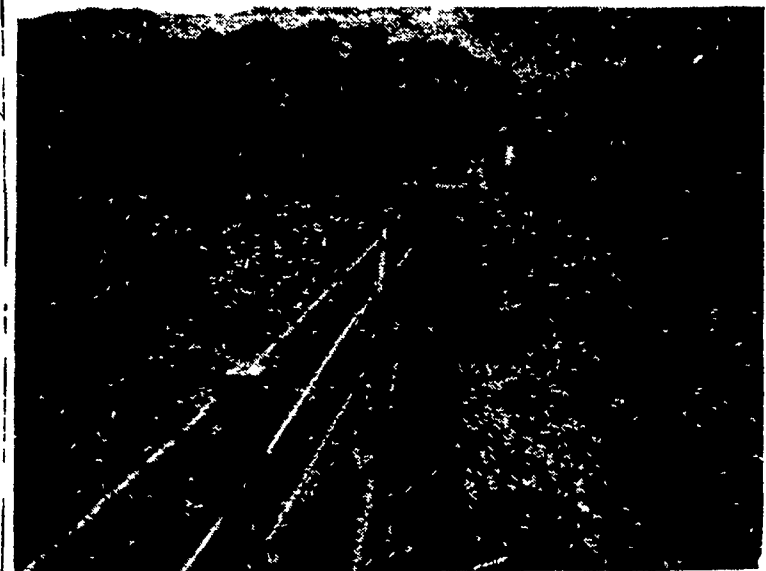
Steinbach has developed what he terms "ABC compounds" for soil conditioning. They are inorganic compounds that cause the soil to regain texture and waterholding capacity that it has lost due to over use and the loss of natural organic matter.

The individual clay particles

that go to make up the soil measure from one-five hundredth of a millimeter to one-tenth of a millimeter in diameter, he explains. When the natural soil conditioners are lost, these minute particles come together making the soil almost impervious to water and thereby cause the soil to appear to lose its fertility.

In experiments done in Australia by Steinbach, under the

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THE DIFFERENCE in growth of rye grass in these two test plots illustrate the difference soil structure makes. Both had 100 lbs. of super phosphate applied and the same amount of grazing. The only difference is that the plot on the right was treated with a .01 per cent solution of Steinbach's ABC soil conditioner. (Victoria, Australia, Department of Agriculture Photo)

Farm Income Up? USDA Expects Gain

Net income of farm operations this year is up slightly from 1955 for the first time since 1951 and another gain is expected in

No Seasonal Milk Decline Commission Says

There will be no seasonal decline in milk price Jan. 1 to either farmers or consumers in the Philadelphia Milk Shed, the Pennsylvania Milk Control Commission announced today in an emergency order.

This emergency order becomes effective Jan. 1 and expires Feb. 1, 1957, pending hearings which will be held in Philadelphia and suburban Philadelphia during the week of Jan. 7. On the basis of these hearings the Commission proposes to promulgate a regular order for the Philadelphia Milk Shed.

Under precedent established by agreement of the Federal Marketing Administrator in the Philadelphia Milk Shed and the Pennsylvania Milk Control Commission, a seasonal pricing program has been followed for several years whereby price changes automatically occur Jan. 1, April 1, and Oct. 1.

This is the first time the Milk Control Commission has departed from this seasonal pricing program since it was established in 1942. This emergency action was taken because of the requests of farmers over a very wide area for relief from a general price cost squeeze.

The Commission further announced its intention to take over the pricing of

Poultrymen Call Work Meeting

The Lancaster County Poultry Breeders Assn. will hold a special "work meeting" at 7:30 p. m., Jan. 10 at the new poultry center on the Route 230 Bypass.

The special meeting was called at a meeting of the association and poultry exchange directors Wednesday night. The purpose will be to make a solicitation for construction of a new building.

Also announced is a meeting to hold a poultry show near Quarryville in the near future. The show has not been held for several years. The association is planning a new building. The special meeting will not be open to the public.

New Vehicle Tax 26,000 Lbs and Up

Owners of trucks and other highway motor vehicles weighing more than 26,000 pounds must soon start paying the use tax on them. Forms for filings will be available at district Internal Revenue Service offices beginning Dec. 3, and the deadline is Jan. 31 for returns on vehicles used at any time in July through December of this year.

Thereafter, the returns must be made by the end of the month following the one in which the vehicle is first used. The new tax this fiscal year for use in the highway construction program

1957, according to the Agriculture Department.

The key to the increased income outlook for 1957, as the department sees it is: strong demand from consumers, increasing shipments of farm products abroad, the soil bank, designed to cut planted acreages, and reduced hog marketing.

Now Available

Copies of the new farm handbook on field crops handbooks are available at the Lancaster County agent's office. They are free. County Agent Max Smith calls the new Pennsylvania State College publication "one of the best farm handbooks I've ever seen. I recommend it highly." Copies of the publication may also be ordered from the office by mail.

Tobacco Show

In Lancaster Today

The annual Lancaster County Tobacco Show is being held today at the Milt Rank tobacco warehouse, North Water St., Lancaster. Winning hands at the show will be taken at the Farm Show.