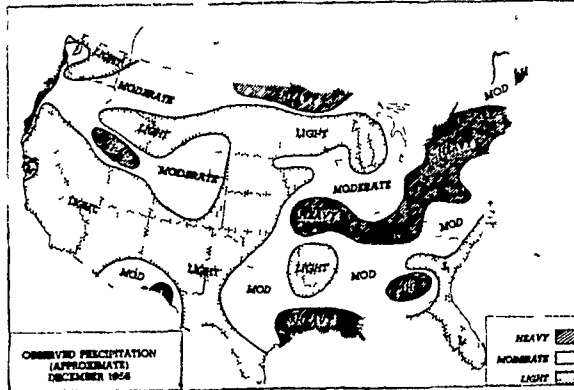


TEMPERATURES in the Lancaster County area were much above the 30 year average during the month of December. At the same time, precipitation was listed as



moderate. It is noteworthy that the "Dust Bowl" areas of the West again recorded light rain and snow fall. (U.S. Weather Bureau)

Florida Scientist Finds Mushrooms Grow Well in Sawdust-Meal Mulch

A new way of growing bumper crops of mushrooms rapidly has been announced by a Florida scientist Dr. Seymour S. Block, associate professor of chemical engineering at the University of Florida said that his experiments proved that 500 pounds of mushrooms could be grown in eleven days on a ton of sawdust sprinkled with oatmeal.

Today mushrooms are grown commercially in a compost of manure and straw which yields two or three crops a year. The sawdust beds, according to Dr. Block, can produce at least a dozen full crops annually.

The mushroom raised in sawdust looks like the Oriental mushroom, with a flat cap rather than a button, and its flavor is halfway between that of the Oriental and the American species.

The inspiration for Dr. Block's research came from the

Asian century-old practice of putting mushroom fungus into holes in forest logs and plugging the holes. After about 18 months, the mushrooms sprout.

The Florida scientist experimented with a variety of mushroom that grows naturally on trees and seeded the sawdust with its spawn, which turned some of the sawdust into mushrooms. Further experimentation showed that the addition of up to five per cent of oatmeal speeded and increased the crop.

Although present mushroom growing methods require a temperature range controlled between 50 and 60 degrees, the mushrooms in the sawdust beds will sprout at temperatures from ordinary room temperature to 78 degrees.

Since sawdust has a more uniform texture than compost, it can be easily handled on conveyor belts. And it is a cheaper bed for mushroom growth in other ways.

"Larger yields are anticipated as the optimum conditions for cultivation are established," Dr. Block said. "This could lead to commercial production at costs lower than beefsteak."

On a dry weight basis, mushrooms cost more than three times as much as steak today. And they are usually served to garnish beefsteak rather than as an entree, mostly because the price puts mushroom into the "fancy food" class.

If the price can be drastically lowered, they may well become an increasingly favorite dish.

Although mushrooms are 90 per cent water, they have all the amino acids required by the body plus many of the B group vitamins.

'Pros' Use Brains — Not Brakes — In Snow

Professional drivers do not make light of a light snowfall, W. F. Hovetter, president of PTF Mutual Insurance Co. says.

"The 'pros' — those men who operate trucks and cars over short or long distances in all kinds of weather — appreciate the treachery of snow or ice in any amount," he warned.

"Such drivers outwit the elements by using their brains more than their brakes. When driving on snow or ice, they take very seriously the recommendations of the National Safety Council's Committee on Winter Driving Hazards. These recommendations are:

1. Get the feel of the road.
2. Adjust speed to road and weather conditions.
3. Keep the windshield and windows clear.
4. Use tire chains for snow and ice conditions.
5. "Pump" the breaks to stop.
6. Follow other vehicles at a safe distance.

"The two main threats to winter time road safety are reduced visibility and inadequate traction," Hovetter declared.

PENB Annual Conference Set As A 'Work Session'

Scheduled as a "work session" the Annual Planning Conference of the Poultry and Egg National Board, Jan 31-Feb. 1, will center upon 1957 check-off plans for financing PENB, the new and supplemental PENZ program for advertising eggs, and food editor attitudes toward PENB now and when publicity and advertising are teamed together.

The program will be held in the La Salle Hotel, Chicago, with Leslie S Hubbard, PENB president, delivering the address of welcome at 9:30 a.m. on opening day. Following Mr. Hubbard's talk, Harvey Steen, director of the division of state services, PENB, will outline PENB's 1957 check-off programs.

The program for the first day features separate panels of industry leaders and food publicity experts in the morning; talks by William B Powell, executive secretary-treasurer, National Red Cherry Institute, Chicago, and Lee Hammett, Western Advertising Agency, in the afternoon, and a banquet address by Willie Mae Rogers of Good Housekeeping magazine in the evening.

The industry panel will be on "PENB Check-off Campaign Plans by States or Areas." Panel members will be Henry D. Mangun, Indiana, chairman; Dr. J. C. Hutter, New York; Blanton Smith, Tennessee; T. A. Hensarling, Texas; F. H. Nyman, Utah, and Doyle Free, Nebraska.

Three famous food editors comprise a panel which will discuss "The Attitude of Food Editors Towards PENB Now and

Washington, (USDA) — The U. S. Department of Agriculture announced recently a revision in fees and charges for the appeal inspection of grain for export. In addition to the present fee of \$150 per 1,000 bushels for export appeal inspection, a charge of \$5.00 per man-hour will be made for all overtime of employees assigned to handle the appeal.

This charge is to enable the Department to give more complete service on export appeals, many of which require continuous loading after regular hours and on weekends and holidays.

This amendment was approved to become effective 12:01 a.m., Dec. 1, 1956.

When PENB Advertises Eggs. They are Willie Mae Rogers, Good Housekeeping Magazine, New York; Isabel du Bois, Chicago Daily News, and Dorothy Thompson ("Mary Martenson"), Chicago American.

Mr. Powell will discuss "How an Organization Keyed to Consumer Education Can Launch Into Full-Scale Advertising," and Mr. Hammett will present "PENB's Program for Advertising Eggs."

Willie Mae Rogers will be the principal speaker at the annual banquet which will be held at 6:30 p.m. The 1956 PENB achievement award, recognizing outstanding scientific effort which leads to greater use of poultry and eggs, will be presented to an individual chosen for that honor by a committee of scientists.

The PENB board of directors will be in session on the second day. Action on establishing a PENB Southern Office and election of officers are among the business items scheduled.

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