

Lancaster Farming

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\$2 Per Year

Gov. Leader Sets Feb. 25-March 2 As Turkey Week

HARRISBURG — Gov. George M. Leader today urged tribute to turkey growers of the Commonwealth through observance of Pennsylvania Turkey Week, Feb. 25 through March 2. He issued the following statement:

"Responding to demands for quality products, Pennsylvania turkey growers have built a \$13 million industry. They raise two million birds a year and their farm value usually is equal to that of the State's entire potato crop, has about the same value as our tobacco crop, and the combined value of commercial apples and peaches.

"Pennsylvania turkeys are outstanding on the market place and have become known throughout the United States for their high quality. Our growers have attained for the Commonwealth ninth place among all the states in the number of turkeys raised annually. We rank eighth in value of the crop.

"Growers have made turkey meat available every month in the year. Consumers are learning that turkey meat represents the lowest cost among all protein meat foods. In addition, turkey meat fits in well with a low calorie diet.

"Supplies of Pennsylvania turkeys are ample to meet requirements until new crop birds start arriving on our markets in mid-March and later.

"To assist the growers in the movement of current supplies I urge that consumers pay tribute to members of this important agricultural industry by adding turkey to their menu during the week of Feb. 25 through March 2, a period to be known as Pennsylvania Turkey Week."

Most Tobacco Sold Last Week In Sudden Rush

It is estimated that 95 to 98 per cent of the 1956 tobacco crop has been sold. A rash of buying in the last week cleaned up most of the estimated five million pounds of leaf remaining from the 1956 crop.

Reported prices ranged from 23 and 12 to a high of 28 and 12.

The buying followed a long period of virtual inactivity in the local markets and was believed by many to be the result of the efforts of the Lancaster County Tobacco Growers Cooperative Assn.

The co-op has offered to buy tobacco to pack at an advance price of 20 cents a pound. This, observers said, tended to put a floor on the market.

Mark S. Hess, co-op manager, agreed in part with this opinion. He said that the buying developments proved that the value of the tobacco crop never changed. The fact that some buyers had been able to buy tobacco at lower prices following the heavy early sales at prices up to 30 and 12 had forced other firms to lower their bids as well, he said.



TWO PENN STATE specialists, B. L. Pollack, center, and J. O. Dutt, right, inspect celery grown by Jay Hodecker, R2 Lancaster, left, at the celery growers meeting Monday. The meeting was held at the farm

of Amos Funk, Millersville. Hodecker's celery will be taken back to Penn State for seed production and further study as a possible replacement for the lost Houser variety. (LF Photo)

Two New Celery Varieties Offer Promise to Replace Lost Houser

"A new celery variety, H-46, selected by Amos H. Funk, R1 Millersville, shows promise and should be ready in about two years," said Dr. B. L. Pollack, vegetable breeder at Penn State, at a meeting of celery growers at the Funk farm Monday.

Another new variety, Utah 5270 is also available commercially as a possible replacement for the old Houser variety.

The Houser variety was lost during World War II when the seed growers on the West Coast were dislocated.

Some 35 growers from York, Lebanon and Schuylkill counties looked over 18 new strains of celery grown in the county. They were grown by Funk, Jay Hodecker, R2 Lancaster; and Jake Siegrist, R2 Lancaster.

Dr. R. S. Kirby of Penn State outlined the use of Terraclor as a spray material that controls pink rot in trenched celery and increases the trimmed weight of healthy stalks.

J. O. Dutt, vegetable extension specialist, told the growers that research is going on in other lines than breeding and that some unusual results are being found.

He said that in one experiment, involving nutritional deficiencies in the plant, the plant exhibited the usual symptoms of tarnish plant bug attack. However, this problem has not yet been solved.

Dutt expressed his belief that a grower-research program such

as the one in this area is outstanding. "We've made progress already. We need more programs like this," he said.

Another vegetable growing suggestion was given the growers by Dutt and Pollack. They suggested that the growers give young tomato plants a cold treatment before transplanting.

This will force more buds and will give a heavier bloom earlier in the season, they said.

To cold shock the plants, they suggest putting three inch plants, or plants that have at least two true leaves in a room where the temperature can be maintained at about 45 degrees for two weeks.

They added that this is not on the recommended list from the University this year, but that experimental work has shown that cold shock has merit.

Extension Meet To Recognize Flying Farmers

Special recognition for Lancaster Flying Farmers will be one of the highlights of the annual Lancaster County agricultural and home economics extension assn. meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the First Presbyterian Church, 136 East Orange St., Lancaster.

Speaker for the dinner meeting will be Roger Deas of the American Can Co., New York. His topic will be "The Significance of Agricultural Productivity."

The deadline for tickets is tomorrow. They may be obtained from the extension office in the Lancaster Post Office or from any executive committee member. The price is \$2.

Dr. R.W. Schlosser Will Address Soil Meeting

Dr. Ralph W. Schlosser, head of the Department of English and former president of Elizabethtown College, will address the sixth annual meeting of the Lancaster County Soil Conservation District at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, in the Manheim Central High School. A vice president of the Pennsylvania German Folklore Society and a member of the Pennsylvania German Society, Dr. Schlosser is well versed in the traditions of the Pennsylvania Dutch farm life.

His topic will be "Making Good Our Heritage."

The annual meeting will be sponsored by the Manheim Central Chapter of Future Farmers of America and co-chairmen will be Joseph McGahen, vocational agriculture instructor and FFA adviser, and Amos H. Funk, Chairman of the Soil Conservation District. Dr. Henry G. Bucher, supervising principal of the school district, will welcome the conservationists, and FFA youths will provide entertainment.

County Commissioner Charles H. Pearce, a district board member, will present a plaque to the farmer-cooperator named "Lancaster County's Outstanding Farmer Conservationist of 1956" during the meeting.

Amos Funk will deliver a few remarks on the accomplishments of the district and will introduce representatives of the various agencies who have contributed assistance during the year. The annual report will be given by Wayne B. Rentschler, secretary-treasurer.

Eden Township Declared Ready For State Test

The thirtieth township in Lancaster County was declared ready for official brucellosis free certification this week by Roscoe Carter, R3 Quarryville, Eden Township chairman.

Carter said that 92 per cent of the herd owners in Eden Township had signed test agreements or were already engaged in a Bang's Disease testing program.

County Agent Max M. Smith said that the request has gone to Harrisburg to conduct the official test of the township.

Smith said that three other townships, Mt. Joy, Hempfield and Ralpho, are close to completion in registration for certification. Ralpho, he said, is the nearest to being completed.

With the completion of these three townships, it is hoped that the county total will be the required 75 per cent of breeders and herd owners required to start official testing for certification of the county.

The remaining eight townships are in the northeastern part of the county.

Cigar Tobacco Stocks Down As of Jan. 1

Cigar filler, binder and wrapper stocks were down by five, seven and two per cent, respectively as of Jan. 1 according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Hoever leaf tobacco stocks in the U. S. and Puerto Rico totaled 5,256 million pounds (farm-sales weight) according to the quarterly reports of dealers and manufacturers. This is an increase of 182 million pounds compared with a year earlier.

Included in stocks were approximately 1,875 million pounds of the 1956 crop which had been marketed by growers before Jan. 1, or approximately 87 per cent of total production.

Flue-cured stocks were up eight per cent with a year earlier.

Showing decreases were burley, down one per cent, and Maryland, down five per cent. Stocks of fire-cured leaf were unchanged while dark air-cured increased slightly.

The reports show that there was 104,429,000 pounds of binder (51-55) in stock Jan. 1, 1957 compared with 112,408,000 pounds a year ago. Filler (41-44), 114,424,000 Jan. 1, 1957, compared to 121,261,000 pounds a year ago.

There was 24,839,000 pounds of wrapper (61-62) in stock a year ago. As of Jan. 1, 1957, there was 24,332,000 pounds.

Puerto Rico had 51,038,000 pounds of filler on hand as of Jan. 1, and foreign grown stocks were up by 5,673,000 pounds.

Two More Counties Certified Bangs Free

HARRISBURG — State Secretary of Agriculture William L. Henning has announced that Crawford and Susquehanna Counties have been certified as brucellosis-free, meeting State and Federal requirements in reduction of the troublesome Bang's disease of cattle.