

# Lancaster Farming

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## Above Normal Temperatures To Continue

HARRISBURG — Wet fields slowed down preparation of Pennsylvania farm fields for spring planting, but above-normal temperatures should continue with little rainfall for the remainder of this week, the State Department of Agriculture said Wednesday.

In a weather and crop summary for the week ended Monday, the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service said the Weather Bureau reported unseasonably high temperatures for the past week that ran into the nineties in the Harrisburg and Reading areas. For the rest of this week temperatures should range from normal to six degrees above normal.

High temperatures in recent days brought all fruit blossoms out ahead of the expected schedule and most areas are in full bloom. Blossom trails are marked for motorists in the Adams and Berks County areas where guided tours are planned for Sunday.

Plenty of corn land is still to be prepared for planting over the State. Oats planting was behind schedule at the end of last week. Warmer weather aided hay and pasture fields. Stands are good and cattle are on pasture, the report declared.

Planting of early potatoes continues in the southeast and farmers in other areas are waiting for fields to dry.

Peas for processing in southern counties are a week to ten days late and planting is under way in central Pennsylvania counties. Harvest of spinach in volume is in progress in the southeast, with quality reported good.

Rhubarb is ready to cut and housewives next week may expect homegrown asparagus on the markets.



C. WARREN LEININGER, R2 Denver, left, is the new president of the Lancaster County Swine Producers Assn. formed Tuesday night. Vice president is Richard Maule, R2 Quarryville. The secretary treasurer, Harold Rohrer, R7 Lancaster, was not present. Leininger is a Spotted Poland and China breeder and Maule raises Berkshires. (LF Photo)

## Water Soaked Barley Replaces Corn In Poultry Feeding Ration Test

Scientists at Washington State College, in experiments with chicks and poults, have discovered a treatment using either water or an enzyme mixture for barley that results in just as good growth of the birds and produces as much meat per pound of fed as corn does.

The treatment worked out by the Washington researchers involves soaking the barley or other cereal grains in an equal weight of water until they absorb all the water. Then the grain is dried, ground, and mixed in a regular poultry ration.

The reason for the improved results, the Washington scientists believe, is that the water unlocks some of the carbohydrates formerly inaccessible in the grain. The same results came from simply adding an enzyme mixture to feed containing barley.

At four weeks of age, birds used in the experiments had gained 190 pounds more per ton of feed on the treated barley than those on the untreated.

## County Health Fair Opens In Lancaster Wednesday

More than 30 exhibits will be included in the Health Fair sponsored by the Lancaster YMCA and participating health agencies at the YMCA on May 8 through 11.

The fair is to acquaint the Lancaster County public with the various facilities available through local agencies, and to educate the public in the ways to make use of the facilities.

The fair will open at 1.15 on Wednesday and will be open until 9 p. m. and on Saturday, from 10 a. m. until 4 p. m.

There is no admission charge.

## Lancaster County Swine Producers Organize at Meeting Tuesday

C. Warren Leininger, R2 Denver, was elected president of the newly organized Lancaster County Swine Producers Assn. at the organization meeting at the Farm Bureau Cooperative in Lancaster Tuesday night.

Vice president is Richard Maule, R2 Quarryville, and secretary treasurer is Harold Rohrer, R7 Lancaster.

Leininger is a spotted Poland China breeder, Maule raises Berkshires and Rohrer is a Chester-White producer.

Others named to the board of directors are Duroc-Jersey, Arlie Anderson, Elizabethtown, Hampshire, Earl Fisher, R1 East Earl; Poland China, Harold B. Endsley, R1 Marietta, Yorkshire, Kenneth Skiles, R2 Narvon, commercial feeder, Ivan Glick, R7 Lancaster, and vocational agriculture instructor, Howard Siglin, Millersville.

At this election, a third of the directors were elected for three, two and one year terms.

Approximately 40 swine producers heard Dwight Yonkin, Penn State swine specialists commend Lancaster County for being the first southeastern Pennsylvania county to organize such an association.

He outlined the activities of the state and national swine producers associations. The state organization, he said, is presently trying to get the legislature to outlaw the use of live virus cholera inoculation. The national organization has several programs underway to promote the use of pork and pork by-products.

The second speaker at the meeting was Grant Sherritt, of the animal husbandry department at Penn State.

He said that meat type certification is one of the most efficient ways to improve swine production. He listed three goals.

First is increased sow productivity. For a gilt, the weaned litter of eight pigs must weigh 270 pounds and an eight pig litter from a sow must weigh 320

pounds. Second is increased growth and feed efficiency in the animal. The goal here is for the hog to weigh 200 pounds in 180 days.

And third is how well the carcass will cut out. Backfat should measure from 1.6 to 1.9 inches, the carcass length should be from 29 to 31 inches and the loin eye measurement should be at least 3 1/4 square inches.

Sherritt said that these basic requirements for meat type certification seem rather easy on the surface because most farmers can think of individual hogs that have exceeded these requirements.

But he said that when every hog on the farm will live up to the goals, the farmer is doing a top notch job of management and feeding.

He also gave some hints on increasing gilt litter size by selecting the correct time for breeding. Tests have shown that gilts bred during the third heat period will average about a pig a litter more. Best time for service is during the first 24 hours of the period.

Breeding during the last or third 24 hours of the period will tend to decrease litter size, he said.

Sherritt is also an advocate of lean gilts and sows before and during the gestation period. After the gilt gets to a 160 to 170 pound weight, the feed should be cut down to keep gain to about a pound and a half a day.

The only time the gilt should go on full high protein feed is during breeding time. She should be on full feed for at least three weeks before she is to be bred.

Another guest at the meeting was Walter Dunlap Jr., of the Lancaster Livestock Exchange. He told the breeders that the Exchange is ready to stand behind then in any project that might be undertaken.

A movie on Pennsylvania swine production was shown.

County Agent Max M. Smith presided at the meeting.



SPRING, OR MAYBE SUMMER, came to Lancaster County this week pushing temperatures up into the 90's. The long warm days, now have the trees bursting with

flowers and most pasture is in good shape. This herd of Holsteins find finds spring a very enjoyable time with lush pasture in an abandoned orchard.

## Northampton, Wayne Ctys. Certified Brucellosis-free by State and USDA

HARRISBURG — Northampton and Wayne counties were certified as brucellosis-free last week by the state and federal departments of agriculture in an announcement by state sec. William L. Henning.

They bring to 55 the number of Pennsylvania counties where the troublesome ailment of cattle (Bang's disease) has been brought under control, 25 of them in the past two years.

In a run-down of testing work still to be done in 12 counties before the entire state can be certified, only two counties remain to be signed up for area testing, according to Dr. H. A. Milo, director of the State Bureau of Animal Industry. These counties are Lebanon and Bradford where 75 per cent of herd owners in only 18 of the state's 1,569 townships still must sign agreements for blood testing of their cattle.

Testing has been completed in six counties where the incidence of the disease is not yet down to federal-state certification requirements. These counties are Chester, Cumberland, Franklin, Montgomery, Philadelphia and Tioga. Four other counties — Berks, Lancaster, Perry and York — are completely signed up and testing soon will expand to all townships.

To attain certification, less than one per cent of cattle and five per cent of herds must be free of the disease.

Wayne County dairymen attained an unusual record, Dr. Milo said. When the first county-wide test was completed in 1954 it was found that 3.7 per cent of all cattle and 16.3 per cent of herds were infected. On the latest test only 5/100 of one per cent of cattle and one-half of one per cent of herds were infected.