

Lancaster Farming

Vol. II, No. 27

Quarryville (Lancaster County) Pa., Friday, May 17, 1957

\$2 Per Year



A HAND FULL of the soil that he hopes will produce 300 bushels of corn to an acre is held by Jerry Greiner, Manheim. Working from soil tests and using the latest hybrids and techniques, he hopes to equal a mark set by a farm boy in Mississippi two years ago. (LF Photo)

Manheim FFA Boy Plans Raising 300 Bushels an Acre Corn Crop

A 17 year old Manheim farm boy is planning grand strategy these days an attack a 300 bushel an acre corn production mark.

He is Jerry Greiner, a student at Manheim Central High School.

Jerry has already made basic preparation for the high yield by spreading 17 tons of chicken manure on the plot and by having soil tests made.

The soil test showed a pH of 6.2, so three tons of burnt lime was applied.

It also showed that the organic matter content of the soil was 2.6 per cent, that there were 16 pounds of phosphorus and 295 pounds of potash available.

To raise the deficient phosphorus and potash levels, Jerry plans to apply 4,000 pounds of 10-10-10.

The 17 tons of manure will add 768 pounds of nitrogen, 387 pounds of phosphorus and 346 pounds of potash. If needed an application of anhydrous or aqua ammonia will be made when the corn is about knee high.

Planting will be done at a rate of 22,000 plants per acre. They will be planted seven and a half inches apart in a 38 inch row. Pa-

807, a recently developed Penn State drought resistant hybrid, will be used.

The plot to be planted, in tobacco and rye grass last year, is on an approximately one per cent western slope. The field is close enough to the farmstead that water for irrigation will be available if the season warrents its use.

However Jerry says that he does not plan to irrigate unless it becomes absolutely necessary.

Young Greiner is no stranger to corn growing. Last year he made 115.5 bushels in a one acre contest.

"I probably could have done better, but we didn't take a soil test or go to much trouble with it," he said.

In addition to his field crop work, he raises Hampshire and Yorkshire hogs and has a floor of layers.

He was recently elected president of his Future Farmers of America chapter at Manheim Central. His advisors at Manheim Central are Joseph McGahen and Paul Miller.

Lack of Moisture Brings Planting Of Corn to Halt

HARRISBURG — With dust clouds following plows and planters in many farming areas of Pennsylvania some farmers have delayed efforts to plant crops after three weeks of little or no rain, the State Department of Agriculture said today.

Dry, hard fields have made plowing "dusty and difficult," according to the weather and crop summary issued by the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service for the week ended Monday.

Some fields were too dry to plant after being prepared and in York, Lancaster and other southeastern Pennsylvania areas many farmers have stopped planting corn until moist soil can provide for germination and healthy root growth, observers said.

Several days of steady, soaking rain would bring relief to parched fields they declared. For the remainder of the week rainfall is expected to range from one-half to one inch but some relief could come from local thundershowers.

While waiting for rain, many farmers have been repairing buildings and fences.

Tomato plants are coming in and must be set in dry ground. Early planted peas show reduced bloom which will cut yields. Planting of vegetable seed continues in the hope that rain will come soon. Many commercial vegetable operations in the southeastern section of the state are using their irrigation systems to advantage.

Growth of hay and pastures is retarded by dry weather the survey report declared. Grain crops developed slowly during the week. Barley is in head but the straw is short and reduced yields are possible. Late planted oats stands are uneven and slow to sprout.

With some risk involved, planting of sweet corn continues along with the setting of tomato plants.

Since April 2, the beginning of the 1957 growing season, the Harrisburg area has had the least rain slightly less than four inches. Most rain was in the Erie and Emporium areas with more than six inches. Philadelphia has had a little more than four inches and elsewhere in the state the cumulative total is between five and six inches, but very little in the past three weeks.

Feeder Space For Young Birds Affects Weight

Results of tests conducted by the Texas Agricultural experiment station show that broiler chicks allowed 1.5 linear inches of feeder space until three weeks of age and then increased to three linear inches for the rest of the nine week growing period were .04 to .15 pound heavier than other birds receiving smaller amounts of feeder space.

The greatest decline in growth rate occurred when the chicks were started on .7 inch of feeder space until three weeks old and then increased to 1.5 linear inches for the last six weeks.

The response of male and female birds to increased feeder space was found to be the same.

Benson Calls for Agricultural Act Based on Current Peacetime Need

New farm legislation not based on the needs of a general economic depression or wartime is needed, according to Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson.

Benson, speaking at a special news conference for the Newspaper Farm Editors Assn. at Washington Monday, said that there is no one shot solution to the farm problem.



Ezra Taft Benson

"The move has been toward less controls and regulations" the Secretary said. "I believe that present agricultural policies are sound."

He also scoffed at three general misconceptions and over simplifications. The first of these is that it is simple to control production by acre cuts.

"This is difficult to impossible," Benson said.

The next was that the family farm is a thing of the past.

"The family farm has changed markedly to meet the changes in a dynamic agriculture. The size has increased to make the best use of labor and equipment," Benson explained.

"The farm debt has more than doubled, but the farm assets have increased more than the debt," he said.

There is much in the family farm picture that is encouraging, according to Benson. Foreign markets are improving, the national diet in the United States has improved and the population shows a steady increase that will mean a growing market for farm products at home.

When questioned on what sort of a new blueprint or proposal for the upcoming farm legislation he has, the Secretary said that at the present he has none. He did explain that any proposals he might make would be "the next step forward."

When asked to comment on recently published rumors that he will leave the cabinet soon, together with Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey and Secretary of Defense Wilson, Benson said that there is no basis for the stories.

In speaking of his future, Benson said laughingly that it would be a matter of "months or years" before he leaves his government post.

"I have never worried about tenure in office," he added.

Calf Vaccination Given State Okay

HARRISBURG -- Expansion of the State's calfhood vaccination program as an important phase of control and eradication of bovine brucellosis (Bang's disease) was announced today by Agriculture Secretary William L. Henning.

Effective at once, practicing veterinarians are authorized to vaccinate dairy calves from the age of four months through eight months, he said.

Since the free calfhood vaccination program was started in 1950 the age range has been from six through eight months.

There is sufficient proof that vaccination at the younger age is effective and the step is in line with federal Department of Agriculture practices since Jan 1 of this year, according to Dr. H. A. Milo, director of the State Bureau of Animal Industry.

Now Is the Time . . .

By MAX M. SMITH

To Make Grass Silage from Winter Rye

Many fields of rye have been headed for at least a week, and since the best time to make grass silage is in the blossom stage before the grain develops, the crops should be cut soon. Rye silage should be put in the silo without wilting and with a preservative such as meta-bisulphite or one of the molasses mixtures.

To Spray Alfalfa Aphids, Weevils Second Time

A number of phone calls at the Lancaster County Extension Office show that a number of County fields may be infested with the second crop of weevils or with green aphids. Inspect alfalfa fields often. The control is to spray with malathion according to the manufacturers recommendations.

To Apply Pre-emergence on Corn

One of the best ways to reduce weeds in the corn field is to spray either before the corn comes up or spray in the spike stage using two pints of 2,4-D in the amine or low-volatile ester form per acre. Do not use the ester form of 2,4-D. Do not cultivate for at least two weeks following this application. The advantage of a pre-emergence spray is that heavier amounts of the material may be used without damage to the crop, and grasses are killed as they come through the ground.

To Spray Dairy Barns for Fly Control

Diazinon applied at a rate of eight pounds of 25 per cent wettable powder or a gallon of 25 per cent emulsion in 50 pounds of water is recommended for dairy barn fly control. This spray should last for about six weeks. When spraying, remove all animals (keep them out for at least four hours) and cover all water and feed containers. An established fact — good livestock sanitation practices are still the best answer.