Lancaster Farming

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Poultry Tour Wednesday In Delaware

Three Delaware poultry operations, the Chrysler assembly plant at Newark, Del., and the University of Delaware are to be visited Wednesday by Lancaster County poultrymen on a tour sponsored and arranged by the county poultry association.

The tourists wil assemble at 7 45 a.m. at Mellinger's Church parking lot, Route 30, about three miles east of Lancaster. They will take Route 896 to Newark, arriving there at about 9:50 a.m.

Tours of the assembly plant will begin at 10 a.m. and are expected to be completed in time for a tour of the dairy and poultry plants of the university from 11 30 to noon.

At noon a basket lunch will be held in the cafeteria room of the agricultural building. Water and milk will be available.

At 1:30 p.m. the Fred Haas farm on Route 13 south of St. George, Del., will be visited. Haas has 17,500 Beltsville White turkey broilers in three houses In addition he has 80 acres of tomatoes, 30 acres of asparagus and 20 acres of cucumbers, all under irrigation.

The next stop will be at 2:30 at the farm of Holt Pratt, east of Middletown, Del. This is a breeding farm. There are 3,500 breeding chickens — vantress white cockerels and white rock females. Other items of interest are a 130,000 egg capacity incubator, four bulk feed bins, trailer systems for moving pullets to range and a summer laying shelter.

The final stop will be at Gander Poultry Farm, Townsend, Del. This is a broiler operation with 50,000 broilers being raised in various types of houses

The tour committee, Richard Kreider, Mark Myer, Charles Nissley and Harry S. Sloat, urge all interested poultry producers to make the tour and to bring along wives and friends.

THE HOT DRY WEATHER of the past few weeks pretty well stopped farming, so Steven Hainley, R2 Denver, took advantage of the lull to do some fence row cleaning. The chain saw makes quick work of this tree which was shading out small grain crops. (LF Photo)

'Multi-Million' Rain Tuesday Ends Drouth

HARRISBURG — Soaking rains fell on most of Pennsylvania Tuesday to alleviate near existing drouth conditions on Pennsylvania farm crops, the State Department of Agriculture said following Federal-State surveys.

Described as a "multi-million dollar rainfall," the same conditions were reported from all areas of the Commonwealth

Crops were expected to take an upward turn with corn and vegetable crops and fruit to be "rejuvenated." It was the first statewide rainfall reported by the U. S Weather Bureau since July 13 when scattered amounts of rain fell across most of the State.

Meanwhile , farmers during the week ended Monday were combining oats in most of the state while wheat was being harvested in northern areas. Corn tasseled in the north and its growth was reported good. Farmers in the southeast said crops were hurt by hot and humid temperatures. Sweet corn in this same area also was in poor condition Ears were reported smaller than average as high temperatures and drying winds depleted moisture from the soil.

The condition of pastures last week was below average of excessively high temperatures. Some farmers in the southeast were reported using winter feed supplies because of short pastures. The second cutting of hay was said completed in southern counties and hay crops in northern countiese were in good condition.

Early season varieties of peaches are appearing on local markets. Fruit sizes have been affected because of the prolonged dry period. Rain on Tuesday was expected to help production and fruit sizes.

Hessian Fly Control by Systemic Insecticide Proves Practical in Trials

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Effective control of Hessian fly in wheat by a single application of chemical insecticide mixed with the fertilizer at seeding time may soon replace the current pratice of de layed seeding.

Field-size tests at the Missouri Experiment Station here in 1956 gave almost perfect control on heavily infested land even though the wheat was seeded on Sept. 6, a full month before he fly-free date in this area.

Economical control without delayed seeding, as clearly indicated by this experiment, offers advantages that will be readily appreciated by wheat growers. The Hessian fly is the wheat crop's most destructive insect pest over wide areas of the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia and Africa.

So far as known to Missouri investigator, Harry E. Brown, and his department chairman, Philip Stone, this is the first instance of successful control of the fly by a systemic insecticide; that is, a chemical applied to the seedbed so that its toxicity or killing effect on the fly may be grown into the plant tissue of the sprouting wheat.

The work leading up to this discovery began in 1948, when two chlorinated hydrocarbons, Toxaphene and Chlordane, were used in exploratory trials against the fall generation of the fly on heavily infested stubble.

The chemicals were sprayed. Results of the experiment showed that the sprayed areas yielded about 30 per cent of an expected crop, while wheat on unsprayed areas was a total failure.

Although these results were encouraging, the same treatment gave no protection at all against the spring generation of the fly. Moreover, later experiments indicated that control of the fly by these chemicals required dosage levels that were too costly. This was found to be true also with several other "sprayed on" chemicals, and as a consequence, the investigators turned their attention to systemic poisons

It was not until the early months of 1956 that a longer acting systemic insecticide was found and put to intensive tests in both greenhouse and field experiments. Thimet, in a 44 per cent formulation on carbon, was secured from the American Cyanamid Co. and first tested in greenhouse comparisons in March and April. Though on a small scale, these trials clearly revealed that this chemical gave the plants a long lasting toxicity at dosages the grower can afford.

In field trials, wheat was seeded Sept. 6 in clean fields innoculated with stubble from a heavily infested field in another area. Thimet was applied at four levels of dosage: 200, 400, 800, and 1,600 grams of actual insecticide an acre. It was mixed with 12-12-12 fertilizer and applied at planting with the grain drill fertilizer attachment. The fertilizer was applied at a rate of 345 pounds an acre.

The experimental area had been fallowed since June and had plenty of moisture to sprout and bring up the seedlings But August, September and October were drouth months, and the young plants soon began to suffer from lack of moisture. Irrigation, therefore, was applied on Sept. 18-19 and again on Oct. 15-16 — an acre inch of water at each operation.

Data on fly control was obtained during December by counting the number of maggots found

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Cattle on Feed In Major States Increase 8 Pct.

The Crop Reporting Board in a report released a few days ago estimates that 3,681,000 head of cattle and calves were on feed for market in 13 major feeding states on July 1.

This is an increase of eight per cent over the 3,397,000 head on feed July 1, 1956.

The number placed on feed in these states — Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Texas, Colorado, Arizona and California — during the quarter of this year totaled 1,576,000 head, two per cent above the corresponding quarter last year.

The current report shows that the number of fed cattle marketed from these 13 states during April-June 1957, at 2,297,000 head, was three per cent below the marketings for the second quarter of 1956.

July 1 marketing intentions of cattle feeders indicated that of the total 3,681,000 head on feed, 764,000 will be marketed in July, 916,000 will be marketed in August, 964,000 will be marketed in eptember and 1,037,000 will be rketed after Oct. 1, 1957.

Bulk Milk Handling May Save Dairies Millions

The switch from can to bulk handling methods for milk may mean a saving of from $5 million to $12 million a year to the dairy industry, the Agricultural Marketing Service says.

Economists forsee a saving of about 2 to 5 cents a hundredweight when the trend toward conversion finally levels off, with large savings possible in the cost of receiving and cooling milk at plants fully converted.

Now Is The Time . . .

By MAX SMITH, County Agriculture Agent

PLAN FOR SUMMER SEEDINGS a reminder that the place to start for a successful new seeding this summer is with a complete soil test. Might save you considerable time and money. Soil test kit cost $1.00 each and available at the County Extension Service office.

TO SAVE LABOR IN TOBACCO the spraying of tobacco at topping time for the prevention of growth of suckers worked well last year. The material "MH-30" met with the apparent approval of both growers and manufacturers. This spray should be applied at topping time and not several days to a week later. Details of this practice available on a leaflet from our Extension Office.

TO SALVAGE STUNTED CORN if recent drouth conditions made corn shoot tassel before time, we would suggest that this corn be made into silage in order to harvest the maximum amount of feed nutrients. We know of no better place to use than as silage if the normal ear seems unlikely to develop.

TO PRACTICE CORN BORER CONTROL in recent weeks many questions have been forwarded about the spraying of field corn for the control of European Corn Borer. We continue to question the benefits of spraying corn under average conditions With two broods in this area, it will be difficult to get good control. We prefer to urge strict attention this fall and next spring in getting corn fodder used or plowed down by late April. This will reduce the 1958 population.