

## State Sends 7 Crop Reporters To Make Survey of Drouth Damage

HARRISBURG — State Secretary of Agriculture William J. Henning Wednesday sent seven crop reporting specialists into the field to survey drouth damage.

The Federal State specialists all agricultural statisticians, were assigned as far as north as Luzerne County and to the southeastern area of the State.

Dewey O. Boster, chief agricultural statistician in Pennsylvania, is personally leading the survey. He said a full report will be given Secretary Henning later in the week.

Meanwhile, the official Federal State crop report issued for the week ended Monday shows southeastern Pennsylvania farmers still require additional moisture for most crops, including pastures.

Corn in the southeast is at a standstill and some farmers report cutting it for silage. Sweet corn production in the State in the State is about 75 per cent of normal because of the dry weather and heavy infestation of European corn borer. Some large fields of corn were total losses.

A second cutting of hay made

in southern counties was short. Some farmers have begun feeding this hay. Other farmers in this dry area report continuing to feed winter supplies.

Southern counties have begun harvesting potatoes but the size is small and quality poor because of the dry weather. Potatoes in the north are in good condition because of the adequate moisture.

Dry weather conditions during the past few weeks slowed the development and maturity of vegetables and prolonged their movement to markets. Early peach harvest was reported underway but dry weather was said responsible for holding down the size. Apples also have been affected.

Farmers in northern and western counties report good crop growth because of adequate rainfall.

Meanwhile, some farmers have completed fall plowing, while most are holding off until they have a good, soaking rain.

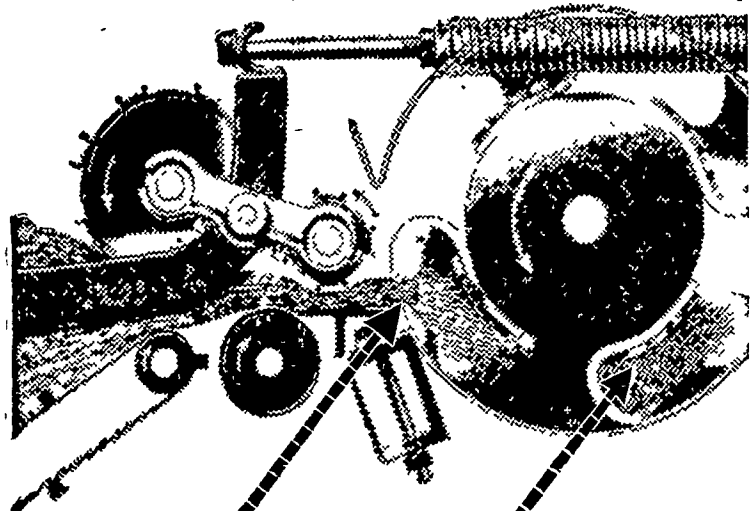
For the remainder of this week farmers can expect below normal temperatures across the State and scattered thunder storms Thursday or Friday, the U. S. Weather Bureau reported.

## Rancid Flavor in Fluid Milk Traced to Piping System Used

Increasing rancidity in fluid milk where farmers use stanchion and parlor pipelines has been traced to the systems used, according to John F. Speer, Jr. of the department of dairy science at the Pennsylvania State University.

Speer made a survey of 22 parlor and 17 pipeline milkers in Pennsylvania during 1956 and 1957. The type of rancidity found

is called "hydrolytic" caused by enzymatic activity in the milk. It often develops in parlor and pipeline milking systems where "risers" or vertical sections are used in the pipelines. Hydrolytic rancidity causes a disagreeable flavor and odor in milk. This off-flavor often leads to consumer complaints.



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## Oak Wilt Found In Nine Counties None in Lancaster

HARRISBURG — Oak wilt disease has been found in nine counties so far this year, according to the State Department of Agriculture.

The fungus, that attacks all species of oak and defoliates them, is being eradicated by the Department of Agriculture using planes to spot the infections and ground crews to cut diseased trees.

Through July 31, this year, 1,225 trees had been cut to prevent the spread of the infection, according to Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry. He said last year 4,926 trees were cut. All oak wilt infected trees are destroyed by ground crews to prevent a further spread. Trees in a 50-foot root grafting radius also are cut.

Oak wilt has been confined to Bedford, Fulton, Somerset, Mifflin, Allegheny, Juniata, Cumberland, Huntingdon and Franklin Counties, the survey shows.

Veteran entomologists and other Department of Agriculture specialists have flown over the entire State at least once to survey for oak wilt and in areas where oak wilt had been found survey inspections were made as many as five times.

Once an infected site is spotted from the air its location is forwarded to ground crews who upon finding the infection, destroy it, other oak trees in the 50-foot radius and treat all tree stumps with a chemical to prevent further spread.

Pennsylvania, it was pointed out by Dr. Guyton, has the lowest per spot oak wilt infection eradication rate of any State in the Nation. It costs Pennsylvania taxpayers \$32 per spot to eradicate the fungus. This includes the use of all equipment. In some states eradication per spot costs as high as \$90, Dr. Guyton pointed out.

## Scientists Express Some Optimism On Beef Cattle Dwarfism Problem

DENVER, Colo. (Special) — Guarded optimism on new techniques to combat dwarfism in beef cattle was expressed by research scientists at a special meeting here.

The session, sponsored by the American Hereford Assn., was attended by research scientists from 19 colleges and universities across the country and representatives of the Department of Agriculture.

The summary of the meeting was prepared by the following committee: Dr. E. J. Warwick, Chairman, U.S.D.A., Beltsville, Md.; Dr. John Lasley, University of Missouri, Dr. E. J. Turman, Oklahoma State University; Dr. L. N. Hazel, Iowa State College.

Their statement follows: "Dwarfism in cattle is an hereditary characteristic. The birth of a dwarf calf identifies both sire and dam as carriers of the dwarf gene. There are several different types of dwarfism, of which the short-headed, short-legged, potbellied dwarf, frequently referred to as the snorter dwarf, is the most frequent.

"Progeny testing a sire by mating him to 15 or more known dwarf-producing (carrier) cows or breeding a sire to 30 or more daughters is a suggested method of identifying carriers. If no dwarfs result from such tests the breeder can feel reasonably sure that bulls so tested are free of the dwarf gene.

"Pedigree information, although subject to some error, has been most helpful in many herds. It is especially useful for early screening of prospective breeding animals and for small breeders who cannot afford the expense of progeny testing.

"The lumbar vertebrae of carriers frequently show characteristic abnormalities which can be recognized by taking X-ray pic-

Aerial survey and ground eradication work will continue for about another month. However, the number of infected trees discovered are not expected to exceed those found in 1956.

tures of calves less than 10 days of age. A number of experiment stations have pooled results on the X-ray technique which indicated that about 80 per cent of the dwarf-free animals have recognizable normal vertebrae, although this figure varies considerably in different blood lines. Of 187 known carriers that have been X-rayed, 17 or about 90 per cent have shown recognizable abnormalities.

"The error made in classifying X-rayed, 167 or about 90 per cent in getting clear pictures under practical conditions are great enough to seriously limit the technique for general use. It can be useful for early screening of young animals in the hands of experienced and careful breeders but is not considered sufficiently accurate for use as a basis for merchandizing cattle.

"The insulin test is a promising new technique which indicates there is a physiological difference in response of carrier and dwarf-free animals to stress. Its accuracy and limitations have not been measured under a wide variety of conditions. Although concerned research is being directed toward testing its usefulness for diagnosing carriers, the insulin test is still in the experimental stage and its use is not recommended to the cattle industry.

"Other phases of research are under way which promise to lead ultimately to a better understanding of the nature of dwarfism."

## Parity Ratio Jumps To 84 As Of July 15

During the month ended July 15 the index of prices received by farmers went up three points while the index of prices paid declined one point, bringing the parity ratio of mid-July to 84.

Higher prices for meat animals, poultry and eggs and dairy products were mainly responsible, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This is partially offset by lower prices for fruit, feed grains and hay.

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