

Lancaster Farming

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TOBACCO CUTTING started this week throughout the county. Here John A. Harnish, Lampeter, makes the first few cuts in his eight acre field. Prospects for the 1957 crop have shrunk by 2 45 million pounds under the searing July sun and now are estimated at 46.5 million pounds by the USDA. This years crop would be 4.5 million pounds under the 1956 yield (LF Photo)

Garden Spot 4-H Members Off To Flying Start at State Club Week

Two Lancaster County 4-H agricultural judging teams took state championships and two 4-H home economics demonstration teams won blue ribbon awards Tuesday as competition in the 33rd annual 4-H Club Week got underway at University Park.

The Lancaster County Softball Team was also victorious, running over the Montgomery County team by a lop-sided 9-1 score.

The livestock judging team and the poultry judging team took state championships. Blue ribbons won in clothing demonstration, and poultry foods demonstration. Second place awards were won by the swine judges, flower judging team, livestock

demonstration team and the tractor demonstration team.

The dairy foods demonstration team and the home improvement team took red ribbons.

The vegetable judges did not fare so well, coming in seventh in an event won by Northampton County and the dairy demonstration team was 14th. Blair County took first place in this event.

Individual state champion livestock judge was Donald Welk, R1 Strasburg. James Hess, R1 Strasburg was second and Donald M. Herr, Refton, was fifth.

Additional contests in electric demonstrations, dairy demonstrations, and vegetable use demonstrations were held Wednesday.

Rough & Tumble Engineers Reunion To Be at Kinzers this Weekend

Steam engineers from over the state will congregate at Kinzers, Pa., Thursday through Saturday for the ninth annual reunion of the Rough and Tumble Engineers Historical Assn., Inc.

The event will start with daily devotions at 10 a.m. During the three days threshing, flailing, thread power, sweep power, saw and shingle mills, will be in operation.

In addition there will be hobby and model engines, contests, movies, a ladies hobby show, parade and various evening entertainment.

The center of attraction during the event will be, of course, the steam engine.

Steam cooked food will be available.

Henning Outlines Steps For Drouth Relief Bids

Drouth Moves Westward: Some Rain Expected

HARRISBURG—The Pennsylvania drought appeared to be moving westward as some regions reported poor crop conditions for the week ended Monday, the State Department of Agriculture said Wednesday.

Some areas from Indiana to Fayette Counties and into Lawrence County report wilted corn, poor hay crops and burned pastures. This has been the general condition of crops in southeastern Pennsylvania for more than a month, observers said.

The Pennsylvania weekly crop and weather summary shows scattered showers are expected in most of the State on Friday and Saturday, but the U. S. Weather Bureau says the rainfall is not expected to exceed one-fifth of an inch.

Last week a few scattered local showers brought some relief to farmers, but the eight-county southeast still suffered from lack of rain. Pastures continued poor and second cuttings of hay were too short to be harvested. Some farmers left hay in the fields to be grazed. In some areas of the western part of the State farmers began feeding winter supplies to cattle.

In some areas farmers are cutting corn for ensilage while some value remains in the plant. Ears have not sized because of the moisture deficiency. Many fields tasseled although plants were less than one foot high.

Early peaches have been in markets for the last several weeks and the anticipated crop for Pennsylvania Peach Time, Aug. 15-24, is expected to be sizeable. Pennsylvania apples are appearing on local markets. All fruit requires rain to size properly, the Department pointed out.

Holstein Assn. Reports HIR Herd Results

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. — The Holstein-Friesian Assn. of America reports the completion of a new lactation average by the registered Holstein herds of the following Lancaster County breeders:

Robert C. Groff, Quarryville, 19 cows, averaged 12,231 pounds of milk and 456 pounds of butterfat.

J. Lester Stauffer, Manheim, 14 cows, averaged 14,499 pounds of milk and 509 pounds of butterfat.

Mrs. Mary B. Stoltzfus, Morgantown, 30 cows, averaged 12,513 pounds of milk and 505 pounds of butterfat.

Pennsylvania State University supervised the weighing and testing of the herds' production in the Herd Improvement Registry of the breed association.

All records were made on two milkings a day on a 305 day mature equivalent basis.

HARRISBURG — With drought damage to farm crops piling up losses day by day in southeastern Pennsylvania, State Secretary of Agriculture W. L. Henning today outlined steps that farmers in stricken counties should take in requesting disaster relief. Requests for information have been increasing daily, he said.

The procedure in requesting federal assistance was outlined by Secretary Henning as reported by the Pennsylvania USDA Disaster Committee established under federal law.

Top Plowman To Be Decided At Dutch Days

HARRISBURG — Leland H. Bull, Deputy State Secretary of Agriculture, will present award to the best plowmen of Pennsylvania Aug. 22 during the observance of Pennsylvania Dutch Days at Hershey, it was announced today.

State finalists in contour and level land competitions will demonstrate their tractor-jockeying ability. Pennsylvania winners will be eligible to enter the national finals at Peebles, Ohio, Sept. 18. The world's title will be decided at Peebles on Sept. 19 and 20.

The contest, which will climax several months of regional contour and level land competitions, is an educational event co-sponsored by the Pennsylvania State University, the State Department of Agriculture and agricultural organizations and federal agencies.

The Pennsylvania plowing program will be held in conjunction with the four-day Dutch Days program expected to attract more than 5,000 persons to Hershey.

Persons over 16 years of age are eligible to enter, Bull said. He reported that the contest regulations specify only moldboard plows can be used.

Of the eight southeastern counties most seriously affected by dry weather, farmers in four have taken the first step toward requesting disaster relief. Farm leaders representing various agricultural and allied organizations have held meetings to determine by vote if disaster conditions exist in the county. Such action has been taken in Berks, Bucks, Chester and Montgomery Counties. No such move has been made to date in Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon or Lehigh Counties.

When a decision is made to seek disaster relief a County USDA Disaster Committee is appointed. This group then makes a detailed survey of all contributing causes including reports on rainfall, feed crop losses and damage to new hay seedings.

The County committee then files its report and request with the Pennsylvania USDA Disaster Committee, Arch V. Ritts, chairman, in the Harrisburg office of the Pennsylvania U. S. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee of which Norman C. Dale is administrative officer. No formal requests have been received to this time, Dale said today.

When one or more county requests are filed Ritts will call a meeting of the State USDA Disaster Committee. If the appeal is approved, Governor Leader will be notified of the action if he is (Continued on page 11)

Now Is The Time . . .

By MAX SMITH, County Agriculture Agent

TO BEWARE OF POISONOUS PLANTS — All livestock crave green forage at any time of the year. The present drouthy pasture conditions may mean that your stock will eat poisonous plants that they would normally refuse. This has been the cause of numerous losses in prior years. Nightsade, butter-cups, milkweed, pokeberries, hemlock and celandine are common to this area and will kill if consumed. Inspect your pastures before losses occur.

TO CUT FORAGE CROPS WHEN READY — The harvesting of temporary silage or hay crops should be done according to the stage of maturity and not by the calendar. The extreme hot dry weather has developed many of these seedings ahead of the calendar schedule; therefore, we feel that harvesting should also be done earlier—soybeans when the small green bean starts to form in the pod; sudan grass at heading time; and sorghum when the seed head begins to turn brown and the seed is in dough stage. Mixtures of the above crops will need to be harvested nearest to the maturity stages.

TO CONSIDER DUAL WHEAT — One of the needs of the Eastern livestock producer is a winter wheat that can be sowed early for pasture and still produce a crop of wheat. This variety has been developed and is now available. "Dual" wheat may be planted early in September without fear of Hessian Fly trouble. It may be pastured this fall and light next spring and still produce a good crop. This new variety led the state in yield during the 1957 season. Clean certified seed should be used.

TO WAIT FOR MOISTURE FOR SUMMER SEEDINGS — It is advised to wait for a soaking rain before seeding alfalfa or any other legume; to seed it in the dust may result in a hard crust forming on top after a hard rain. This may interfere with quick growth and hurt your stand. The recommended period for summer alfalfa seedings is from Aug. 10 to 20.

TO MAKE PLANS FOR COVERING HORIZONTAL SILOS — Research work has shown that it pays to exercise special effort in sealing any horizontal silo. Plastic covers or felt paper with sawdust or ground limestone are the two best covering materials. Surface spoilage will be reduced and better silage will result. This should be covered within 48 hours after the silo is filled.