

Lancaster Farming

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\$2 Per Year

Tobacco Crop 11 Million lbs. Below 1956

The yield of Pennsylvania seed leaf tobacco is estimated at 40,500,000 pounds this year, nearly 11 million pounds less than last year, according to latest surveys.

Estimates on Sept. 1 showed tobacco was 13 per cent below the Aug. 1 forecast of 46,500,000 pounds. Yield per acre was estimated at 1,350 pounds and compares with the 1,550 pounds reported on Aug. 1 and 1,700 pounds obtained last year.

Probably worse than the loss in pounds per acre is the lowering of leaf quality, according to independent buyers in the county. They compared the crop to the 1947 crop which was grown under somewhat similar conditions.

The slow growth and stunted conditions of the plants mean that the leaf may be poor burning and sharp flavored. The leaf this year also lacks texture and "life."

However in certain production processes now in use by the major cigar producing companies, this may not be as much a drawback as before. The processing of the leaf tends to make it milder and the production of scrap makes it possible to blend tobaccos in such a manner as to utilize more "off-flavor" tobacco.

There is considerable optimism in the county about the price to expect from tobacco. There are two reasons given generally.

First is that if the price is dropped drastically, the acreage next year will show a drop. It is anticipated that the new production techniques will require more tobacco in the future and a drop in production could put the large manufacturers in a tight buying position.

The second reason is that at least one of the "big-three" bought very little of the crop last year and that the other two companies did not buy in excess of their current needs.

Therefore they will require a certain volume of tobacco to carry on operations regardless of the lowered quality.

Another trend being evidenced in the county this year is the decision on the part of many farmers to sell "pull-off." Farmers feel that with the low quality of leaf, it would be of little value to size and sort. There would be little of the larger sizes of leaf to demand a premium price.

Another optimistic note is the rapid gains that late planted tobacco is making now. Some producers feel that if frost comes late this fall, this tobacco will be of good quality and size. They admit that this is sort of a gamble, but the gains to be made make the risk worthwhile.

County Team Represents State At Exposition

The state of Pennsylvania will be represented by three Lancaster County youths in the egg judging contest at the NEPPCO Exposition to be held in Harrisburg.

The team members, John Shenk, Glenn Porter and Floyd Moore Jr., won the state title at 4-H Club Week in August.

The contest at Harrisburg means that the young men will have to learn a new skill—egg candling. For the 4-H contests,



PACKING SILAGE IN A NEW trench silo is Dennis Sangrey, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Sangrey, R1 Conestoga. The Sangreys built the new silo this year to replace

dirt trenches they had been using. For additional photos and story, see page 6 of this issue.

Second Annual Feeders Tour To Be Oct. 8

The second annual tour for cattle feeders in Lancaster and surrounding counties has been scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 8, according to Melvin G. Rohrer, R3 Litzitz, tour committee chairman.

The first of these tours was held last year. Approximately 200 feeders visited farms in the Chester County area.

The tour this year will include visits to feeder cattle operations, fruit packing and fruit processing plants in Franklin and Adams Counties.

In Chambersburg the tour will stop at the Garnet Dico & Bros. farms. This is a thousand acre farm where 200 head of cattle are wintered on silage and hay using self-feeders.

The Wilbur Grossnickle farm at Mercersburg will be the next stop. Grossnickle operates 250 acres and feeds 125 head of Nebraska cattle with auger-type feeders. These feeders, 135 feet long, are used for both silage and grain. He also uses a 18 by 60 foot silo and push-button feed handling.

After a picnic lunch at James Buchanan State Park at noon, the feeders will tour the S. A. Heisey & Sons fruit packing company at Mercersburg. Heisey has 300 acres of apples, 75 acres of nectarines, 60 acres of peaches, and a grading and packing operation. He has been a leading Farm Show winner in the fruit classes.

The last stop will be at the Musselman Processing Plant in Biglerville. This is one of the leading fruit and vegetable processing plants in this part of the nation. Apple butter, apple sauce, vinegar, prepared pie mixes and other food items are among the products produced.

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West Lampeter Fair to Present 33rd Annual Edition Wednesday

Generally accepted throughout the county as one of the best, the West Lampeter Community Fair will open for the thirty-third time on Sept. 25 for a three day run.

Featuring 17 departments, the exhibits on display will include vocational home projects, the Lampeter gymkhana, dairy cattle and products, swine, baby beef, poultry and eggs, field crops, vegetable, fruits, nuts, flowers, handwork, baked goods and honey, canned goods and commercial exhibits.

In the Lampeter Community Center Building will be handwork, baked goods, canned goods, eggs, flowers and milk. All other exhibits will be on the community center grounds, in the pavilion and in tents.

Thursday morning of the fair will see a dairy judging contest in which boys and girls will compete for a \$25 savings bond. A fitting contest with awards of both cash and ribbons will also be held the same day.

In the twelfth annual Lancaster County Dairy Calf award competition, Holstein, Guernsey and Ayrshire breeders will present a purebred heifer calf to students of vocational agriculture.

The purpose of this event is to promote interest in the breeding of pure-bred dairy cattle, to offer to worthy students of vocational agriculture an opportunity to start their own herd and to stimulate interest in improved dairy farm practices, a love for animals and an active part in a cooperative enterprise.

Winners of calves last year were Walter K. Cassel, R1 Manheim, Holstein; Kenneth Young, R1 Mt. Joy, Guernsey; John Erb, R2 Manheim, Ayrshire; and John Hess, R1 Washington Boro, Brown Swiss.

They learned to grade eggs by external appearance and to judge poultry. At the coming contest no poultry will be judged. However eggs will be judged on both external and internal qualities.

Applicants are selected on the basis of their supervised farming programs, high school scholastic record, FFA and school activities, judging at breed field day contests, replies to 10 questions, an essay on their plans and aims for the future and a personal interview.

Officers of the fair are: president, Harold G. Rohrer, R7 Lancaster; vice president, Mark Myer, Lampeter; secretary treasurer, Wayne B. Rentschler, Lampeter; assistant secretary treasurer, J. Lloyd Rohrer, R7 Lancaster; recording secretary, Mrs. Harold Rohrer, R7 Lancaster; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Clyde Steiner, Lampeter; assistant treasurers, George W. Myers, R1 Willow Street, and Robert L. Adams, Lampeter; general manager, Roy B. Herr, R7 Lancaster; and assistant general managers, Snavelly Garber, R1 Willow Street, and H. LeRoy Welk, R1 Strasburg.

Progressive DHIA Reports 5 Herds Average 35 lb.

The Progressive Dairy Herd Improvement Association reports for the month of July that there were 3,378 cows on test in the 103 herds of the association. There were five herds over 35 lbs. of butterfat with the leading herd belonging to Vernon Umble.

Herd	Milk	Fat
Vernon Umble	1,050	38.5
John Stoner	957	38.3
Harold Umble	1,025	37.9
Robert C. Burkins	912	37.3
Freeman & Rhodes	869	35.5

There were eight cows over 70 lbs. of fat with the leading cow belonging to Elmer Young. This cow, a Holstein, produced 2,124 lbs. of milk and 99.8 lbs. of fat with a 4.7 per cent.

Herd	Milk	Fat
Elmer Young	2,124	99.8
Harold Umble	2,313	83.3
Harold Umble	2,114	80.3

(Continued on page 16)

4-H Stock Team Judging Monday At Richmond, Va.

The Lancaster County 4-H Livestock Judging Team will be judging at the Atlantic Rural Exposition in Richmond, Va. Monday.

The team, consisting of Donald M. Herr, Refton; James Hess, R1 Strasburg, and Donald Welk, R1 Strasburg, will be accompanied by club leader Victor Longenecker, R3 Elizabethtown.

The team won first at the 4-H Club week at Penn State.

Now Is The Time . . .

By MAX SMITH

County Agricultural Agent



Max Smith

TO BE CAREFUL WITH SUDAN GRASS — Prussic acid poisoning may be present in sudan grass when under 15 inches tall both in summer and after drouth conditions; also it is dangerous after a killing frost. With the new growth at the present time following the rains, livestock operators are advised against grazing sudan grass until the growth is at least 15 inches high.

TO ENROLL FARM YOUTH IN BABY BEEF PROJECT — Steer feeding is traditional here in Lancaster County and several baby beef clubs are operating this year. In 4-H Club Work the Red Rose Club covers all of Lancaster County; this group feeds steers for the Pennsylvania Exposition, the Eastern National, and the State Farm Show. The New Holland Club feeds for the New Holland Farm Show. The Garden Spot Club is sponsored by the Commission folks at the Stock Yards for their summer show. Details may be obtained by contacting this writer.

TO RESPECT FLY-FREE DATE FOR WHEAT — Many operators are getting their ground ready for fall seedings of winter grain. We suggest that wheat not be seeded in this county until after Oct. 10; more Hessian fly infection will be found in the earlier seedings. The one exception to this recommendation is in the case of Dual wheat which is regarded highly resistant to fly and may be seeded at any time.

TO FERTILIZE WINTER GRAINS — Many inquiries are received about fertilizer for winter grain following such a dry season. Undoubtedly, some of the fertilizer remains unused; this is especially true in case of heavy applications. However, in order to develop a stiff straw and reduce the amount of lodging, it was suggested that applications of phosphorus and potash be made this fall. In the amount of 300 pounds per acre of an 0-20-20, less lodging can be expected.