

Lancaster Farming

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\$2 Per Year

Harry H. Ranck Herd Average Tops Red Rose

The registered Holstein herd of Harry H. Ranck, R1 Ronks, completed the highest yearly production average in the Red Rose DHIA, it was announced at the association's annual banquet Tuesday night at Blue Ball Fire Hall.

The herd, which averaged 24.03 cows for the year, produced an average of 6125 pounds of butterfat and 15,526 pounds of milk.

Second was the Guernsey herd of Raymond F. Witmer, R1 Willow Street. With the herd averaging 46.14 cows, the average production was 578.5 pounds of butterfat and 11,536 pounds of milk.

These two dairymen were among six breed leaders cited at the meeting. Other breed leaders are Brown Swiss, John M. Beiler, R2 Gap, 3745 pounds butterfat, Ayrshire, Eli N. Martin, R1 Stevens, 386 pounds butterfat; mixed, Raymond R. Landis, R4 Lancaster, 486.7 pounds butterfat; and Jersey, Willis M. Groff, R1 New Providence, 413.5 pounds of butterfat.

Others of the top 10 herds are Job Stoltzfus, R2 Elverson, Holstein, 533.3; Marvin A. Eshleman, Strasburg, Holstein, 524.2; Jacob L. Kurtz, R2 Elizabethtown, Holstein, 515.9; Gene Witmer, Churchtown, Holstein, 507; Harold K. Book, R1 Ronks, Holstein, 501.1; Albert R. Fry, R2 Manheim, Holstein, 501.1; John G. Metzler, R1 Christiana, Holstein, 501; and J. Lester Stauffer, R2 Manheim, Holstein, 500.6.

The association board of directors was elected for the following years. Elected for one year were Jay Garber, R6 Lancaster; Irwin Musser, R1 Mt. Joy; Robert Mast, R2 Narvon; and D. Martin Zimmerman, R1 East Earl.

Elected for a two year term were Ezra Martin, R1 Ephrata; Donald S. Eby, R1 Gordonville; Henry H. Hackman, R2 Manheim; Marvin E. Hershey, R1 Gordonville; and Robert Groff, R3 Quarryville; J. Everett Kreid-



OWNERS OF FIVE OF THE herds making over 500 pounds of butterfat during the last year in the Red Rose DHIA are shown here. They are, left to right, Harold Book, R1 Ronks; Jacob L. Kurtz, R2 Elizabethtown; Rohrer Witmer, R2 Willow

Street, Red Rose president; Harry Ranck, R1 Ronks; Raymond F. Witmer, R1 Willow Street; and Albert Fry, R2 Manheim. Ranck's Holsteins set a new record for the association by producing an average of 612 pounds of butterfat. (LF Photo)

er, R1 Quarryville; J. Rohrer Witmer, R1 Willow Street; and David F. Harnish, R2 Quarryville.

Eby, Hackman, Witmer, Mast, Hershay, Zimmerman and Kauffman were re-elected to the board. Witmer is the present president.

Head tester, Curtis Akers, Mechanic Grove, was named outstanding tester of the year.

Speaking at the meeting was Herbert Gilmore, head of the DHIA program at Penn State.

He explained some of the problems that have arisen in connection with the change-over to machine record keeping.

Gilmore said that no improvement in the return of records to the farm can be anticipated until December or January. At that time, he said, the promised 10 day return may be possible.

Record returns are now running a month to six weeks behind the test date.

Gilmore gave lack of machines and lack of trained personnel as (Continued on page 14)

Fall Plowing Underway Throughout State; Corn Prospects Better

Late maturing corn, pastures and spring-seeded grasses were stimulated by statewide rains accompanied by warm and humid weather during the week ended Monday, according to surveys announced today by the State Department of Agriculture.

Fall plowing was underway in all counties in preparation of seed beds for planting winter grains.

Corn yield prospects were much better than expected two or three weeks ago because of favorable growing conditions of the past week, the survey showed. Pastures improved but were still short. Grazing was limited to areas not so seriously affected by the prolonged dry period. Silo filling should draw to a close by the end of this week.

Most areas across the State re-

ceived at least one inch of rain during the week. The least rainfall was recorded in the State College area where slightly more than one-half inch fell. The Pittsburgh area had 3.64 inches during the week while southeastern drought counties had from one to nearly two inches of rain.

Warm temperatures favored the ripening of tobacco, although there are still some green fields in Lancaster County. These areas are vulnerable to early frost, observers said.

With sufficient rains in the

Garden Spot Entry First In Egg Contest

A pen of Juniata County White Leghorn hens was declared the winning entry in the 1956-57 Pennsylvania Official Egg Laying Test supervised by the State Department of Agriculture.

The White Leghorns of Leo J. Graybill, McAlisterville, produced a total of 3757 eggs for 4,038 points during the test period of 11 and one-half months. Second place went to a New Jersey pen of White Leghorns that produced 3,750 eggs and scored 4,000 points, a point being equivalent to one two ounce egg.

Seven Pennsylvania pens placed among the top ten out of 63 entries from 11 states. A Pennsylvania White Leghorn from the Keystone Poultry Farm, Ephrata, took top individual honors with 333 eggs and 361 points in 350 days.

The Pennsylvania pens, and their placings, include: Greider Leghorn Farms, Mt. Joy, fourth and tenth; Guy A. Leader and Sons, York, fifth; Leo J. Graybill, sixth; Spring Run Poultry Farms, Parkesburg, seventh, and L. E. Tice, Hummelstown, eighth. All were White Leghorns except the Tice entry of Rhode Island Reds.

The average number of eggs produced by the birds during the test was 250.52, more than seven eggs above the 1955-56 test average. Through improved breeding practices and flock management the mortality rate was down 3.23 per cent from a year previous.

heavier apple producing areas, orchardmen expect late varieties to improve in sizing. Harvesting of grapes in the Erie County fruit belt is expected to get into full swing by the end of this week.

Now Is The Time . . .

By MAX SMITH

County Agricultural Agent



Max Smith

TO BEWARE OF THE CORN PICKER — In reality very few pieces of machinery are actually dangerous; it's the operator who usually permits the accident to happen. At this time of the harvest season we recognize the mechanical corn picker as a great labor-saver and also a machine that has injured many people. We repeat the warning to be extremely careful with them, follow the manufacturer's directions, and never adjust or clean the working parts when the machine is in motion. The accident can happen TO YOU.

TO SOW COVER CROPS — Land allowed to remain bare over the winter months may not be as good next Spring, soil losses through both water and wind erosion on open land will reduce your top-soil. Cover crops such as domestic ryegrass, winter rye, or most of the winter grains may still be planted and do a lot of good.

TO BE SURE WINTER GRAINS ARE TREATED — Before seed ing any of the winter grains it is recommended that growers check to be sure that the seed has been treated for the control of smuts and other seed-borne diseases; most reliable seed distributors will be handling treated seed. Farmers who plant their own grain should treat the seed before it goes into the ground.

TO IMPROVE CALF RAISING PRACTICE — Your future in the dairy business depends largely on the kind of replacement stock that is being raised not only on your farm but on all dairy farms. Many calf pens, stalls, and barns are too dark, damp, cold, and drafty for the health of young calves. The proper growth and development the first year is so very important in the future production of the animals. A leaflet "Raising Dairy Calves" may be of help to you.

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR CATTLE TOUR — The date is Tuesday, Oct. 8, to Franklin and Adams County, we travel by bus to see how other feeders save labor and visit the great fruit belt of Pennsylvania. Reservations to be made at this office by Oct. 5.



THESE ARE THE OWNERS of herds topping their breeds in the past testing year of the Red Rose DHIA. They are, left to right, Harry H. Ranck, R1 Ronks, Holstein;

Eli N. Martin, R1 Stevens, Ayrshire; R. F. Witmer, R1 Willow Street, Guernsey; and Raymond Landis, R4 Lancaster, mixed. (LF Photo)