

Lancaster Farming

Vol. III. No. 14.

Quarryville (Lancaster County) Pa., Friday, Feb. 14, 1958

\$2 Per Year

Connecticut Valley Co-op Manager Claims Tobacco Contracts Unfair

"Tight and unfair clauses in tobacco contracts this year discouraged a good many growers from selling to the trade," claims Samuel J. Orr, manager of the Conn-Mass Tobacco Co-op which operates in the Connecticut River Valley.

Orr was objecting to a new contract offered this year in the Valley which provides a rebate to the buyer if low grades in the crop dropped below an agreed-on percentage. He also said that the contracts were unfair because they tend to make the farmer think that he is getting more for his crop than he actually is.

According to Harold K. Street, farm editor of the Hartford (Conn.) Courant, prices in the Valley this year were artificially buoyed up by the supports.

Buying of Havana seed on the open market opened Nov. 1 and continued through November at prices the buyers claimed were comparable to the year before—about 50 to 53 cents a pound for the better grades. It is estimated that 80 per cent of this variety was sold to the trade. The 20 per cent left for the government was evidently the top of the crop. Buyers concentrated on the lower grades.

For the other binder grown in the valley, type 51 broadleaf, the market opened Nov. 6 and lasted about two weeks. Forty per cent of the crop was bought. These buyers again claimed that they were paying about the same as in 1956, that 1860 cents a pound for the best crop.

The only large manufacturer involved in buying Havana seed was the General Cigar Co. with small local operators taking most of the leaf. Buyers evidently opened the market by picking off the top grades and went to the lower grades later. Buying after the first wave was in the 35 to 42 cent

price range.

The active buyers of broadleaf were the Myer-Mendelsohn Division of Bayuk and Consolidated. It is reported that Consolidated took the lion's share.

The co-operative, which is the government receiving station, started taking in price supported tobacco about the middle of December and is still receiving broadleaf. The average price for Havana seed sold to the government was 47 cents with a range of 30 to 57. The average for broadleaf was 45 with a range of from 26 to 59 cents.

The prices bear out the fact that the co-op got the better Havana seed grades, as Havana seed is normally priced less than broadleaf and is supported on that basis. It yields better, which is why it is grown in greater quantities.

The support price was subject to government grading. The co-op refused to accept sorted tobacco this year. Some sales to the trade were in the bundle, and some on a farm-sorted basis. Farm sorting is dying in the Valley.

Manufacturers have said that if Valley tobacco were bought at the price they wanted to pay, the price would be somewhere between the present Wisconsin price and the prevailing price. There is a 20 to 25 cent differential between the two now.

Quotas have been cut by 32½ per cent in the Valley in the last three years. The government is now seeking a way to lower the support price and put the quotas on a "somewhat more reasonable" basis, Street says.

And in a somewhat familiar lye, the manufacturers say, "In years to come, we'd like to buy more of your tobacco than is now grown." But at their price!

Type 51, broadleaf binder, is grown mostly in Connecticut and type 52, Havana seed, is grown mostly in Massachusetts. Both are under quotas and price supports.

Drouth Shows Unusual Effect on 1957 Celery Crop



EXAMINING A SPECIMIN of H-46 celery, developed by Amos H. Funk, R1 Millersville, left, is Jacob Siegrist, R2 Lancaster. The variety grown by Siegrist did not look too good in the field, he said, but had very good keeping qualities in the trench. (LF Photo)

Drouth effects show themselves in peculiar ways. This was proved again at a meeting of celery growers held Monday afternoon at the Amos Funk farm, R1 Millersville.

The object in point was black heart in celery. While fairly common in other years, the past season saw the disease in excess of normal occurrence. The reason, said Penn State experts, was an imbalance of nutrients caused by fluctuating water supplies.

In the greenhouse, they said, the disease can be caused by limiting the calcium available to the plant. But this year the disease was brought on when the plant could not take up enough calcium because of the lack of soil moisture.

The black heart condition is similar to blossom end rot in tomatoes and the treatment prescribed is the same—spraying with a calcium nitrate or calcium chloride solution.

Tarnish plant bugs are also blamed for causing a similar condition. It is thought that the bug may cause black heart, but not in the same manner as the calcium deficiency.

Another plant nutrient deficiency also came in for considerable discussion. This time it was the trace element, Boron.

While there is plenty of boron (Continued on page 13)

Poultrymen Name Greider, Exchange Board Elected

Hatcheryman Jay R. Greider, R1 Mt. Joy, was named to head the recently merged Poultry Association at a meeting of the board of directors held Thursday night at the Poultry Center.

Other officers elected by the directors were: vice president, Noah Kreider, R3 Manheim; secretary, Daniel K. Good, R1 Columbia; and treasurer, Eugene S. Cassel, Lania Drive, Landisville.

A five man committee was elected to operate the broiler auction. They were Kreider; Cassel; Mark Myer, Lampeter; Glenn Herr, auction manager; and Levi Brubaker, Rohrerstown.

The board is charged with "expanding, administering and improving the Poultry Exchange operations."

Brubaker, long a member of the board of directors of the Exchange, and president last year, was appointed advisor to the association. He had retired from active participation in the activities of the Exchange and the poultry association.

Also appointed at the meeting was a committee to study the by-laws of the two groups and make suggestions for bringing them up to date.

The executive committee of the board will take such legal steps as are necessary to complete the merger of the organizations. Both groups had approved the merger by a large majority of the members voting approval.

The board will meet regularly at the Center on the first Thursday of each month.

State Agricultural Organizations Agree to Back Plowing Contest

Nearly a score of statewide agricultural and allied organizations today agreed to back the biggest national farming event ever scheduled in Pennsylvania, the 16th annual National Plowing Contest and Conservation Exposition to be held next Aug. 21 and 22 at Hershey.

Chairmen of many sub-committees to stage the event expected to attract more than 100,000 people during Hershey Pennsylvania Dutch Days were announced by L. H. Bull, State Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and general chairman of the exposition committee.

M. K. Huber, retired cashier of the Hershey National Bank, was named treasurer. The exposition secretary is David Unger, director of soil conservation, State Department of Agriculture.

Ralph E. Patterson, Pennsylvania State University, chairman of the plowing contest division of the exposition said eleven committees have been organized, ranging from awards and judges to a banquet for contestants.

Ralph W. Hunter, U.S. Soil Conservation Service, is chairman of the conservation exposition phase. He reported sub-committees at

work on the development of various conservation demonstrations to be operated on assigned areas of the 10,000-acre Hershey Farms, also grassland, wildlife, forest, woodland, highway and fish conservation activities. Separate committees are to be established for tours of the Hershey Farms and conservation practices in nearby counties.

James Bobb, vice president of Hershey Estates and chairman of the local arrangements for the exposition, reported that at least 14 sub-committees are being organized in that division.

John B. McCool, director of the Pennsylvania Farm Show, is to have charge of the many farm machinery exhibits that will be set up for the event, including the Pennsylvania State Plowing Contest on the Hershey Farms Aug. 19.

Cooperating agencies represented on the over-all committee include the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts, the State Association of Soil Conservation District Directors, the agricultural extension service of the Pennsylvania State University, State Soil Conservation Commission, U.S. Soil Conservation Serv-

Franklin, Berks and Perry Counties Certified as Brucellosis-Free

Franklin, Berks and Perry Counties Thursday were certified as brucellosis-free, the State Department of Agriculture announced.

Certification of these counties as meeting the minimum Federal-State requirements was received from the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This brings to 62 the number of counties already certified in Pennsylvania under the statewide cooperative program.

Brucellosis is a highly communicable livestock disease which can cause heavy losses to livestock farmers in animals and in milk production.

According to the State Bureau of Animal Industry, Berks, Perry and Franklin Counties join 27

other counties so classified since January 1955. A brucellosis eradication program has been in effect in Pennsylvania since 1934. The certification of Berks was attained when the 32,052 head of dairy and beef cattle tested showed an infection of .51 per cent. Cattle infection cannot exceed 1 per cent. Herd infection was 4.14 per cent of the 1,979 herds tested, but below the maximum 5 per cent allowed.

In Franklin County 33,201 head of cattle were tested and .50 per cent reacted to the laboratory analysis. Herds tested totaled 1,935 with 3.9 per cent infection.

Perry County cattle tested had the lowest rate of infection in both categories with .038 per cent of the 12,950 cattle tested and .45 per cent of the 881 herds showing infection.

Tests were first made in Perry County in 1947 and in Berks and Franklin Counties in 1954. The State Department of Agriculture anticipates receiving state certification by March 1958.

Other agencies will be added later, Chairman Bull said.