

THIS FARMSTEAD near Ronerstown had fallen, high winds drifted it, thus complicating an already bad situation. Fortunately no icing conditions developed. (LF Photo)

647 Entered In Junior COT Contest in State

The 12th annual Pennsylvania Junior Chicken-of-Tomorrow Contest, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation, got under way this week with 647 contestants filing their entry blanks in six regional contests.

The Altoona Region led in number of entries with 140. Other regions and number of contestants were Coatesville, 135; Butler, 114; Fredericksburg, 112; Mandata, 77; and Franconia, 69.

Back to defend his championship this year is 19 year old Dean Exler, of Valley View, Pa., the 1957 winner. His grand champions last year brought him two engraved trophies, a \$100 Savings Bond, a \$50 cash prize and a free trip to the NEPPCO Exposition at Harrisburg. In addition, the 15 broilers sold at auction for \$6 a pound, or a total of \$324.

Purpose of the competition is to stimulate interest in better poultry husbandry among the Keystone State's rural youth, and to help develop future agricultural leadership from among them. Secondly, the tests help develop superior meat-type chickens and acquaint consumers with the progress being made along this line.

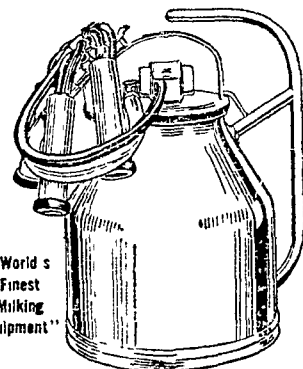
Each contestant starts off with either 100 chicks of mixed sex, or 50 male chicks. The best 15 birds are dressed out and entered in the final judging.

Next milestone in this year's competition will be when the contestants receive their wing-banded chicks (Feb. 27 to March 3) and start the nine week growing period. May 3 and May 5 are the dates for the regional judgings. Best entries from the regions will be brought to Harrisburg at the Farm Show Building May 6, where the state championship will be decided. All entries will be auctioned off at the various regional centers on May 7.

Hereford Coloring Not Important

Recent studies at the South Dakota agricultural experiment station shows that the color of Hereford cattle does not influence their rate and efficiency of gain.

A purpose of these studies, according to animal husbandman G. A. Hinkle of the South Dakota station, was to test the popular theory that the yellow or lighter colored the Hereford, the better the feed lot performance.



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Melting Snow May Cause Trouble Later

(Continued from page 1)

So it would seem that the dry summer past may yet get in another blow, but this time using some of the water that was needed so badly last summer.

Perhaps here would be a good time to give the Weather Bureau a reason for the peculiarities of this winter's weather.

It seems that the jet stream — the current of high speed winds in the upper atmosphere — stayed in the polar regions longer than usual this winter. This was why the fall months were milder than usual. But while the fall was mild, the air over the pole got colder and colder.

Finally the breakthrough came. The arctic air by this time had almost super cooled and flowed south rapidly pushing warmer southern air out of the way. This caused the initial storms and cold spells during December.

Since that time the jet stream has developed a big bulge that extends over the Eastern half of the United States. This forms a tailor made frontal line for the formation of storms. The storms happen when cold arctic air from the north hits warm moisture laden air from over the ocean and gulf. What we have on the ground now is the result.

The jet stream usually moves northward as the earth tilts toward the spring equinox. Whether it will or not cannot be predicted.

Farm Calendar

Feb. 26

Dairy Day—9:30 a. m. at Guernsey Breeders Sale Pavilion, Route 30

Morning Session Dairy Outlook by Wesley Kriebel, extension marketing specialist, Emergency Forage Crops, Wayne Hinish, agronomy specialist, Economics of Forage Crop Irrigation, Mark Shaw, agricultural engineer, Odors and Flavors in Milk, Joseph Mattick, dairy extension specialist, University, of Maryland

Lunch from 11:30 to 1:30

Afternoon session: The Promiscuous Use of Antibiotics in Dairy Production, Joe Taylor, extension dairyman, PSU, Improved water and Sewage Systems on Dairy Farms by Mark Shaw, Effect of Atomic Fallout on Dairy Products by S. Allan Laugh, director of New York operations office, Atomic Energy Commission.

Feb. 27

Swine Producers Directors — 7:30 p. m. at Exchange Rooms, Lancaster Union Stock Yards.

Feb. 28

4-H Leaders Banquet — 6:30 p. m. at Strasburg Fire Hall.



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