

Fayette County Form Soil District; Total Now Stands at 49; 16 to Go

HARRISBURG, May 28 — State Agriculture Secretary William L. Henning announced Wednesday that Fayette County has become Pennsylvania's 49th soil conservation district.

As chairman of the State Soil Conservation Commission he acknowledged receipt of a formal resolution adopted by the County Commissioners of Fayette, establishing the entire county as a soil district.

Creation of the Fayette district will make technical conservation services available to some 2,500 additional Pennsylvania farmers. About 82 per cent of all farms in the State now are in district counties, Henning said.

First step in organization will be approval of county farm organizations by the State Soil Conservation Commission. Approved groups will nominate four farmers to serve on a board of district directors. The county commissioners will appoint directors from these nominations and name one of themselves as a fifth director.

All directors will serve without pay.

The district will provide detailed technical assistance to farmers interested in conservation. These services include soil surveys, conservation farm planning and help with establishment of practices. The program is entirely voluntary.

The Fayette resolution states the district was formed because conservation of soil resources and prevention of soil erosion are problems of public concern in the county and that a substantial proportion of the rural landowners favored establishing a district.

Henning termed the move "a progressive step." Closer coordination of conservation services, faster application of conservation on the land, and self-government are benefits of the district system, he said.

Crawford County Picks "Queens" For Plow Contest

HARRISBURG, May 27 — Entries are pouring in from Pennsylvania farm girls all over the Commonwealth, and time is growing short for those young ladies who would like to compete in their county for a chance at the grand prize. The grand prize will be the choosing of a young lady to reign as "Queen of the Furrow" at the National Plowing and Soil Conservation Exposition to be held at Hershey, Pa., Aug. 21-22.

Each of the counties in Pennsylvania will have a contest to select two girls to represent their county. The county winners will again participate in one of ten area contests which will be held as a feature of special county and regional events. The winners of the area contests then will go on to Hershey to vie for the grand prize on Aug. 15 — to be selected as "Queen of the Furrow."

The first of these colorful county contests was held recently in the city of Meadville, Crawford

Donegal Party, Sewing Clubs Meet Jointly

A joint meeting of the Donegal Party Time and Donegal Sewing 4-H clubs was held at 7:30 p.m., May 22, at the Donegal Club House.

It was the annual health meeting, and the following gave demonstrations: Linda Sumpman, Mt. Joy R1, proper way to do your nails; Linda Stehman, Florin, exercises to help you grow right; Helen Musser, Mt. Joy R2, proper way to wash your face; Sue Martin, Marietta R1, proper way to walk and sit; Pam and Coral Cupper, Mt. Joy R1, proper way to brush your teeth.

The theme, chosen by the girls, for the next meeting will be Space. Since the project is party time, members will plan parties and learn the proper way to give them.

The Space Party will be held at 7 p.m., June 9 at the Donegal Club House.

Chairmen for the following committees were chosen: Refreshment, Carolyn Becker, Florin; decoration, Joanne Bixler, Marietta R1; games, Rachel Ann Nolt, Mt. Joy R1; and invitations, Joyce Hawthorn, Marietta R1.

County, located in the northwestern part of the state. That picturesque farming and manufacturing community had over fifty "Furrow" aspirants. At the contest two Crawford countians were selected — Miss Vivian Heffernan of Cochranton, and Miss Winnie Lee Hogan of Saegertown. Both girls are now on their way to additional competition in regional contests. They will compete with winners from other counties. It is possible that one of these young ladies will go all the way to be the pride of Pennsylvania farmland as "Queen of the Furrow."

In addition to reigning over all the activities in the National Plowing Contest, the young lady selected to be "Queen of the Furrow" will appear on national radio and television shows; receive a complete wardrobe, and enjoy with her parents a "Dream Weekend" in New York City.

Three Vital Factors Affect Hay Quality; Two Easily Controlled

By MAX SMITH

At the present time there are many acres of excellent hay in the making on Lancaster County farms. Growth is rank and heavy yields should be expected from this first cutting.

Three vital factors will largely determine the quality of hay that will be made from this forage crop.

The mixture of grasses and legumes in the crop;

The time of cutting (stage of maturity), and

The amount of bleaching and leaching that is permitted.

In the case of the first point mentioned little may be done at this time to change the proportion of grasses and legumes (or weeds) in the hay mixture. However, current plantings for temporary hay crops should include legumes such as soybeans.

In the future legumes such as red clover, alfalfa, or trefoil along with one of the grasses will give excellent mixtures. Alfalfa is considered one of the very best producers of top quality hay.

CUTTING AT THE PROPER stage of maturity is one of the most important practices in quality hay making. Alfalfa research work has shown that the plant is the best in feeding value in the bud stage, we suggest that it be cut when in the bud or very early bloom stage of maturity.

With red clover feed value is the highest from the bud stage to the early bloom period. Trefoil and ladino clover should be cut when in the full blossom stage. All of the grasses should be cut just at heading time, or within a few days after heading; this includes timothy, bluegrass, orchardgrass, bromegrass, or sudangrass. Many growers allow their grasses to get too mature before cutting; the percentage of feed nutrients is reduced and the amount of fiber increased.

THE THIRD POINT regarding bleaching and leaching losses in the field is most difficult of all because we have the weather conditions to inject uncontrollable factors. In the first place we strongly advise the use of one of the hay conditioners in the field (either crimper or crusher) to reduce the drying time; also along this line we feel that the mow hay finisher has a definite place in the quality hay program.

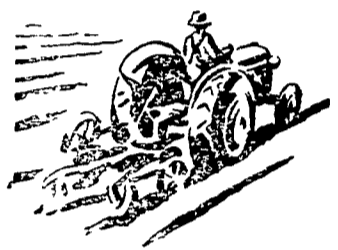
The use of one of the conditioners in the field and the finisher in the mow will surely help hold the green color and the leaves on the hay crop. It simply means that the crop can be brought into the barn much quicker than if all field curing is needed. In larger operations the use of heat with the finisher at the barn, or on wagons, is certainly another way to get top quality hay.

Research work has shown that losses of feed nutrients are greater with field curing than with the use of the mow finishers. With any method a certain amount of good weather is required to make hay, with the use of the above equipment and practices much less good weather is needed and in many cases the crop can be stored before the rain arrives.

With field curing it is very essential that the hay crop be raked into small windrows before the top leaves are dry and brittle; this will allow air to pass through the hay and help to dry; also, it is best if partly cured hay is in windrow rather than in swath overnight because the dew will not bleach out the green color as much.

In many cases this windrow should be turned around noon of the second day in order to complete the curing process. Every effort should be extended to hold both the green color and the leaves for a top quality hay crop.

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