

Lancaster Farming

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Thunderstorms Dump Rainfall, Cause Erosion

A series of violent thunderstorms over the week-end and Monday damaged growing crops, especially row crops, flooded roads and basements and caused severe damage in populated areas near Lancaster.

The rains were of such intensity that normal soil conservation procedures broke down under the water load imposed upon them. Ephrata, for example, reported more than eight inches of rainfall since July 1, an average of more than an inch a day.

But the rain didn't come at the rate of an inch a day. It came at a rate of an inch or more an hour, thus over-running normal channels and drains.

STRANGELY ENOUGH, Safe Harbor and Holtwood stations have reported only minor amounts of rainfall while the northern and central parts of the county were being flooded.

Most of the farm damage is in the form of topsoil washed from cultivated fields. On many of the county roads silt measures up to four inches deep. In many places entire clumps of sod were torn from fields and carried onto roads by the rush of water.

Extensive replanting of washed-out tobacco is underway. Most corn and other row-crop fields show the effects of too much rain coming too fast in the form of gulches.

MARTIN MUTH of the Soil Conservation Service said that the rains fall in the "10-year" category. That is, such rainfall intensity can be expected to happen about once in 10 years, based on past Weather Bureau records.

Farm ponds are designed to withstand rainfall that will happen once in 50 years and on Tuesday Muth said there were no reports of ponds having burst or washed out.

But Muth said that a simple contour strip system without diversions will be inclined to leak under a "10-year" rain. He said that sheet erosion, not so noticeable as gully erosion, caused quite a large soil loss in the county especially where soil conservation practices are not being followed.

Pennsylvania Led Nation in New Holstein Memberships During 1957

Pennsylvania led the nation in new memberships in the Holstein-Friesian Assn. of America, according to an announcement by the organization Saturday.

The Lancaster-Chester County area provided 56 of the 223 new members that gave the state the membership lead. This amounts to 25 per cent of the state total.

Nationally, 1,094 new breeders became members. Representing 47 states, they bring total membership in the national Holstein association to an all-time high of 42,828.

RANKING BEHIND Pennsylvania are New York with 159 new members and Wisconsin where 119 new members were accepted.

Here by towns are the new members from this area:

Arthur S. Hoylman, Vernon R.



TORRENTIAL RAINS brought flash floods and severe destruction to cultivated fields throughout Lancaster County during the past week. This field of tomatoes was damaged as strips failed to hold the excess water.

ing the past week. This field of tomatoes was damaged as strips failed to hold the excess water. (LF Photo)

Farm Safety Week Committee Sets Goal of 'Zero' Fatalities

HARRISBURG — Reduction of deaths from accidents on Pennsylvania farms to "zero" during Farm Safety Week, July 20-26, is a goal set Wednesday by the State Farm Safety Week Committee.

Agriculture Secretary William L. Henning, Farm Safety Week state chairman, said 50 farm workers and children lost their lives in accidents and fires on farms from Jan. 1 to June 30, an average of nearly two per week. For the same six-month period last year 40 fatalities were recorded.

Five farm accident fatalities were reported for the first week in July.

"DUE TO SEASONAL work load increases on farms we might expect from three to five farm people to lose their lives in accidents during the week of July

20-26," Henning declared. "Our hope is to see no such accidents that week."

Most farm accidents can be prevented if folks take time to observe common sense safety practices, says Harold T. Howell, Harrisburg Patriot farm editor and president of the Pennsylvania Rural Safety Council, which is sponsoring Farm Safety Week observance.

"This needless toll of lives can be stopped if farm workers are encouraged to become safety-conscious at all times," he added.

TRACTOR ACCIDENTS during the first six months of this totaled 27, including three children under four years of age who were jolted or fell from moving machines, according to statistics compiled by Carson S. Mertz, chief of farm and home safety education in the State Department of Public Instruction. He urged a rigid rule of "no riders"

Donald K. Steffy, all of Lititz; Ralph M. Hostetter, and Daniel L. Martin, Manheim; James M. Eshelman and Elmer S. Myers, Mt. Joy; Christ L. Stoltzfus, Narvon; Christ G. Lapp, Oxford; Daniel M. Stoltzfus, Parkesburg.

David S. Huber and Grant H. Keiffer, Peach Bottom; M. Clair DeLong, Martin K. Harmish Sr., Allen R. & Samuel H. Kreider, Clair E. Kreider, Ellis D. Kreider, Jeams G. Kreider, J. Everett & Florence May Kreider, Mr. and Mrs. Richard B. Lefever and Lester H. Ranck, all of Quarryville.

Farke H. & Emma V. Ranck, Ronks; Ray P. Bollinger and Earl F. Smoker, Stevens; James A. Hess, Strasburg; Abram M. Barley, Washington Boro; and A. Wilmer Esbenschade and Melvin G. Peifer, Willow Street.

Warm Weather Pushes Corn, Pasture Crops

If you are real quiet as you stand in the field, you can hear the corn grow.

Because nothing makes the corn grow better than the hot humid weather that has been blanketing Southeastern Pennsylvania the past week.

With both warm days and warm nights, the 1958 corn crop is off to a flying start and has gained much of the ground lost due to a late planting and some stunting due to cool damp weather that extended late into the spring.

The hot weather has also been beneficial to the small grain harvest. Barley yields are in the 80 bushel range in most areas of the county and wheat and oats than average.

THIS GROWING season has been especially favorable to oats — a crop that likes cooler growing conditions than do most other field crops.

The tobacco situation is somewhat spotty. Some farmers were forced to delay planting until the transplants were tall and spindly. Some of the early fields now have four to six leaves and appear to be in good condition.

Tomatoes are showing bloom and the plants have thus far escaped any serious attacks from insects or disease. The Washington Boro Tomato Growers Cooperative this week began handling the 1958 stake grown crop.

BOTH HAY AND pasture crops are keeping ahead of schedule this summer. Some of the pasture chippings are yielding returns that would have been considered a good hay crop by many farmers last fall.

The second cutting of alfalfa will start in the next week to two weeks.

Grass silage this year is more popular than ever before. Most dairy farmers and many beef feeders are keeping a full silo the year 'round, a lesson learned last year when pastures dried up and they were forced to feed valuable hay early in the year.

Oil Sprayed Eggs Hold Quality Well

Many farmers now averaging only 65 to 70 per cent grade A eggs can easily boost this percentage to 85 or more by spraying the eggs with an egg-processing oil, according to poultry scientist Milo Swanson of the University of Minnesota.

All the farmer needs to do, Dr. Swanson says, is to place the eggs small-end-down in the filler flats and spray them with a hand-operated sprayer, or, if preferred, the processing oil is also available in pressurized con-

oil farm tractors. The other 13 fatalities ranged from dynamiting to trampling by a herd of cows.

Secretary Henning has arranged for daily reports of any farm fatalities during Farm Safety Week through cooperation of newspaper services and county agricultural agents of the Pennsylvania State University Agricultural Extension Service under the direction of Dr. Herbert R. Albrecht.

"We hope we don't get a single report from them," Henning said.

Fog Nozzles Should Be Close to Cooled Area

For effective fog cooling of poultry shelter during hot weather, the fogging nozzles should be relatively close to and only slightly above the zone to be cooled, according to a recent report from the Oklahoma agricultural experiment station.

Wind movement through the fogged space, the report says, should be controlled for maximum cooling. When the fog is applied directly to the chickens, it can reduce feather temperatures as much as 10 degrees.

tainers.

THIS SIMPLE and sanitary spraying process, he points out, costs less than a nickel for each 30-dozen case of eggs.

In recent tests, oil-sprayed eggs were still Grade A after 10 days storage at 70 to 75 degree room temperature while unsprayed eggs dropped to Grade B after the same storage period.

ALTHOUGH DIPPING eggs in oil is a common practice among egg-processing plants, only recently Dr. Swanson says, has such shell treatment been considered for use on farms for eggs being marketed for immediate consumption.

The simple spray process, Dr. Swanson states, has made this possible at the farm where the treatment is much more effective than when delayed until the eggs reach the first or second handler. Although there has not yet been any indication of consumer complaints about oil-sprayed eggs, Dr. Swanson recommends that any farmer thinking of oiling his eggs should first check with his local buyer.