

Lancaster Farming

Vol. III. No. 36.

Quarryville (Lancaster County) Pa., Friday, July 18, 1958

\$2 Per Year

Weather Still Slowing Wheat Harvest, Haying

Pennsylvania farm activities were slowed down this past week because of wet and humid weather, the State Department of Agriculture reported Wednesday.

Fields were too wet for cultivating corn and combining wheat. In the North Central areas farmers were unable to get into fields to harvest barley. Lodging of small grains was also prevalent throughout the state and could damage the wheat crop.

Second cutting of hay in the South and Central areas were greatly impeded due to rains. Fields of hay in many areas were cut but not cured. First cuttings still lay in the fields in many northern tier areas. Pastures remained in fairly good condition, with some being slightly short.

WHEAT HARVEST in the South and Central counties will begin this week, the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service stated.

Buckwheat is being planted in the Central and Northern counties. Barley yields are reported good.

Picking of sour cherries for processing is well underway in the Adams-Franklin County fruit belt. Yellow transparent apples are beginning to ripen in the South.

Early maturing varieties of peaches, Early East, Sunrise, Dixie and Sunhaven, were reported in southern counties and limited supplies should appear in markets by the close of the week.

TOMATOES FOR BOTH fresh market and processing are showing good progress and harvesting of tomatoes for green wrap is expected to get underway in the Luzerne County area about Aug. 1.

Potatoes in and around the Conyngham Valley area are in



THE LANCASTER COUNTY tobacco crop this year is predicted to be 16 per cent greater than last year, from July 1 indications. Acreage this year is estimated to

be 29,000 acres, down 400 from last year. The crop has gotten off to a fine start this year and is showing better than normal growth. (LF Photo)

Tobacco Acreage Estimate Now 29,000 Acres

Production of tobacco in Pennsylvania for this year is estimated at 47,850,000 pounds or 16 per cent above the 41,160,000 pounds for the drought hit 1957 crops, the state Crop Reporting Service predicts.

Growers indicated planting of 29,000 acres compared with 29,400 acres in 1957 and 32,000 for the 1947-56 average. July 1 reports on condition of the crop indicates a yield per acre of 1,650 pounds. Yield in 1957 was 1,400 pounds, in 1956, 1,700 and for the 10 year average, 1,564 pounds.

Cool, wet weather here delayed transplanting and on July 1 some plants remained to be set. Abundant soil moisture and cloudy days gave most plants the best start in years. Stands generally are good, but some replant is necessary due to cut-worm damage.

Warm weather in late June and early July favored growth of plants. Soil moisture in most areas is adequate for continued development in July.

BASED ON JULY 1 conditions, total tobacco production in the United States is forecast at 1,689 million pounds, nearly two per cent above last year, but about 21 per cent below the 1947-56 average. At this level, production would be second only to last year as the smallest since 1943.

Cigar filler production is placed at 53.2 million pounds or 16 per cent above last year. Filler acreage has been set at 32,000, down only slightly from the 33,100 acres estimated harvested last year.

Present conditions point toward a binder crop of 26.4 million pounds. This is about six per cent below production in 1957 and represents the lowest production of record.

At 15,500 acres cigar binder acreage is three per cent below 1957. Acreage in the Connecticut Valley continues to drop sharply while Wisconsin shows about a one per cent increase over 1957. During the past two seasons, allotments for these two areas have been set separately.

EARLIER THIS YEAR the Crop Reporting Board had estimated that Lancaster County Type 41 acreage would drop about five per cent. However, the figures now show that the acreage dropped only about one per cent if that much.

Last year the crop averaged 20.5 cents a pound, second lowest price average in the past 10 years. This year production is up 16 per cent and carryover is at record highs.

If tobacco prices follow the usual laws of supply and demand, the 1958 crop could set new records for low prices paid. The low now stands at 19 cents a pound for the 1951 crop.

bloom.

Harvesting of early and mid-season cabbage is underway in South and Central Counties. Snap beans in some areas of Potter County have been replanted due to unfavorable weather during germination.

Weekly precipitation at numerous places throughout the state exceeded that of any comparable period of the current growing season and temperatures averaged 2 to 6 degrees below normal.

Potato Leafhoppers Greatest Threat To Forage Crop in Chester County

Potato leafhoppers are the greatest threat for the remainder of the season to forage crops in Chester County, county agent Robert A. Powers reports.

At present leafhopper numbers are not high in most places because the cool rainy weather of early summer has prevented their buildup. They do not overwinter here, and must migrate up from the South each spring.

Early summer has been unfavorable for them. Recent warm weather will favor their buildup and leafhoppers may attack the third cutting of alfalfa during the next few weeks and until late August.

POTATO LEAFHOPPERS are slender, wedge-shaped, greenish-yellow "grasshopper-like" insects less than a quarter of an inch long. They move rapidly and are hard to see. Damage results when

the insects such as sap from the growing plants.

Feeding by leafhoppers results in stunting the growth of the plant and reducing yields. Alfalfa leaves often become yellowed, plant vigor is reduced because the food manufacturing processes of the leaves are impaired.

EFFECTIVE CONTROL measures require that the insecticide be applied as a preventative before injury occurs. Injured plants will not improve after spraying until the cutting is removed by mowing.

Spray when the new growth is four to six inches tall with three parts of Methoxychlor an acre. This treatment also holds good for birdsfoot trefoil which is also attacked by the leafhopper. Stubble spraying is not effective.

Spittle bugs, alfalfa weevils and pea aphids all have disappeared

Holstein Breeders Field Day Aug. 1 At LeRoy Andrews; McGonigle Speaker

The LeRoy K. Andrews farm, R7 Lancaster, will be the site of the annual Holstein Breeders Field Day on Aug. 1.

The farm is located south of Lancaster between Hildebrand's Hotel along Route 72 and Elliot's Corner on Route 222 and about a mile north of Brubaker's Sales Barn.

Paul G. Longenecker, Richard Landis, and Melvin Peifer, the field day committee, have arranged for William Cunningham, vice president of the state Holstein association to be the official judge for a contest to be begun at 10 a. m.

AWARDS WILL BE made for a paid.

The farm rate actually slipped from the \$1,894 average established in 1956.

men, women and junior division.

Ice cream and milk will be furnished for a noon-time picnic. Those attending will bring their own lunch and eating utensils. During the noon hour, Miss Rose Mary Andrews, daughter of the host and a candidate for Queen of the Furrow, will present a program of organ music.

GUEST SPEAKER for the afternoon program will be Arthur T. McGonigle, Republican candidate for governor of Pennsylvania. He will be introduced by state Senator Edward Kessler of Lancaster.

Also on the program will be Arthur Nesbitt, state Holstein fieldman; Cunningham; and Lancaster County agent, M. M. Smith.

Anyone interested in dairy cattle is invited to the field day, even if they are not Holstein breeders.

Farmers May Net \$13.3 Billion This Year; 1957 Was Poor

Farmer's realized net income in the first half of 1958 was at an annual rate of approximately \$13.3 billion. This was 22 per cent higher than the revised estimate for the first half of 1957.

Cash receipts were 11 per cent above the first half of last year, with prices of farm products averaging eight per cent higher and the volume of marketing up three per cent.

Production expenses were also higher, but by less than four per cent.

These figures were given in the semi-annual farm income situation report issued by the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.

THE REPORT SAYS that part of the increase in income and marketing reflects delayed selling of some crops, such as corn and cotton, where harvests were delayed by unfavorable weather conditions.

During 1957 farmers netted 10.8 billion dollars, down 10 per cent from 1956. Much of this decline resulted from the wet fall and delayed harvest.

Cash receipts from farm marketing in the first half of 1958 totaled about \$13.8 billion, 11 per cent higher than during the

same period in 1957. Prices averaged higher and the volume of marketing was also greater.

FARMERS RECEIVED about \$9.11 billion from livestock and livestock products in the first half of 1958, and about \$4.7 billion from crops. The livestock total was up 12 per cent, with prices offsetting a volume drop.

The 1957 figures show that farm operators did \$30.775 million worth of business during the year. Cash expenses took \$23.213 million of this gross and resident cash wages took another \$1.443 million leaving net cash income of \$9,003 million for the year.

This net is the lowest since 1942. Total cash receipts were about steady with the preceding year, but expenses were the high.

When compared with his city cousin as far as income is concerned, the farmer did not do so well in 1957. The average annual farm income per worker was \$1,793. The government estimated that there are 7,649,000 persons engaged in farm labor, the lowest in history.

Factory workers, on the other hand, averaged \$4,284 a year or \$2.07 an hour. Both these are the highest averages wages ever