

Lancaster Farming

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\$2 Per Year

for our readers,

Merry Christmas

In this joyous season of Christendom, the teachings of the gentle Nazarene are uppermost in hearts and minds of His followers. From the Lancaster Farming staff, our deepest wish for the joy and blessings of Christmas to remain with you and yours throughout 1959.

Peace



DR. CARL BITTNER, Penn State pomologist, climbs into the top of a Lancaster County fruit tree to demonstrate proper pruning methods to an audience of county fruit growers during this week's Extension field days. Dr. Bittner later spoke during the County Fruit Growers' annual meeting. LF PHOTO

Rodents and Freezing Major Orchard Threats

Dispensing down-to-earth advice on everyday orchard and vineyard care, along with various thoughts of future possibilities in fruit production, Dr. Carl Bittner, Penn State Extension fruit specialist, appeared in Lancaster county this week at two pruning demonstrations and the County Fruit Growers Assn. annual meeting.

Among the first pieces of technical advice he offered was for local orchardists to not delay in baiting their holdings for mice. "This extended cold spell is perfect weather for promoting rodent damage to trees. The scant time required to properly bait an orchard will be amply repaid," he assured his audience, Tuesday.

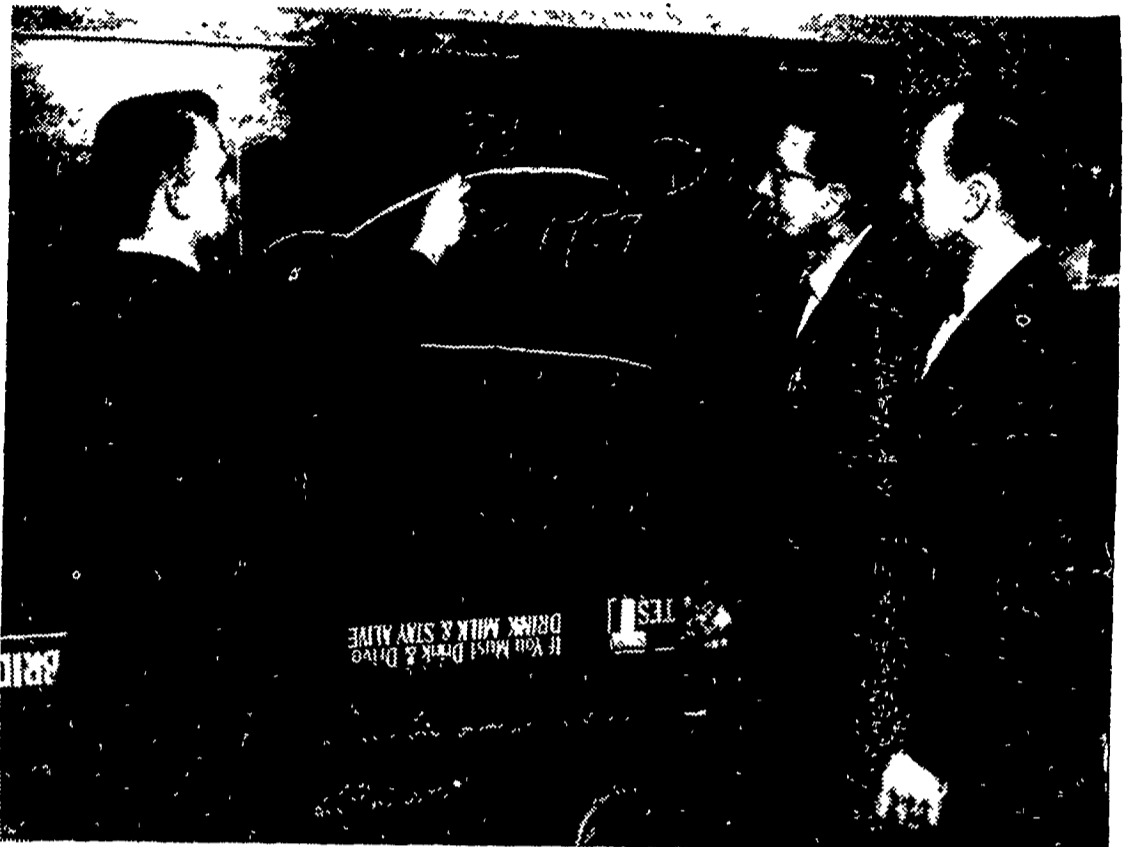
Another point Dr. Bittner raised was delay of pruning for young trees, a practice he recommends for prevention of freezing and splitting in new plantings. Trimming of older apple,

pear, sour cherry trees and grape vines is permissible early in the season.

However, peach, sweet cherry and apricot pruning, along with work on young trees, should be delayed until late in February or even March.

If orchardists prevent freezing splits and rodent damage at this time of year, they are ahead of the game for 1959 fruit crops, he declared.

Digressing from discussion of current practices for the



LOUIS MOORE, left, Penn State economist, diagrams the expected beef price trend for 1959 for Stanley Musselman, president of the Lancaster County Agricultural Council, Center, and Max Smith, county agent. Moore predicts 1959 will be much the same as 1958 for most of the nation's agriculture, but with definite problems for poultry, feed and pork producers. LF PHOTO

State Broiler Placements Continue Record Climb

Placement of broiler chicks on Pennsylvania farms at 953,000, increased 11 per cent from the previous week and were 36 per cent above year. Outshipments during the week were 183,000, inshipments were 135,000.

The indicated number of Pennsylvania broilers for market about 10 weeks from now is 844,000, compared with 729,000, at the same time last year. Eggs set for broiler production totaled 1,456,000, 14 per cent above the previous week.

22 State Report Placement of broiler chicks in the 22 important production states continued the upward trend, for the seventh consecutive week, totaling 29,427,000. This is two per cent above the previous

week and 16 per cent above the same week last year.

States showing largest increases from previous week were Penna., Ill., S. Car., and Oregon. Indicated number for market about 10 weeks from now is 27.4 million compared with 23.6 million at the same time last year. The 22 state settings were 11 per cent above the previous week and 19 per cent above the corresponding week last year.

Total hatchings of broiler chicks during the period Dec. 13 - Jan 3 will be 18 per cent above the comparable period last year.

The Delmarva Broiler-Fed ratio for the week Dec. 5 to 12, was 3.1, below the previous week's 3.2 and the 3.3 of one year ago. Broiler prices per pound in the Delmarva region averaged at 15.08, compared with the previous week's 14.86 and 16.06 of one year before. Broiler mash (20%) was worth \$97.44, compared with the \$93.26 of the previous week. Prices at Lancaster Poultry Exchange for the same period were averaging 5.63.

Grange To Sponsor Labor-Law Change

Loran Brinton, master of Pomona Grange, Lancaster County, announced this week the Penna. State Grange will sponsor legislation in the coming session of the Pennsylvania Legislature to have supervision and regulation of farm labor transferred from the Department of Labor and industry to the Department of Agriculture.

The State Grange is claiming the Department of Labor and Industry has issued regulations covering migrant workers in a "high-handed manner", furnishing "ample proof that this change is necessary."

"There are certain areas of agricultural activity, such as vegetable and fruit production, where farmers must have access to considerable numbers of workers and the supply of workers must not be jeopardized by bureaucratic action," the announcement concluded.

More Turkeys Taken For School Lunches

The U. S. Department of Agriculture today announced the purchase this week of 240,000 pounds of turkeys for use in schools participating in the National School Lunch Program and stated that it would continue to consider offers for around 1,000,000 pounds weekly until further notice. Purchases this week bring the total bought since July 31, to 23,350,000 pounds.

Prices paid this week ranged from 31.37 to 32.43 cents per pound. In making awards consideration was given to transportation costs for distribution. Offers were accepted from two of seven bidders who offered a total of 750,000 pounds.

Approximately \$76,000 of funds transferred by Congress from Section 32 for use under the National School Lunch Act will be expended for this week's purchase, bringing the total to \$7,893,000.

USDA will continue to accept turkey offers on a weekly basis, with next offers due not later than 2 p.m. (EST) Monday, December 8, for acceptance by wire filed not later than 8 a.m. (EST) Friday, December 12.

PSU Meats Team Ranks

Penn State's meat-judging team placed fourth in a field of 13 colleges competing in the recent Ninth Annual Intercollegiate contests held in conjunction with the Eastern National at Baltimore.

Winning team was the University of Wisconsin, scoring 2609 points to defeat Cornell U., by three points Michigan State was third, while behind Penn State in order of placements were: University of Florida, Rutgers, U of Mass, North Carolina State, Univ. of Conn., Ohio State, VPI, Clemson and the Univ. of Maryland.

Penn State's squad placed tenth in a field of 25 major

agricultural college meat judging teams at the Chicago International on Dec 2nd. This major contest was won by the three-man Texas A&M team, with Oklahoma State and Iowa State close behind in second and third positions.

Wisconsin was fourth, followed by Missouri U., Michigan State U., VPI, Ohio State, S. Dak State, Penn State, Clemson, Illinois, Tennessee, Minnesota, Nebraska, Mississippi State, Kansas State, Kentucky, Cornell, North Carolina State, Mass., Ontario Agric College, Florida, N. Dakota and the Univ. of Connecticut.