

Lancaster Farming

4. No. 11

Lancaster, Pa., Saturday, January 24, 1959

\$2 Per Year

Lancaster County Farmer Submits First Forage Test

Initial County Hay Sample Shows Ease of PSU Program

FIVE-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Saturday - Wednesday

Cold Sat., temperatures about 3 - 6 degrees below normal. Warmer Sunday and Monday. Colder Tuesday and Wed. Chance of some snow or rain Monday. Normal temp. in county range from 24 - 39.

'59 Pa. Turkey Forecast up 8%

Results of the State Crop Reporting Service's Turkey-Intentions-Inquiry indicate that if Penna. turkey producer plans materialize, they will grow 1,309,000 heavy bred turkeys during 1959, eight per cent above the '58 estimate

Indications are that the heavy bronze-breed will increase 12 per cent, but the heavy white breeds will increase only one per cent.

The survey further indicates that there may also be an increase in light breeds, a reversal in trend of recent years. Growers indicate that they plan to raise 168,000 light birds in 1959, or nine per cent more than in 1958

Turkey growers in the nation intend to produce about five per cent more birds than last year. They plan increases of 16 per cent in light breeds and three per cent in heavy breeds, with heavy whites up 18 per cent, but other heavy breeds down one per cent.

If growers carry out their intentions, about 81.9 million turkeys will be raised, compared with 77.9 million in 1958. All regions show planned increases except the North Atlantic and South Central areas

Fruit Growers Meet Tonight

The annual Lancaster County Fruit Growers Assn banquet is scheduled for this evening (Saturday) at Hagstrom's Smorgasbord, on the square in Lampeter, at 6.30 p m.

Penna. Grain Bins Bulging

Stocks of corn for grain on Penna. farms on Jan. 1 were at a record high of 54 million bushels according to the Pa Crop Reporting Service. The stocks resulted from '58 record production and only normal disappearance.

Jan. 1 wheat stocks stored on farms at 4.9 million bushels were the largest since 1954 Oat stocks at 21 million bu. were 15 per cent above last year. Barley stocks on farms at 4.6 million bu. were the largest ever.

Hay supplies were 2,603,000 tons. This is 37 per cent above last year and second only to the record 1947 stocks.

Main feature of the program will be selection of the 1959 Lancaster County Apple Queen.

Contest rules require contestants to be between 17 and 21, single, a resident of the county, related to a fruit grower or handler, have a desire to be an active Queen and be free to attend the Winchester Apple Blossom Festival this spring

Mrs Robert Herr Lancaster RD 2, and Roy B. Eib, of Lancaster, are in charge of arrangements for the Queen contest. Mrs Herr reports girls from adjoining counties which do not have Apple Queen contests have been permitted to enter here under special rulings

The program also will include brief remarks by Gloria Brubaker, 1958 County Apple Queen, concerning last year's state contest



PREPARING THE equipment supplied for the new Penn State Forage Testing Program, John S. Shenk II, Willow Street RD 1, left and Max Smith, county agent, check instructions with the kit. They are using an electric drill, the Core Sampler cutting tube, special tamping-rod, and mailing canister supplied by the university



JOHN BORES the first sample (after switching to a larger drill), while Smith observes and brings the rest of the equipment along. Each bore is only half the corer length, into the end of a bale. About 12 such cores are required for a test



COMPLETING HIS first test, Shenk taps the core of finely chopped hay from the sampler tube into the canister. By tapping at all levels in his mow, he was able to obtain a representative sample with minimum effort and time. Within two weeks he will receive his completed test, telling the nutritive value and giving recommended feeding program. —LF PHOTOS

Wednesday morning, County Agent Max Smith visited the John S. Shenk II farm, southwest of Lancaster to assist in obtaining Lancaster County's first Penn State Forage Testing Program sample.

In a matter of minutes, Shenk and Smith had completed taking samples from several tons of hay. When analysis is completed by Penn State of the sample Shenk will know his hay's content of crude protein, digestible protein, crude fiber and total digestible nutrients. On both a dry matter and "as fed" basis.

The analysis also will reveal moisture content, give a quality grade and even more important — conclude with a complete recommended feeding program for Shenk's 70-cow dairy herd.

Shenk's operation includes three separate land holdings in connection with his father. All told, they operate 300 acres, including 100 acres of meadow and 25 acres in silage crops. Aside from their milking herd, their forage goes to about 50 young heifers on the farms.

They use crimpers, fans and natural curing in handling hay. Thus the tests will indicate which methods of handling will result in the best quality and feeding value. Also how much damage occurs from over-curing and excessive rainfall in growth, as well as on down-hay.

John has absolutely no reservation about the testing program.

He says, "This is a chance for me to know what is good forage, what isn't and what to do to improve quality. In addition, with this knowledge, we can know exactly how to feed our homegrown roughages.

Saving a few bushels of grain or bales of hay will pay for the tests, and I'll still have the knowledge of what to do in the future for greater forage quality, and increased milk production from feed management."

After Shenk completed his first sample of baled Timothy, he surprised Smith by asking for four more canisters. He planned to sample Alfalfa and Clover hay lots, and two lots of silage on the farm. By this, he would know exactly what to do in feeding each separate roughage.

The county agent's reaction to the request was, "that is what we like to see. If

Farm Calendar

- Jan. 26—8 p m Fulton Grange, Oakryn Grange Hall
- Jan. 27—8 p m, Lanc Co Extension Association, Farm Bureau aud.
- 1 p m, Lanc. Co Farm Bureau Cooperative.
- Jan. 29—7 p m, Lebanon Valley Poultry Assn Annual Banquet, Mt Zion Fire Hall, Mt Zion
- Jan. 31—Producers Livestock Cooperative annual meeting.
- Feb. 6—4-H Baby Beef Club Annual Banquet.
- Feb. 12—County Extension Assoc. Annual Banquet, Hostetter's, Mt. Joy.
- Feb. 14—Poultry Assn. Barbecue, 2-5 p m at Center.