

# Lancaster Farming

NO. 17

Lancaster, Pa., Saturday, March 7, 1959

\$2 Per Year

## Dairy Day Set for Mar. 11

Lancaster County's Annual Dairy Day program will start at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday by J. Rohrer Witmer, chairman of the Dairy Day Committee. Ceremonies for the annual event, according to J. H. Smith, chairman of the Dairy Day Committee. Following opening ceremonies, announcements and presentations, a quartet of speakers, including three Pennsylvania specialists, will be heard.

Dr. H. G. Witmer, PSU agronomist, will speak on "Soil Fertility and Watering." Mrs. Raymond Witmer, Harshbarger, will speak on "Old Book, Ivan G. Martin and John Metzler."

J. H. Parkin, PSU dairy specialist, will discuss "Water Softener and Sewage Disposal." Dr. Samuel Guss, PSU specialist, will present "Dairy Mastitis - Ring person."

Lunch will be available at the Pavilion for \$1 per person.

Dairy Day is conducted by the Extension Service in cooperation with the Milk Producers, Milk Marketing Associations and Dairy Breeders.

Committee members are: Charles E. Cowan, John A. Flora, B. Snavely Garber, S. A. Horton, Robt. Kauffman, Robert Keen, Aaron Landis, Alan B. Miller, Dr. J. H. McMurray, John Paes, Melvin R. Stoltzfus, J. Rohrer Witmer and Dr. H. G. Wohnbeseidler.

## Announced For

### Potato Growers Institute

Pennsylvania's second largest potato producing county is expected to send a large delegation to the 8th annual Pennsylvania Potato Growers Institute, March 11 and 12 at Potato City Hotel near Coudersport.

According to county-by-county potato production records going back to 1939, Lancaster in that year was the potato county in the Keystone State.

The following year Lehigh growers put that county record which they held until the drought year of 1957, with more favorable weather conditions, behind them, top potato county with Lehigh second and Lancaster third.

Lancaster regained its position as top potato county in 1958. Lancaster came back to second spot which it held for 17 consecutive years from 1940 through 1956.

Service records available this week from the State Department of Agriculture to the Pennsylvania Co-operative Potato Growers Association, of the Potato City

two-day conference is for full discussion of current problems of "below grass roots" comes at a time when growers will obtain information in making final plans for their 1959 crop.

5,000 acres, Lancaster

## DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Day - Wednesday  
Weather Bureau,  
Lancaster Office  
Temperatures will average 4 degrees above normal for the five-day period. Fair and colder on Thursday, warming Sunday, Monday, chance of rain about Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Temperature range 48.



LATE FEBRUARY, 1958 brought this scene to Lancaster County as one of the heaviest snowfalls in history throttled activity in the region. From the 800-plus travelers stranded in a Turnpike restaurant to countians cooking in their fireplaces, it was an experience to remember in the vagaries of Pennsylvania weather. This year Lancaster County had about 15 inches of snow during all of February—only 7.2 inches from November 1 to March 1. February's normal snowfall - 7.2 inches. LF PHOTO

## Mere 10% of Last Year's Snow Total In County For Entire Winter -- So Far

One year ago this week, Lancaster County and the entire Eastern half of the U. S. was digging out—again—from heavy snowfall. Electric service had been restored. It was again possible to communicate by telephone and a trip to town was again possible. In many cases, inadvisable, but possible.

The 1957-58 winter snowfall total for Lancaster County was a staggeringly "Artic-like" 60 inches. The 1958-59 winter snowfall total to date has been a paltry but appreciated 7.2 inches.

In fact, most Lancaster County farmers are wishing they had some of that 60-inch snowfall on their fields, because since May, 1958 precipitation for the county is 5.5 inches below normal for the nine month period.

In addition, much of the precipitation for this winter quickly became runoff due to solidly frozen ground.

As a result, soil conditions over most of the county are noticeably drier than preferred.

In the plains and mid-west states by contrast, snowfalls have been among the heaviest on record. From east cen-

tral New Mexico, across the Texas Panhandle, over northern Oklahoma and up into the corn-belt, snow covered the ground almost constantly.

The same condition existed throughout the mid-lands and into northeastern Pennsylvania. New York's upstate region and New England.

Heavy snowfall as usual, were the rule for the Sierras and Cascades on the Pacific slope, although the Rockies had some historic low snowfall totals in many spots, coupled with exceptionally frigid temperatures.

Washington Boro, in Lancaster County, is considering return to Manor township after flood borne ice smashed a major portion of that village's real estate.

The eastern Corn Belt flooding particularly along the Wabash, inundated thousands of acres of farmland—

along with urban and suburban areas.

But in Lancaster County, December was the coldest month of the winter. Total precipitation was 1.21 inches—1.91 below normal. Snowfall was .7 inches—normal 4.1.

November had been 2.5 degrees above normal in temperature, with a 47.2 average and 1.33 inches above normal precipitation, with a 4.06 total, including a half inch of snow. Normal November snowfall is 1.1 inches.

January was about normal with a 32 degree temperature average. But moisture was 1.39 inches below normal at 1.77, with only 4.5 inches of snow, compared with the norm of 8.3 inches.

February also was drier than normal, with 1.73 inches of total moisture, .88 below normal, with a mere 1.5 inches of snowfall, against the 7.2 inch normal blanket. Temperatures for the month averaged 1.5 degrees above normal at 34.5.

January's low was 12 degrees, February—10; and December 13

## Extension Schedules

### Tobacco Seed Treating Meetings

A two-day series of seed-treating and disease-control demonstration meetings for county tobacco growers is scheduled for March 12 and 13 by the county Extension Service, in cooperation with Penn State University.

Harry S. Sloat, associate county agent, reports that meetings will be held at the following places and times:

MARCH 12—9 a.m. Witmer J. Rohrer farm, Strasburg RD 1, east of Strasburg. 1:30 p.m., farm operated by Chester Sensemich, Lititz RD 3, one mile south of Lititz.

March 13—9 a.m., farm of Ernest Lefever, Lancaster RD 2, between Millersville and Central Manor. 1:30 p.m., farm operated by John K. Fisher, Mount Joy RD 1, between Mount Joy and Marietta.

flea beetle, and preventing the tobacco from getting overripe in the field.

Dr. O. D. Burke, Penn State plant disease specialist will treat seed with silver nitrate solution and explain the above practices during the four meetings. One quart of seed will be cleaned and treated for each grower during the meetings.

Sloat reports this program will continue as it has for the past seven years, with a small charge for cost of materials.

Each farmer will have to give his seed a final washing at home and then spread it to dry, he added.

(Turn to page 11)