

Lancaster Farming

Extension Agents Fight 'Wildfire'



HERBERT WITMER, master of ceremonies for Wednesday Dairy Day program at the Guernsey Pavilion, is remarks of Penn State Dairy Specialist Ivan G. Parkin concerning labor saving with dumping stations for the milkers. Parkin was a featured speaker for the event. —LF—PHOTO



THIS PHOTO SERIES illustrates steps in disease control treatment of tobacco seed as demonstrated in a series of Lancaster County Extension Service meetings this week. Harry S. Sloat, assistant county agent, above, dumps a lot of cleaned seed into the treating sack, preparatory to submersion in Silver Nitrate solution. At lower left, Win Merriam, associate county agent, starts the cleaning process by sifting, to be followed by air cleaning. At lower center, a Paradise farmer "works" his seed in the solution for the prescribed 15-minute treating period. At lower left, Sloat rinses the treated seed with distilled water. This is the seventh year the Extension Service has aided county farmers with the treating demonstrations. Through the program, cost of treatment is greatly reduced for individual farmers; while greater disease control is accomplished than would be by individual action. —LF PHOTO

Speakers Spark

Annual Dairy Day Program

A record attendance audience of 400-plus Lancaster dairymen Wednesday heard local herd operators, spokesmen and extension specialists in the annual program; as the "experts" dispensed tips and hints on modern dairying — for profits.

The highlight of the program was the afternoon panel of dairy farmers and a farm wife; who first discussed comfort, breeding, culling and heifer raising and then opened the program for rapid fire questioning from the audience.

The panel consisted of barn workers as little as possible and curbing unusual noises.

Harold Book, Harold Witmer and Win Merriam, each from a different farm with an outstanding record.

Give individual consideration to each animal in bedding, feed, grooming, milking and temperment. Don't neglect exercise.

Be selective in picking herd replacements and in planning a breeding program. Cull obviously weak animals.

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Poultry Group Predicts Tighter 'Squeeze'

"Egg prices will be 2c to 5c lower from March to September of 1959, compared to the same period of 1958. Prices for the last three months of this year will show no improvement over last year's. Net returns to turkey producers for the 1959 crop will be about 10 per cent slightly less than last year. Lower production will partly offset the expected lower prices next September through December, as compared to a year earlier. Broiler prices April through June, will average 16c and 17c. There will be little or no price rise in summer."

The Poultry Survey Committee in its ninth report to the nation's poultry and allied industries at a session of a two-day meeting in Chicago.

The committee is co-sponsored by five national associations and from industry and the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Following is the complete report of the committee:

EGGS

Egg prices during the next two or three months will likely decline from late February levels. April-June U. S. prices with average about 31c a dozen, five cents below the same period of 1958. July - September prices will be about 36c, two cents below the same months of last year. Prices during October - December will probably show no improvement over last year's 38c average.

Egg production in the first half of 1959 will be about three per cent above the same period a year ago. This increase will result from a larger flock and a slight increase in the number of eggs per hen.

Egg supplies in the last quarter of 1959 will be above those of a year earlier. As previously reported, a cut of 10 per cent in the spring hatch would be required to hold October-December egg supplies to year earlier levels because of the record late 1958 hatch, the younger flock, and the continued increase in rate of lay.

It is anticipated that the spring hatch will be down five per cent to eight per cent from a year earlier. This predicted decrease in hatch is greater than the cut of only one per cent indicated by the USDA producers' intentions report of February 1.

Net returns to producers from the 1959 turkey crop will be about the same or slightly less than last year. Prices during the September - December period are expected to be slightly lower than the 23 5/8c average of 1958. Lower costs for poults and some turkey feeds will partly offset the expected lower turkey prices.

Egg price declines since that date are expected to reduce the number of chicks purchased during the spring hatching season.

Government school lunch purchases of eggs combined with bad weather in the Midwest bolstered winter egg prices above earlier expectations.

TURKEYS

Total pounds of turkey for the holiday marketing period of September through December are expected to be three per cent to four per cent larger than in 1958. Farmers reported in January that they expected to raise five per cent more turkeys in 1959 than in 1958 — three per cent more heavy breeds and 16 per cent more light breeds. The heavy breeds

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FIVE - DAY

WEATHER

FORECAST

Saturday - Wednesday

U. S. Weather Bureau,

Lancaster Office

Temperatures will average near normal 31-51 range. Warmer Saturday and Sunday, little colder again Monday and Tuesday. Slight chance of precipitation Sat. night and Sun. Better chance Monday. Precipitation total for last week - 1.09 inches.