

Lancaster Farming

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Lancaster, Pa., Saturday, March 28, 1959

\$2 Per Year

Survey Shows Heavy Winter Grain Damage



SLOAT AND FLOYD IMES, PA. Farm Bureau seed field man from Manheim, inspect damage to oats on the David Cassel farm, southwest of Manheim. Imes reported small-grain fields in Lebanon county has suffered even greater damage than in Lancaster County. —LF PHOTO

LANCASTER COUNTY AGENT HARRY S. SLOAT, advises county farmers to inspect winter small-grain, especially oats, closely to determine their winter "burn" damage. Here he pulls some oat stalks to illustrate the effects of winter damage. —LF PHOTO

4-H Electric Club Picks Demonstration Team Members

Armstrong, Dru- ship by Judge Ralph Patter- son, PSU agriculture engineer. Armstrong had 2nd place in first year work with a table lamp and Elsiann Hess, 1749 Old Philadelphia Pike was 2nd in second year work with a work lamp and stand

Conservation Contractors' School Set

Amos Funk, Millersville, chairman of the Board of Directors, of the Lancaster County Soil Conservation District has announced a heavy equipment operators training meeting to be held April 1st in the auditorium of the Lancaster County Farm Bureau on Dillerville Road at 8:00 pm

This meeting is being held on request from heavy equipment operators for information and guidance on meeting plans and specifications in construction of permanent type conservation practices.

These practices include the construction of ponds, diversion terraces, waterways, installation of tile open drains etc

Specifications and requirements for Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Program permanent type conservation practices will be covered at this meeting.

Dorothy Y. Neel, ASC office manager urges all heavy equipment owners and operators to attend this meeting. Especially those interested in using purchase orders.

Winter Oats Almost Total Loss

An inspection tour of Lancaster County winter small-grain fields this week by Assistant County Agent Harry S. Sloat produced a report of the worst winter-kill and "burn" damage to county oats, barley and wheat in two decades.

Sloat reported after inspecting 15 fields with about 150 acres of winter oats, all of which were intended for certified seed production, that only five acres of the 150 have any possibilities for a crop.

He inspected fields of Leconte and Dubois, with the latter showing a little greater winter hardness.

Winter barley fields, Sloat reports, have from 10 to 35 per cent damage, but with favorable conditions could produce a fair crop.

Winter wheat stands inspected had about five to 15 per cent damage, with conditions a little worse than usual on low wet spots.

The damage was done due

to the extreme cold beginning about Thanksgiving and continuing through March 15, with virtually no snow cover for grain fields and much added damage from continual cold winds. Pasture grasses and other vegetation also suffered, Sloat added

A slight thaw of the upper inches of soil, with rain falling and waterlogging the thawed ground, followed by near freezing and freezing

conditions apparently was the finishing blow to oats and added heavy damage to barley, he pointed out. Pithian rot developed in crowns also due to the cold, moist conditions, he said.

Sloat advised county farmers to look over fields, pull a few stalks and if a large percentage are dead, with roots rotting off, you can still seed to spring oats by disking.

Of course, county farmers also may replant with soybeans, corn, potatoes, tobacco, lima beans and other row crops.

"Some fields may need close inspection, as they look quite green from a distance, due to timothy and weed growth—not oats," he said.

Plastow Picked For Nat'l School

Victor Paslow, associate Lancaster County Agent, was notified this week that he has been selected to attend the National Extension Service 1959 Summer School on the Colorado State University campus, Fort Collins, Colorado

The school will be in session from June 15 to July 3, with class periods from 7 a. m. until 11 a. m., five days each week

Courses of study will be entitled "Farm Policies" and "4-H Youth Work", Plastow stated.

The well-known county extension agent added that he plans to take his family on the trip and spend some time following the sessions, touring farm and ranch sections of the western regions.

"Of course," he added, "there is the possibility that we might stop off to do some sight-seeing in a couple of national parks"

Across the Land

Following is a statement of basic policy for the Nat'l Assoc of Soil Conservation Districts, adopted at the recent 1959 convention We print it with the hope that every farmer will read and study these words

This is not a text book theory, but the carefully weighed thinking of thousands of farm leaders across the country, who know conservation values from experience on their own farms—farms presenting every conservation problem to be found on YOUR farm

"There is need for a complete conservation plan for every farm and ranch in the nation to provide a conservation and land use program fitted to the resources of each operating unit As a matter of good business, a farmer can do a better job of farming with a complete conservation plan than without one. Piecemeal and un-coordinated conservation efforts cannot be fully effective When each acre is protected according to its needs and used within its capabilities, the cost of production is reduced and per acre yields normally are increased.

"We believe that every farm and ranch in the nation should be operated on the basis of a conservation program designed to protect and wisely use the resources of that farm or ranch. We further believe that such basic farm conservation programs should be given priority as a basis for providing government conservation help such as technical assistance, credit and cost sharing—in order to get maximum conservation accomplishment."

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