

Lancaster Farming

Lancaster, Pa., Saturday, June 6, 1959

\$2 Per Year

4-H Center Dedication Set Egg Shell Quality Tests Seek End To Annual Loss



ARTIST DRAWING of the new National 4-H Club center at 7100 Conn. Avenue, N. W., D. C., to be dedicated during the 29th National 4-H Conference June 13-19.

Center Dedication Set During 29th Conference, June 13 - 19

Note: During our recent visit to Washington, we had the privilege of inspecting the new National 4-H Club center in Chevy Chase, Md., northwest of the capitol. Construction work was proceeding at that time, and the pressure of the approaching 29th Annual Conference, which begins a week from today. We have no way of knowing if the conference will be conducted in Washington, but feel sure that in coming years, the facilities there will make definite contributions to rural education.

The openings of the National 4-H Club Center will be held during the 29th National 4-H Conference opening June 13-19 in Washington, D. C. and running through Friday, June 19.

Board Votes To Continue Promotion Work

The Poultry Board in session May 25, voted to continue promoting poultry meats in the county. The board also voted to investigate the possibility of receiving from these sources, it was announced by J. Thomas, PE.

At the meeting, 35 members of the Board, 22 in favor, 10 "no," and 3 abstained. The board will meet again on June 25.

WEATHER FORECAST
 Wednesday - Wednesday
 Weather Bureau, Lancaster Office
 will avg. 3-4 degrees above normal range. Warm over the middle cooler on Tues., chance of showers late Sat. Tues. rain was 4 inches toward end of county, Ehrata region, Lancaster.

The educational and training center, located on 12 1/2-acre grounds, is dedicated to the four-fold development of youth as exemplified in the Head, Heart, Hands, and Health aims of 4-H Clubs.

Through it, opportunity will be provided for training young people in character building and citizenship, and guiding their leaders in program planning and development.

This year, because of many public contributions in support of the Center and the significant place of donors in the entire 4-H program, a "Friends of 4-H Day" will be held during the conference.

Pennsylvania 4-H Club members are among those responsible for furnishing bedrooms in the center.

The Center is located in Chevy Chase, a beautiful residential suburb of the Nation's Capital. Near the many historic and memorable sights in Washington, D. C., it is convenient to incoming guests on route 240A.

The three buildings of the center will be dedicated during the 29th National 4-H Conference, June 13-19, in Washington, D. C.

State Soil Commission Asks End of 'New Start' Ruling

HARRISBURG—The Pennsylvania Soil Conservation Commission has released a letter to President Dwight D. Eisenhower urging him to change Bureau of the Budget policies concerning small watershed projects under Public Law 566.

Following is the text of the letter: "Interest in Pennsylvania in the work being carried on under Public Law 566, the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, is gaining rapidly. Applications totaling over 600,000 acres have already been received in 1959.

"Our State Soil Conservation Commission is responsible for approving requests for assistance under this Act and recommending priority for planning to the Federal government. We have been concerned about regulations of the Bureau of the Budget limiting 'new starts' on projects in any year.

"To us this policy discriminates against the smaller watersheds. For example, if there is a limit of two starts in Pennsylvania this year, we naturally are inclined to approve and give priority to two of the largest watersheds where a greater amount of work can be accomplished. At a meeting of the State Soil Conservation Commission held May 21, 1959, it was resolved to go on record opposing the limitation on 'new starts' and suggest that any limits be based on funds available. In this way our Commission would be able to choose from all applications on the basis of merit and need rather than size. We would appreciate any attention that you could give to this matter."

According to the State Office of the Federal Soil Conservation Service, one 'start' has been authorized in Pennsylvania. This is for the Lackawaxen Tributaries project in Wayne County. The watershed encompasses 26,625 acres.

Breaking of eggs at the farm and during marketing costs Pennsylvania egg producers and marketing agencies about two and one-half million dollars per year, reports Werner J. Mueller, poultry researcher at the Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. Mueller and his associates are studying the effect of temperature and humidity on egg shell strength.

These studies have found that hens kept at a constant temperature of 85 degrees Fahrenheit for 8 months produced eggs with thinner shells than hens kept at a constant temperature of 55 degrees F.

Hens housed at 85 degrees F. ate 20 per cent less feed and had lower calcium levels than hens at 55 degrees F.

The Penn State researchers have developed new testing devices for determining shell strength of eggs.

Dr. Mueller believes accurate and rapid methods of measuring shell strength will greatly help in improving shell quality through breeding, feeding, and management.

Egg breakage is especially serious in late spring and during the summer.

Dr. Mueller and associates found that methods commonly used to determine shell strength were not very accurate measures of shell strength for commercial egg handling.

Air conditioned rooms control temperature and humidity for laying hens in the Penn State tests.

New egg shell testing devices include a pressure machine to measure resistance to pressure, an elasticity machine to measure compression, and an impact machine to test the impact needed to break shells.

USDA Defines Policies On Lamb-Buying Systems

The U. S. Department of Agriculture today issued a statement defining its general policy on certain current lamb buying practices and how provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act apply to these practices.

USDA announced that this statement has now been issued as Sec. 203.1 of Chapter II, Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations. It is not issued as a rule or regulation in itself, but is an interpretation that certain practices are considered unfair under provisions of the P&S Act.

The policy announcement says it has come to the attention of USDA's Livestock Division that some packers, dealers and market agencies subject to provisions of the Act are engaging in certain practices that are injurious to producers, in the purchase and sale of lambs in prominent lamb producing areas of the United States.

These practices relate to the discounting of prices paid producers for heavy lambs.

Specifically, the following methods of buying lambs are considered unfair practices under P&S Act provisions:

1 A buyer limiting payment for lambs to a designated average weight, and not paying the lamb producer for any additional weight.

2 A buyer subtracting weight from the true and actual weight of the lamb.

The above practices result in issuance of incorrect scale tickets, invoice, and other documents relating to purchases and sales and in misleading market information.

USDA officials believe provisions of the P & S Act (under Title II and Title III) prohibit all packers, dealers, and market agencies subject to the Act's provisions from engaging in these practices.

In addition to the above mentioned practices, USDA's Livestock Division has received numerous complaints from lamb producers about methods used in price discounting for excess weight.

One example of the complaint is when a buyer agrees to pay \$21.00 per cwt. for a lot of lambs provided the average weight is not more than the 105 pounds, but discounts the \$21.00 per cwt. price at the rate of 25 cents for each pound in excess of the 105 pounds.

The discounted price is then applied to the entire weight of the lambs. This makes the final sales price subject to a contingency based upon the extent of excess weight.

The final price can only be based upon the extent of excess weight.

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Don't Forget
 Lancaster County Poultry Association
 Annual Chicken Barbecue
 Today (Sat., June 6) 3-7 p.m., Lititz Springs Park
 Queen and Cooking Contests at 7 p.m.
 Barbecues — Adults, \$1.50; Children \$1.00
 Take-Outs