

# Lancaster Farming

NO. 40

Lancaster, Pa., Saturday, August 22, 1959

\$2 Per Year

## Corn Crop Estimate Up by 10 Bu. per Acre

burg — Hot, humid weather proved so ideal for production that the Dept. of Agriculture's Reporting Service announced that the 1959 crop should be only 10 per cent under the record production.

With earlier, the agencies forecast the crop as being below 1958, a 10 per cent increase from the previous year. This compares with the record average of 65.5 bushels set last year.

Summarizing the conditions for other crops, the Service said that soybean prospects are estimated at 800,000 bushels.

Production of winter wheat in Pennsylvania is 21 per cent above last year. The average yield per acre, 25.5 bushels, is 17 per cent better than last year's average of 21.8 bushels per acre.

Production of corn in Pennsylvania is three per cent above last year and is the highest in the history of the state.

Conditions for hay have been generally favorable. Cuts throughout the state have been hampered by recent rains. Recent rains have hampered growth of third cut.

Each crop now being produced in the Commonwealth totals 2,800,000 bushels, or 10 per cent below last year's total, but above average.

Production is generally of good quality and of excellent quality. There have been developments in the corn crop and the crop is estimated at 75 million bushels, or 10 per cent above last year's total. The average yield per acre is 10 per cent above average.

## Corn Support Prices Set at \$1.25 for '59 Crop

For the 1959 crop of corn to be supported in Lancaster County at an average price of \$1.24 per bushel, Seldomidge, Acting Director of the County Agricultural Extension and Conservation Committee, announced today.

## WEDNESDAY WEATHER FORECAST

Wednesday - Wednesday temperatures will average 63-83. HOT and humid. Not quite as hot as Tuesday. Widely scattered showers will offer a chance of rain to most of the county. August total - 2.5 inches.

The pear crop is estimated to be 100,000 bushels.

Sweet cherry production proved to total 1,000 tons, higher than was anticipated. However, total production in 1958 was 1,100 tons, nine per cent greater.

A smaller sour cherry crop was harvested. - Totaling 10,300 tons, the crop was generally of good quality. Picking in all areas ended about July 30.

Grape prospects have improved during recent weeks with favorable conditions prevailing in Erie County. A crop of 27,000 tons is now in prospect, seven per cent less than the 29,000 tons crop of last year, but 27 per cent above average.

There are fewer bunches on the vines this year than last, but the grapes are big and the bunches heavy. Growers anticipate an early harvest.

Yield of tobacco in the State is forecast at 1,675 pounds an acre, no change from the forecast a month ago. Total production is figured at 53.6 million pounds, 5 per cent greater than the 1958 total. There are 2,000 more acres planted to tobacco this year than last.

In southern counties, harvest of a few fields of tobacco began the first week of August, but some topping still is being done there and in Clinton and Lycoming Counties.

Late summer potato yield has been reduced about 500 pounds an acre by "shock" spells of dry weather during July. Production of the Cobler crop is now placed at 663,000 hundredweight, based on 3,900 acres for harvest.

The fall portion of the potato crop, comprised of late maturing varieties, was holding up under the stress of (Turn to page 5)

age support price of \$1.12 per bushel, announced last February, with adjustments for location and historical price patterns.

Under the 1959 corn support program, the price-support rate to each producer throughout the country reflects the national support level.

As approved by 71.2 per cent of the growers voting in a referendum last November, the corn acreage allotments and the commercial corn-producing area of earlier programs are not in effect for the 1959 program.

As in the past, corn price support in 1959 will be carried out through farm-stored loans and purchase agreements.

To be eligible for support, corn must have been produced in 1959, must grade No. 3 or better or No. 4 because of test weight only, must meet certain moisture requirements, and must be in adequate storage.

## Pa.'s Proudest Plowmen



PENNSYLVANIA'S TOP PLOWMEN for 1959 are shown above, immediately after receiving their awards and trophies at the state plowing contest Wednesday, on the Har-old Gross farm, Manchester, York County. Honors were earned in one of the state event's closest contests, with 25 points separating the top three contour plowing spots, and an 11 point spread in the top five level-land placings. Lancaster County's Christ Miller, Elizabethtown RD 2, placed in that fifth level-land spot with 505 of 600 possible points. The top two plowmen in each division are shown above, from left are: Ernest Rotz, Contour Runner-up, 17-year-old Franklin County youth, from Chambersburg RD 2; Ira Whiteman, Contour Champion, Centre County farmer, who entered his first plowing match this year—farms 130 tillable acres, none contoured and he had never plowed on the contour before—from Center Hall RD; Level-land Champion Charles W. Holub, 44-year-old Dauphin County farmer from Harrisburg RD 1, who was barred from contour competition after winning last year's state title—so came back this year to take the only one left for him—, and Level-land Runner-up Charles Hess, 21-year-old York County farmer from Dallastown. —LF PHOTO

## Says Potato Prices Must Improve to Halt Trend

Coudersport.—A decline of 60 per cent in the number of Pennsylvania commercial potato growers in the past ten years will continue and more will go out of business unless prices to growers show marked improvement, a prominent grower declared recently.

Leland W. Nixon of State College, president of the Pennsylvania Co-operative Potato Growers Association, addressed the first annual "Potato Day at Potato City" near here.

He said potato farmers for three straight years have been subjected to a discouraging cost-price squeeze due largely to higher costs of production and distribution.

Nixon pointed out that Pennsylvania 10 years ago had more than 2,000 potato growers. This year about

800 had planted only 48,000 acres.

The acreage is six per cent under 1958 and 210 per cent under the record year of 1934 when 226,000 acres were harvested.

The reduction makes this year's acreage the smallest of record in Pennsylvania. Nationally, the 1959 acreage is down four per cent from last year.

"We have been doing more than our share in acreage reductions to help prevent surpluses," he said. "Production each year for the past eight years has been less than half of the 1934 output of 19.6 million cwt."

"Potato growing has become a specialized business. It has become our job to do some specialization on marketing our product."

Potato growers must receive a fair share of the con-

sumer's market basket dollar—or go out of business.

We seek no government subsidies.

In an efficient marketing program the farmer should receive more and the consumer should pay less."

Plans for co-operative marketing of this year's potato crop were discussed under leadership of Owen L. Barkley, general manager of the organization.

Dr. E. L. Nixon, father of the association president, led a tour of his potato experiment plots on Potato City farm. Five special displays included an extra early potato that is yielding more than 400 bushels per acre.

Other events included a demonstration of multiple row planters built by members and various contests for members, their families and employees.

## Witmer Guernseys Add New Laurels

Raymond and Louise Witmer, Willow Street, Pa., are the owners of two registered Guernseys that have recently completed outstanding official production records.

Zeitler Actors Suezantine, a senior four year-old, produced 10,230 pounds of milk and 525 pounds of fat in 305 days, milked two times daily.

Al Meda Blends Choice, a junior four year-old, produced 11,400 pounds of milk and 560 pounds of fat in 305 days, milked two times daily.

These official production records were supervised by Pennsylvania State University.

## Sept. 1 & 2 Are Dates For Bi-County 4-H Pig Roundup

### County 4-H Flower Show Is Wednesday

The County-wide 4-H Flower and Vegetable Roundup has been scheduled for 1-5 p.m., Wednesday at the John Neff School in Neffsville, according to Winthrop Merriam, assistant county agent.

The Roundup gives club members a chance to exhibit their projects earlier in the season and all in one location.

The annual Lancaster and Lebanon counties 4-H Pig Roundup has been scheduled for Sept. 1 and 2 at Lancaster Union Stock Yards, according to County Agent, Max M. Smith.

Smith reports that entries are to be brought in on Tuesday, Sept. 1 and the show and sale will be on Wednesday.

This year's judge will be Lester Burdett, Extension Livestock Specialist, Penn State U.