

New Book Surveys County Soil Types

Twenty one years of research, study, and planning by scientists from the United States Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania State University have gone into a new book surveying the soils of Lancaster County.

The book, just recently published, contains 76 double page aerial photographs of the county showing farm buildings, roads, streams, fields and woodlands.

By locating his farm on the maps, the farmer can learn the type of soil and subsoil, the slope or grade, the amount of erosion in the area, and the best management methods for controlling erosion.

In plotting the soil types, the scientists walked over the entire county, digging holes into the soil and subsoil, taking measurements of slope and crop growth over the 21 year period.

There are 12 soil types in the county with the residual limestone soils the most prevalent. The scientists call this soil type the Duffield-Hagerstown Association.

Included in the book is information on other phases of the agriculture of the county, based on the latest survey reports. The book reports that about 82 percent of the county was in farmland in 1954. There were 7,951 farms with an average of 62.7 acres in the same year.

General type farms led the parade with 1,915 in this category. Dairying was the most numerous of the specialized farms claiming 1,570 of the total and leading Poultry farms which had a total of 1,170. Of the general farms, only 65 depended primarily on crops while 680 depended primarily on livestock products the latest figures show.

Corn showed up as the most important crop in the county with 102,876 acres planted. Most of the crop was used in the livestock feeding programs in the county.

As might be expected, tobacco proved to be one of the important crops with 26,000 acres devoted to the production of cigar leaf. The book reports that Pennsylvania broadleaf type tobacco was developed largely through experiments in the Garden Spot County.

The book is designed to help farmers in planning the

kind of management programs that will protect their soil from erosion and help them get greatest returns from crops and livestock.

Engineers, planning commissions and developers will also find use for the book in selecting sites for roads, ponds buildings and other structures.

After three years in the printing process, the book is available from the Superintendent of Documents, United States Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

ORGANIZE FAMILY PAPERS

Family records to save can be put into two groups. One includes records that should be kept in a safe place permanently, such as a safety deposit box in a bank, a strong box, or a home safe, says Helen Bell, Penn State home management extension specialist. The other group includes records, such as bills and receipts, manufacturer's direction booklets, guarantees, and other business papers. These are records to keep at home where they may be referred to as needed.

Farm Show Milk Deadline Set

Pennsylvania State Farm Show Director, John B. McCool, reminds milk producers and dealers desiring to compete in the milk division at the 1961 farm show that they must order entry forms before September 1.

"These forms," McCool said, "Must be filled out and returned to the Farm Show Building postmarked not later than September 30."

After October 1 and before next January 1, milk samples will be collected under McCool's direction by unannounced visits to farms and milk plants and scored at once locally.

Special plaques instead of cash awards, are given winners in the milk division.

All entrants whose milk scores above 92 percent will be eligible for plaques. These winners will be announced at the beginning of the Farm Show. No milk will be scored at the Farm Show, but winners will be invited to

supply samples for display. This random sample method of collecting and scoring samples of Farm Show entrants, adopted at the request of the producers and dealers, has won endorsement from all segments of Pennsylvania's multi-million dollar dairy business.

Dates of the 1961 Farm Show are January 9 through 13.

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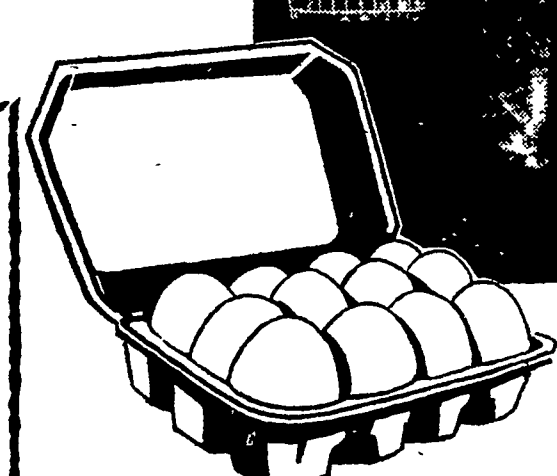
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