

Southern Future Farmers Visit Lancaster County

Eight Future Farmers of America and their advisor from Wilkes County, North Carolina took a look at agriculture in the Garden Spot county this week and liked what they saw.

The group, on a 2,300 mile trip through all the North Atlantic coast states, except New Jersey, and into Canada, stopped off to spend the night as the guests of the Pequea Valley FFA club.

On Monday afternoon with Henry Givler, teacher of vocational agriculture as guide, the visitors observed the farm of Ellis Mentzer and his son Roy at New Holland R1, where they saw a purebred Ayrshire herd, dried alfalfa, and growing tobacco. Very little tobacco is grown in Wilkes County, the visitors said, and most of what is grown is Turkish or Aromatic tobacco selling for about \$1.15 per pound.

After a visit to see the

new hog raising system being installed by John Eby, New Holland, another student at Pequea Valley, the travelers cooled off from their long trip with a dip in a farm pond.

Making their way in a truck bought and outfitted with camping gear by the FFA club, the North Carolina Future Farmers are cooking their own meals and bedding down in schools along their route as guests of local FFA chapters.

The eight members of the delegation were juniors and seniors chosen from the chapter enrollment of 108 boys on the basis of Supervised Farming Programs, leadership qualities and attendance at meetings through the year. The group included the chapter president, secretary, reporter, and the treasurer as well as two state farmers.

Chaperoning the boys was



MEMBERS OF THE WILKESBORO, N. C. Future Farmers chapter prepare to spend the night at the Pequea Valley High School. Six of the eight boys on the trip unroll some of their camping equipment under the watchful eye of their FFA advisor, S. R. Pearson; nearest the truck. The visiting Future Farmers accepted the hospitality of the Pequea Valley chapter as they passed through the county on a 2,300 mile trip through the North Atlantic coast states and Canada. The truck was bought and prepared for the trip by the boys and their teacher of vocational agriculture.

S. R. Pearson, one of the two teachers of vocational agriculture at the Wilkesboro North Wilkesboro consolidated High School

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Estimate Down On Pa. Apples

Harrisburg — About a 25 percent reduction in the Pennsylvania apple crop this year is forecast by the Crop Reporting Service of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

About 5.8 million bushels of apples will be produced in the Keystone State this summer and fall. Last year production totaled 7.5 million bushels.

Prospects for an above average peach crop continue good. Orchards are expected to yield 2.9 million bushels, the same as the 1959 crop and 13 per cent greater than the average during the past 10 years.

A crop of 100,000 bushels of pears is expected to be harvested. This is a slight decrease from last year's 110,000 bushels.

Pennsylvania's three leading apple varieties, York, Stayman and Red Delicious, have the poorest set this year. The minor varieties all seem to have a good set and comprise almost half the 5.8 million bushel crop. The apples are sizing well, and the moisture situation is the best in a number of years. With all the moisture, there has been some trouble with scab and other pests, but this condition is generally not severe.

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MH-30—To spray or not to spray? What does “Lancaster Farming” say about this?*

FROM WHERE WE STAND —

It appears we are on the same old merry-go-round we stepped on last year when some of us who played it straight stepped off to get our faces full of dirt.

Tobacco companies last year cautioned against the use of chemical growth inhibitors at the risk of severe price penalties for treated tobacco.

Many conscientious tobacco farmers took the companies at their word and went through the age-old chore of hand suckering, while some of their adventuresome neighbors risked price cuts for the convenience of chemical suckering.

When the buyers hit the sheds last

fall, most of the tobacco was sold before the conscientious farmers had time to say, “But I suckered mine by hand.”

What happened to the promised differential in price? Several farmers reported that the buyer did not even ask how the suckers were removed from the crop.

While the buying companies insist that they will not knowingly buy treated tobacco, in many instances, does not show adverse physical effects that can be detected on the auction floor.

Tobacco bought on the auction floor is one thing, but the Lancaster county tobacco market is another.

In many cases the buyers were on the farms during the growing season, and still no premium was paid for the hand suckered crop.

If the tobacco companies intend to discriminate against the chemically treated tobacco, they made a poor start last season. There will be many more farmers willing to test them out again this year.

At least that's how it looks from where we stand.

Various statements have been circulated giving a misleading impression of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture's attitude on MH-30. Actually, the Department has refused to prejudge this chemical. It is engaged in careful, scientific review of MH-30. This will require many months.

MH-30 has been tested for over a dozen years and used in the flue-cured areas for the past 5 years, in the burley belt for over 3 years and on cigar tobacco for 3 years.

With efficient labor increasingly hard to find and costly, the farmer must rely on chemical control of plant disease, pests and weeds more than ever before.

MH-30 is such a chemical. On the average it eliminates 30 costly man-hours of back-breaking hand-suckering per acre. It is very common for a single acre of tobacco to be attacked by as many as 125,000 suckers. We believe anyone who insists on pulling them by hand is fighting progress.

With unseasonable weather delaying the crops in Lancaster County, MH-30 should be of extra benefit this season. This chemical control frees the farmer from hand-suckering and allows him necessary time to catch up with his corn cultivation, haying and other chores.

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