

Lancaster Farming

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Scattered Showers Fail To Break County Drought

Thursday brought the first measurable rain to Lancaster County in over three weeks, but did little to break the drought that has gripped the Garden Spot for over a month. Most farmers interviewed Friday felt that yields crops have not yet been seriously affected but will be soon unless rain falls. The exception in crops is hay and pasture which are extremely short. Farmers report tobacco growth slowed by dry weather, but some of the ones interviewed said that the crop would resume normal growth with a good crop if most areas of the county must have rainfall soon or crops will be permanently damaged. The US Weather Bureau held out hope that some rain might be forthcoming at the beginning of the week.

Farmers watched the overcast skies Thursday in the hope that the water needed so desperately by growing crops was about to fall but most of the county got only a light sprinkle and some areas got none at all. With a 2.32 inches deficit in May and another .85 shortage of rainfall below normal in June and with no measurable rainfall at all in July, a good crop if most areas of the county must have rainfall soon or crops will be permanently damaged. The US Weather Bureau held out hope that some rain might be forthcoming at the beginning of the week.

HOMEMADE RAIN was about the only kind of rain to be found in the garden spot this week. A few sprinkles on Thursday were not even enough to whet the farmer's appetite. Pastures were burned brown and furnishing practically no feed in most sections. Irrigation pumps kept pastures growing on some farms such as this one at Willow Street R1. Raymond L. Witmer has watered his alfalfa hay crop and one field of corn in addition to rotating the sprinklers as he rotates the cows on pastures. He follows the cows with the irrigation giving the grass a needed spurt just after it has been cropped close by the herd of Guernseys. By this method he has kept his herd in good grass all summer in spite of the drought.

USDA OK's 2,4-D Spray In Seeding Legumes

Farmers planning to seed alfalfa in the next few weeks can look forward to help in combating the weeds this year. To aid the farmers in their fight against weeds scientists have put the B on 2,4-D. A new chemical closely related to the old standard 2,4-D is now available and is called 2,4-DB (the B is for butyric acid).

Farmers know what 2,4-D will do to pigweed and dock. They also know it will kill such plants as alfalfa, red clover and ladino. According to agronomists at the Pennsylvania State University, 2,4-DB can be used on any of these legumes and other pasture crops without injuring them. It will however control

prevalent weeds such as dock, ragweed, lambs quarter, pigweed and thistle. It is not effective, however, in controlling garlic.

Pasture and hay growers will find 2,4-DB useful in establishing alfalfa and pastures. It can also be used to control weeds in spring seeding of hay and pasture crops.

2,4-DB gets its effectiveness from the 2,4-D part of the chemical formulation. An enzyme contained in certain broadleaf weeds changes the harmless 2,4-DB to the highly active 2,4-D. Alfalfa and certain clovers do not have the enzyme mechanism for changing 2,4-DB to 2,4-D and are thus unharmed by the new chemical.

Additional information about this new weed killer may be obtained by contacting the county extension agent.

County 4-H Judging Team Wins Trophy In Southeast District

A three member livestock judging team from the Garden Spot county took the second leg of a three year challenge trophy Wednesday at the Southeast Pennsylvania 4-H judging contest.

The team of Darwin Boyd, Ephrata R1, Donald Trimble Quarryville R1, and Wilbur Hosler, Manheim R3, beat out teams from eight other counties in the district to move within one win of retiring the trophy.

The host county, York, placed second in the contest scheduled as a warm-up event for the state contest next month at the Pennsylvania State University. York previously won the trophy in 1958 and 1961.

Lancaster county took the cup in 1960 when Boyd was high in individual scoring. In Wednesday's event Boyd was again high in judging beef

cattle and second in scoring in all six class of beef, sheep and swine.

Hosler was sixth in total score and Trimble tied for eighth place with Larry Hart, Quarryville Trimble, who was also tied for third in swine judging won the berth on the team when he outpointed Hart in giving reasons.

Other county judges included (Continued on page 6)

Garden Spot Baby Beef Club To Hold Show

The 40th annual show and sale of the Garden Spot Baby Beef Club will be held August 14th & 15th at the Lancaster Union Stock Yards.

The show and sale will be conducted by the Lancaster Livestock Exchange and the Union Stock Yard Co.

The club composed of 47 farm youth, sons and daughters of livestock producers from the Lancaster market area, purchased steers offered at this show on the Lancaster Stock Yards, about the first of the year.

The baby beefs will be shown as a group with special emphasis given to beef type rather than to breed. Judges will be John Tatula, buyer for Consolidated Dressed Beef Co of Philadelphia Al Schaeffer, buyer for Armour & Co Reading Pa.

Yarding of the show and (Continued on Page 6)

Roy Garber Will Host Plowing Matches

Roy H Garber, Lititz R3, will host the annual Lancaster County Plowing Contest to be held Monday July 23.

County Farm Agent Max M Smith said the 1 p.m. contest will be open to all county farmers and regularly-employed farm workers 16 years or older.

Monday, July 16 has been set as the deadline for entering the matches.

Smith said the level-land plowing event can be entered by contacting contest chairman, Elmer V. Good, Lititz R1 or the office of the county agent. He said the competition, sponsored by the Lancaster Council Soil Conservation District, will be limited to about 15 contestants.

Smith said about half the number entered in the competition will receive cash, trophies or tools as prizes. Rain date will be July 30.

4-H Field Day Plans Completed

Judy and David Denlinger, co-chairman for the county 4-H Field Day have announced that plans for the day are complete.

On Thursday, July 19, at 2 p.m. the program will get under way at Long Park in Lancaster with swimming, volleyball and baseball for all 4-H club members.

Following the picnic supper (Continued on Page 10)

Farm Calendar

July 16—Deadline for plowing contest entries. Apply to the County Agent's office, Post Office building, Lancaster

July 16—1 p.m. — County 4-H demonstration days at Penn Manor High School 8 p.m. — Meeting of the Manheim Fair Show committee in the Manheim Central High School.

July 17—8 p.m. — Meeting of the Lincoln Community 4-H club in the Mount Airy fire hall.

8 p.m. — Meeting of the (Continued on Page 10)