

40 Counties Are Designated Disaster Areas

HARRISBURG -- State Agriculture Secretary William L. Henning this week said 18 additional drought-stricken Pennsylvania counties have been recommended to Governor David L. Lawrence for certification as new disaster areas.

The recommendation was made by unanimous action of the state's USDA Disaster Committee today at a meeting in its Harrisburg office. Its

request to the Governor was that he certify the additional counties to U. S. Agriculture Secretary Orville L. Freeman.

This brings to 40 the number of Pennsylvania counties to seek relief from the results of severe and prolonged drought.

The added counties recommended for certification are Bedford, Berks, Blair, Clinton, Cumberland, Franklin, Huntingdon, Columbia, Indiana, Juniata, Lycoming, Luzerne, Mifflin, Pike, Perry, Potter, Schuylkill and Union.

Secretary Henning explained that the duration for disaster status, as recommended by the committee, would run to next

August 31, the same as for the 22 counties already certified.

County USDA disaster committees from the 17 counties informed the state disaster committee that severe drought conditions have caused very short hay and pasture crops. These crops, reports stated, have averaged only 10 to 30 per cent of normal as a result of a lack of rainfall which was estimated at 25 to 40 per cent of normal from last April to the present time.

Farmers in these counties, as in counties already certified, requested that they be permitted to take hay and pasture from the Conservation Reserve and diverted acres

under the Wheat Stabilization and Feed Grain Programs.

Counties certified earlier as disaster areas are Greene, Washington, Fayette, Westmoreland, Somerset, Armstrong, Cambria, Centre, Snyder, Fulton, Dauphin, Northumberland, Montour, Carbon, Monroe, Wayne, Lackawanna, Wyoming, Bradford, Susquehanna, Sullivan and Tioga.

Secretary Henning said still other counties have been reported hard hit by the drought and that new requests for disaster relief may develop so

long as the present dry spell continues. These areas were mostly in the northwestern and southeastern sections of the state.

● Farm Bill

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very close to the program asked for by President Kennedy and Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman.

About the only changes made in existing legislation by the House was a cut in payment from 50 to 45 per cent of normal production on land voluntarily taken out of feed grain production and a reduction from 60 to 50 per cent on the same basis for wheat. However, the percentage of his base acreage a farmer may retire was raised from 40 to 50 per cent for both feed grains and wheat.

The bill provides for a voluntary dairy program through which dairymen may receive \$2.50 per hundredweight for decreased marketings of milk.

Otherwise the present farm program continues virtually unchanged.

REGISTERED JERSEY COW HAS HIGH RECORD

The registered Jersey cow, Cornwall Gamboze Sophia, owned by Edison W. Osborne, Peach Bottom Pa., recently completed an official lactation record with 11,136 pounds of milk and 668 pounds of butterfat in a 305 day period. Her cow power index rating (the number of times her body weight in milk she produced during the lactation) was 13.

Realizing that we must obtain all the efficiency possible under today's dairying conditions, the American Jersey Cattle Club launched their cow power program as a service to owners of Registered Jerseys.

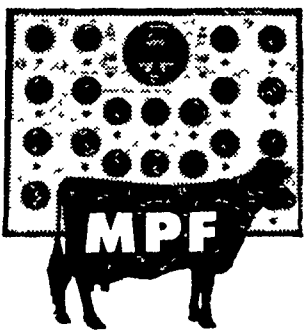
The association maintains that these records are further proof that a cow does not have to be big to be efficient and profitable.

Conserve Moisture

Mulching is the best method of insuring an adequate supply of moisture in the orchard, says Carl Bittner, Penn State extension pomologist. He explains that mulching will help growers get higher yields and bigger fruits.

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