

Lancaster County Ranks On Top In Most Categories, Report Shows

Lancaster ranks at the top of the list of counties in 35 of 53 agricultural categories, according to figures in a new booklet published by the Pennsylvania State Department of Agriculture.

In addition, the county ranks second in four other categories and third in three more. In only four categories does the Garden Spot rank out of the first tenand these include: Total land area; 12th; Rural population as % of total; 42nd; Oats production 33rd; and Average size of farm, 66th. Only Philadelphia County has smaller farms.

In every category of production and income produced, Lancaster ranked eighth or higher with the single exception of oats production.

A list of the categories in which Lancaster leads all the other 66 in the commonwealth are: proportion of land in farms, 79%; Number of farms (includes all farms with over \$50 production per year) as of Jan. 1, 1962, 6,770; Percent Tenancy, 24.9; Rural population, 121,153; Farms with telephones, 5,316; Farms with home freezers, 4,749; Automobiles on farms, 7,299; Motor trucks on farms, 3,981; Trac-

tors on farms, 10,593; Number of livestock farms, 4,650; Cattle and calves on farms, 175,000; Average number of cows milked during 1961, 64,000; Milk produced during 1961, 506,000,000 pounds; Calf crop 1961, 65,000; Beef cattle on farms, 60,800; Hogs on farms, 40,000; Chickens on farms, 3,623,000; Average number of layers, 2,913,000; Eggs produced, 626,300,000; Broilers produced, 7,688,300; Value of poultry meat produced, \$8,464,800.

Also corn for grain, 6,765,600 bu.; Corn for silage, 329,000 tons; Wheat production, 1,937,200 bu.; Barley production, 980,700 bu.; Alfalfa hay production, 120,000 tons; All hay production, 232,500 tons; Tobacco production, 47,886,

000 pounds; Value of all field crops produced, \$36,614,900. Also cash receipt from crops, \$24,682; Cash receipts from dairy, \$23,529,000; Cash receipts from poultry, \$33,389,000; Cash receipts from other livestock, \$24,987,000; Cash receipts for all commodities, \$106,504,000; Value of Commercial fertilizer used, \$40,058,000.

Only one county outranked Lancaster in Value of lime used, Value of vegetable production, Clover and timothy production, and area of land in farms.

Only two counties outranked the Garden Spot in Production of Sheep, Production of potatoes, and Acres of all vegetables harvested.

Lancaster county ranked seventh in average value of land and buildings per acre. Peach production, and value of all fruit production. A ranking of eighth was given

to the county in average value of land and buildings per farm, Commercial apple production, Sales of forest products and Sales of nursery products.

Dr. William L. Henning, Secretary of Agriculture, in a foreword to the booklet, said "this new edition of Ranking Among States and Counties" provides for the first time a capsule summary of agriculture in each county in Pennsylvania. It is the answer to a large number of requests for county summaries."

The booklet is available from the Pa. Dept. of Agriculture upon request at no cost.

Almost half the nation's milk supply is used as fluid milk and cream. The other half is used in the manufacture of ice cream, butter, cheese, non-fat dry milk and many other dairy products.

Lancaster County Is Certified Drought Disaster Area By USDA

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- State Agriculture Secretary William L. Henning reported today that emergency grazing and haying permits in drought-stricken counties had been extended to November 15 and that special funds were being sought to finance re-seeding of damaged pastures in Lehigh, Fulton and Dauphin Counties.

Henning was in Washington at the request of Governor David L. Lawrence who visited U.S. Secretary Orville L. Freeman last week in an attempt to speed assistance to Pennsylvania farmers who have been hit by summer-long dry weather.

After a conference with U.S. Department of Agriculture officials in Washington, Henning confirmed that all of the 54 counties requested by Governor Lawrence had been approved for using hay from acreage reserved under federal land retirement programs. The latest of the 54 counties were Allegheny, Lancaster and Lehigh.

Robert Reed, special assistant to Secretary Freeman, said a representative was being sent to the Lehigh, Fulton and Dauphin Counties to determine whether special emergency funds of the Agricultural Conservation Program should be released for re-seeding. Lack

of adequate cover on burned-out pasture could threaten serious problems of soil erosion by next Spring, Henning said.

Henning also said he planned to renew the request that eastern railroads effect a temporary freight rate reduction on feed grains similar to the special 75 per cent rate on hay now in effect. He said the freight reduction on hay is scheduled to end October 31, but it should be extended further.

"Many of our farmers are going to need hay shipments later in the winter, and they will probably need supplementary corn and other grain, too," Henning said.

GAS TAX REFUND DEADLINE IS SET

Farmers have until September 30 to file for refunds on their state and federal gasoline tax.

Refunds totaling 11 cents per gallon are made on that portion of gasoline used by farmers directly in the production of agriculture products.

Machines using gasoline in the production of agricultural commodities include tractors, combines and unlicensed trucks used on the farm.

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- | | | |
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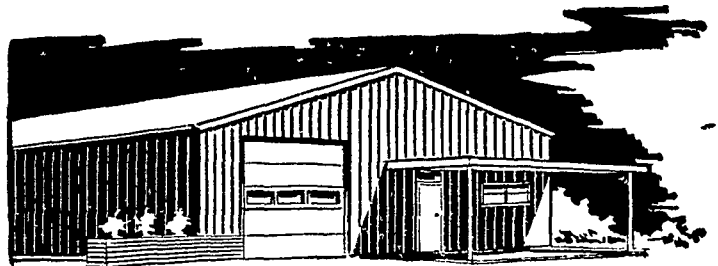
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