

Lancaster Farming

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\$2 Per Year



STANDING IN FRONT OF TWO LAYING houses that total 536 feet of length is Mel Wenger, Rheems. The two houses are a part of a seven-house complex of a caged layer complex that will eventually house 60,000 laying hens and 12,000 pullets. The seventh structure, now under construction will contain egg processing equipment. Eggs, Incorporated, the firm formed by Wenger, will wash, candle, grade and carton the eggs for retail trade, but will not sell the eggs at retail. A total of 24,000 hens are already in production with another unit of 12,000 scheduled to come into production shortly.

L. F. Photo.

Eggs Incorporated Builds Factory In Lancaster Co.

An egg factory is nearing completion in northeastern Lancaster County

Eggs, Incorporated, headed by John and Mel Wenger, Rheems, will soon be turning out eggs, ready for the retailer, at the rate of nearly 200 cases a day

The first two of six units, which will eventually house 60,000 laying hens and 12,000 pullets have already been put in service and about 70 cases of fresh eggs are being gathered daily

Mel Wenger sees the new corporation as a bid to recapture some of the lost egg market for Pennsylvania farmers "We do not want to go into competition with local egg producers," he said, "In fact, we will do everything we can to see to it that we do not compete with the local growers"

Wenger went on to say that nearly a third of the eggs consumed in Pennsylvania are imported from other states Even with Pennsylvania, and Lancaster County in particular, sitting right in the geographic center

of the Atlantic coast "Megapolis" of over 50 million consumers poultry numbers have declined steadily to the lowest point since 1940

"We want to produce an egg of uniform quality and market it as a Pennsylvania egg to better the market for all producers in the state", Wenger explains.

"We will not sell any of the eggs on the local retail market, but if we can put out a quality pack which will compete with the Southern eggs being shipped in, we hope to help improve the market for all producers in Pennsylvania"

Eggs, Inc put the first 12,000 hens in cages last October and added another unit of 12,000 in December The third unit will be in production shortly, and the fourth house is virtually completed Twelve-week-old birds will go into the house and begin a 15 month cycle of production before they are replaced with new pullets

When the six units are all in production, 60,000 layers and 12,000 pullets will rotate on a

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Feed Company Will Initiate Egg Promotion

Every retail outlet which has handled Pennsylvania Certified eggs since initiation of the program in 1958 has increased sales volume, Ed Lawless, Chief of the Poultry and Eggs Division of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Markets said Monday

Speaking at the Kickoff luncheon of an egg promotion program sponsored by the Ralston Purina Company in Harrisburg, Lawless said the program now includes 44 plants and included 2,777,000 dozen eggs in December 1962 compared to 163,000 dozen in April of 1958. A total of 23 million dozen eggs were sold as certified in 1961 compared to 28 1/2 million dozen in 1962.

Lawless said inspectors make unannounced visits to the co-

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Farm Calendar

- Feb. 11 — 1:30 p.m. — Celery and early tomato growers meeting at the packing house of Amos Funk, Millersville R1.
- 7:30 p.m. — Northeast 4-H tractor club meets at the shop of Allen Matz, Denver
- 7:30 p.m. — Lancaster County Soil Conservation District Directors meet in the court house, Lancaster
- Feb. 12 — 6:30 p.m. — Fiftieth anniversary annual meeting and banquet of the Lancaster County Extension service in the Hotel Brunswick, Lancaster.
- 7.15 — New Holland Young Farmers meeting in the Garden Spot High School, New Holland. Subject — Acetylene welding.
- 7:30 p.m. — Manor Young Farmers meet in the Penn Manor. (Continued on Page 10)

Egg Washing Saves Time For Co. Poultryman

How much time does in-plant egg washing save?

According to Roger Thome, Mount Joy R2, it saves in the neighborhood of six hours a day over washing on the farm

Thome, who has 9,000 hens in cages, says the saving in time is not in the gathering or in the washing, since the eggs have to be handled separately

Scholarships Available For 4-H Members

Three \$100 scholarship grants and three \$50 grants will be made available to county 4-H club members by the Lancaster County Bankers Association, it was announced this week by the extension service.

The larger grants will be awarded to three 4-H club members enrolled or planning to enroll in a four year program at some college or university The \$50 awards will go to members who plan to further their education beyond high school in some field such as nursing or beauty culture.

Applicants must be either high school graduates or seniors at present and regularly enrolled in the county 4-H program

Application must be made on a standard form available at the County Agent's office, and must be submitted to the office not later than February 22. Winners will be selected on the basis of achievement in 4-H work and other youth or community activities, and on high school or college activities and scholarship.

and sprayed with oil, but the time saving is in the casing Eggs can be handled 30 at a time on the fillers after oiling and cooling When they were gathered and washed in baskets, they had to be packed individually and inspected for soil and stains

With only two weeks' experience with the in-plant washing, Thome was hesitant to say how much saving he could expect, but he did say his egg report from the first two deliveries showed only about half as many cracked eggs when they were washed in the plant as when they were

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Stock Yards Business Tops \$55 Million

Livestock value traded on the Lancaster Union Stock Yards last year topped the \$55 million mark, it was reported at the annual meeting of the Lancaster Livestock Exchange Tuesday night.

The dollar volume was more than \$3 1/2 million higher than the reported figure in 1961 Total volume in 1962 was \$55,059,577.89 compared with \$51,314,479.63 the previous year

Hog numbers during the year were down by almost 10,000 head, but the increase in both cattle numbers and prices more than made up the difference Calf and sheep receipts were about even for the two years

In other business, the exchange reelected Robert Heilbron, 71 Oak Lane, president Heilbron is a partner in the firm of Samuel L Heilbron and Sons, livestock brokers

Also reelected were James C. Dunlap, 1209 Marietta Ave, vice president, Robert F. Johnson, 41 Hess Blvd, treasurer. (Continued on Page 2)

County Future Farmers Aid Drill Box Survey

Penn State's drill box survey will get an assist this spring from the Future Farmers of Lancaster County

Future Farmers of America, under the direction of the county teachers of vocational agriculture will collect samples of the oats, clover and timothy they plan to seed on their home farms this spring and send them to Clarence Bryner, extension agronomist from the state university for purity and germination testing

Bryner, who has been con-

ducting the drill box surveys in several Pennsylvania counties, met with the teachers at their regular meeting Tuesday night and enlisted their aid in completing a survey in Lancaster County

"Five years ago," Bryner said, "I was in charge of the small grain classes at the Pennsylvania State Farm Show. I was astounded at the number of weed seed, including noxious weeds and especially quack grass, in the samples."

Bryner said that while the samples were farm grains, they were supposed to be cleaned samples, and should have been almost seed quality, but most of the grains, especially oats were loaded with weed seed.

He has collected samples of

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Celery Growers To Hold Meet

Celery growers have been invited to a county-wide meeting with extension vegetable specialists in the packing room of Amos Funk, Millersville R1, next Monday, February 11 at 1.30 p.m.

Dr Roy Creech, plant breeder, James Dutt, extension vegetable specialist, and Dr Ernie Bergman, nutrition researcher, all from the Pennsylvania State University will discuss varieties, breeding progress being made, fertilization, cultural practices, and nutrition experiments Improved selections of the H-46 variety which was released by the University last year as a replacement for the Houser strain which disappeared during World War II

Farmers interested in growing early staked tomatoes will be invited to ask questions on this subject.

FIVE-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Temperatures during the next five days are expected to average three to seven degrees below the normal range of 24 at night to 39 in the afternoon. Consistently cold weather is expected throughout the period with some moderation near the end of the period. Precipitation is expected to total 0.1 to 0.3 inch occurring mostly as light snow or rain Sunday or Monday.