

ASCS Office Moves From City November 27

As of November 27, the county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office will be located at 1466 Manheim Pike, Miss Dorothy Y. Neal, office manager, said this week.

She added, "We feel sure the new location will be of benefit to our farmers. The office will be on the first floor,

with ample parking space at the rear of the building." Starting November 27, office hours will be 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. Miss Neal said the 1964 Agricultural Conservation Program for Lancaster County has been approved and new handbooks will be available in December.

The 1964 Feed grain program is basically the same as 1963, except for a few basic changes. Maximum diversion will be 50 per cent of the feed grain base, and a farmer di-

verting more than 40 per cent will receive the high payment on all diverted acres. Minimum diversion is still 20 per cent of the base. The first 20 per cent is at the low payment rate and from 20 to 39 per cent at the high rate. If from 40 or 50 per cent of the base is diverted, all will be paid at the high rate.

Price support loans will be available on the total production, and as in 1963, price support payments will be made on the normal production of the crop grown.

Crop Summary

Drought Hinders Growth, Curing

October was one of the driest months on record causing water supplies to dwindle and hindering growth of grasses and fall sown grains according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

A long Indian-type Summer prevailed during the month. Very little rain during the month caused many streams, wells and reservoirs to go dry. Fall seedings are spotty and many pastures dried up due to lack of rain. (Rain during first part of November alleviated the situation to a great extent.) Good drying weather favored the drying of immature corn and permitted rapid progress of fall harvest of corn, potatoes and apples.

Production of corn for grain is estimated at 43.7 million bushels, or 1 percent below last year's poor crop of 44.1 million bushels and 20 percent below the 1957-61 average. Early and late freezes combined with drought conditions reduced yields and caused many farmers to divert corn intended for grain into silage. The harvesting of corn for silage was completed in early October. Harvesting of corn for grain was favored by sunny, dry weather which permitted corn to dry out rapidly.

HAY AND PASTURE

Lack of rainfall hindered growth of legumes and grasses. Some of the growth that did occur was cut and fed as green chop or used as temporary pasture. A number of pasture and hay fields have been grazed too closely and

winter damage may be severe.

POTATOES AND TOBACCO

Harvesting of tobacco was about completed by October 1. Proper curing weather was lacking during October. There was plenty of sunshine but not enough moisture for proper curing. Some stripping of tobacco was started at the end of October. Digging of fall potatoes was virtually completed by the end of October. The past month offered some excellent weather for potato harvesting. Tuber size was smaller than usual but quality was good. Yield was better than expected. Yield is estimated at 190 hundredweight per acre.

U. S. CROP REPORT

October weather favored full development and rapid harvest of the major row crops, but doomed many fall pastures and threatened some acreages of fall seeded grains. Corn, sorghum grain, rice and cotton were major crops showing increased prospects on November 1, but continued soil moisture shortages in the South lowered prospects for soybeans and peanuts. Pasture condition was reported as 60 percent of normal - the lowest November condition since 1956. Rains over most of the eastern half of the Nation since November 1 will help fall seeded grains but were too late to aid pastures for the 1963 season except in southern areas. The "all crops" production index remained at the record level of 110, the same as a month earlier.

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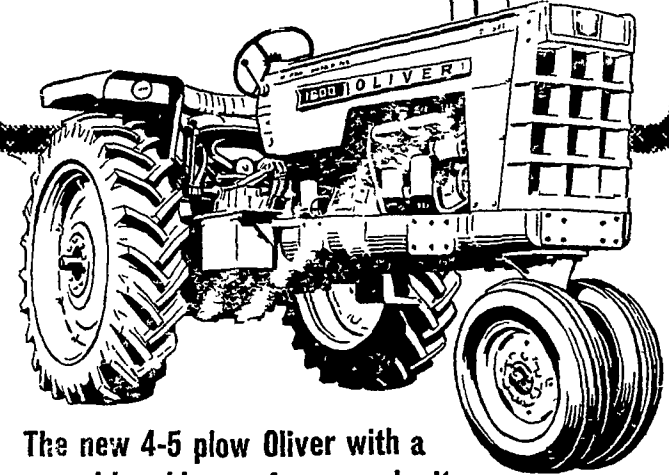
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