

Lancaster Farming

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ALFALFA ALMOST READY TO GO ON THE DRYER is examined by Galen Crouse (right) of Stevens R1. Crouse mowed the hay on Wednesday morning while Harold Weitzel (left), Ephrata R1, a part time helper, followed with a crimper. Crouse, twice district hay champion, raked the hay Wednesday evening and baled Thursday. The hay was finished with a hot air crop dryer. L. F. Photo.

County Hay Champion Puts First Batch On Dryer

Lancaster County's champion hay grower, Galen Crouse, Stevens R1, put the first of his alfalfa crop on the hay dryer this week.

Crouse, who was district hay champ in 1961 and 62 and reserve champion at the state Farm Show in 1962, mowed the first batch of hay on Wednesday morning and baled it Thursday. His 1963 sample of heat cured alfalfa was runner up to the sample that won the district hay show.

The Holstein dairyman had planned to let the stand get a little taller, but a sudden in-

vasion of alfalfa weevil pushed him into hay making earlier than usual. He began mowing the knee deep legume on Wednesday morning and followed with a hay crimper. By noon he had mowed enough for one batch in the drying shed.

By Wednesday evening, the hay had lost enough moisture to be raked. Raking before the hay is completely cured and taking advantage of the late evening moisture, Crouse saves most of the leaves. The windrows were rolled over Thursday morning to speed the drying, and baling began by Thursday. (Continued on Page 9)

Alfalfa Weevil Outbreak Plagues County Farmers

One of the worst infestations of alfalfa weevils in history hit Lancaster County hay fields this week.

A Penn State insect specialist said this week that damage

to the County's 40,000 acre crop is the heaviest since the 1953 outbreak.

J. O. Pepper, extension entomologist from the Pennsylvania State University, said Tuesday after a field inspection with Arnold Lueck, assistant county agent, "It appears that the weevils are building up a resistance to heptachlor and dieldrin."

Pepper found heavy population of weevils in the alfalfa. (Continued on Page 7)

Sheep From Texas Range Come To County Farms

Five Lancaster County farms and one from York County loaded out a carload of 250 head of western ewes at the Lancaster Union Stockyards, Thursday morning.

The yearling ewes from a feeding station at San Angelo, Texas will be crossed with native rams to produce commercial lambs.

The commercial ewe program conducted by Ben E. Moir, extension livestock

specialist from the Pennsylvania State University, brought a total of 469 ewes to the state. Berks County farmers took 69 while the remaining 150 went to Lancaster County farms. (Continued on Page 8)

Fall Seeded Tobacco Beds Pay Dividends In Earlier Plants

The voice on the phone said, "You had a picture last week of tobacco plants as big as a half dollar. I have plants as big as a dollar."

A stop at the home of Henry Frank, Lititz R4, proved that he did, indeed, have plants

with leaves as big as a dollar. In fact, the leaves were almost as large as a dollar bill, and Mr. Frank plans to begin transplanting next week.

How did he get plants this large so early in the year? (Continued on Page 12)



TOBACCO PLANTS READY FOR THE FIELD by the last week in May. This plant bed at Rothsville was seeded last November and plants will be ready for transplanting next week. Henry Frank, shows the size of the plants he will begin setting on his three acre plot. He covered the bed with tobacco ribs and mulch about the first of April and began watering the first week in May. He has seeded in the fall for the past six years. L. F. Photo.

County Council Makes Plans For Spring Jamboree

The 4-H County Council spring Jamboree for all county 4-H'ers will be held at 7:30 p.m. on May 29 at the Leola fire hall.

Council is asking clubs in the county to erect contest booths such as a ring toss or other games of skill. Money prizes will be offered for the best booths. Booths will be judged on originality and construction. Construction should be completed by 7:30.

After judging of the booths, organized games are planned. The entertainment for the evening will be a hootnanny. (Continued on Page 4)

Farm Calendar

- May 25 — 7:30 p.m. — County 4-H Conservation club meets at the Elmer Sensenig market, New Holland R1.
- 8 p.m. — Fulton Grange meets at Oaklyn Hall.
- May 26 — 7:30 p.m. — Providence 4-H Community club meets at the Providence Elementary School.
- 7:30 p.m. — Manor 4-H Community club meets at the Ann Letort Elementary School.
- 8 p.m. — County Extension Executive committee meets at the Farm Bureau Cooperative building, Dillerville Pike Lancaster.
- May 27 — 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. — Food projects judging session for 4-H leaders at the PP&L kitchen, Lancaster.
- May 28 — County Holstein 4-H club meets at the home of John Kurtz, Elizabethtown.
- May 29 — 7:30 p.m. — County 4-H Spring Jamboree at the Leola fire hall.

FIVE-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Temperatures during the next five days are expected to average eight or more degrees above the normal range of 77 in the afternoon to 54 at night. Warm days are expected throughout the period. Rainfall is expected to total less than one tenth of an inch falling as showers Sunday night or early Monday morning.