

Dr. Thomas Is Named To Head Agronomy Dept.

University Park, Pa. — Walter I. Thomas, professor of agronomy at The Pennsylvania State University, has been named head of the department of agronomy, effective July 1. He will succeed Howard B. Sprague, who will retire with emeritus rank on June 30 after heading the department



DR. THOMAS

since 1953

Dr. Thomas joined the faculty at Penn State in 1959 as associate professor and was named professor last year.

He received his bachelor of science degree in agronomy and his master of science and doctor of philosophy degree with majors in plant breeding from the Iowa State Univer-

sity. He had been a member of the faculty at Iowa State University in the field of corn breeding before coming to Penn State.

Dr. Thomas has conducted research on the absorption of strontium and calcium and other chemical elements by various genetic strains of corn in a project to learn how to reduce entry of radioactive elements into milk and other products that humans eat.

He has also worked for the past five years on corn breeding under grants from the Co-operative Grange League Federation Exchange. His work here has included development of hybrid corn that will be most suitable for silage use.

Recently Dr. Thomas has been investigating the inheritance of disease resistance in plants in connection with their ability to absorb, use and store certain chemical elements. This work has been continued under a new grant of \$31,320 from the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission.

Dr. Thomas served in the U. S. Marine Corps from 1942 to 1946 and again from 1950 to 1952.

He has written numerous articles, concerned primarily with research on corn, for professional publications.

Examine livestock for evidence of worms, lice and mange before turning them out to spring pasture, recommend University veterinarians. Control of both internal and external parasites should receive major consideration in the herd health program.

Crop Summary Rains Leave Some Areas Dry

Scattered showers in the county during the past week and a half left a few areas of the Garden Spot with enough moisture for crops to continue good growth, but much of the county is in need of additional water.

Corn is making satisfactory growth and most tobacco fields are well established, but pastures are growing slowly and hay crops are not recovering rapidly.

Early reports from farmers harvesting barley show a fair to good crop. A few fields around the county, where early rains and heavy fertilization pushed rank growth, show considerable lodging, but no harvesting difficulty has been reported.

Rainfall during the week ending June 22 hindered hay making and cultivation of crops around the state, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. Wide variations in total rainfall left some Pennsylvania farm lands with adequate moisture for continued good growth of crops but in most localities more rain is needed. Many northern and southern counties are dry. Irrigation is being used to supply moisture for vegetables and some fruits. Portions of Adams and York counties are badly in need of rain.

Cutting of barley is now under way in southern counties and advancing into central areas as weather permits. Most stands of wheat in the south are turning yellow. Good yields are expected. Winter oats are in head and some turning color. Spring planted oats

is developing later than usual. Corn in most areas made satisfactory growth. Poor stands are common in some central and southern localities. Considerable replanting was done to improve stands. Corn suffered some hail damage in the Berks-Lehigh area.

Cutting of alfalfa and clover and timothy for hay or grass silage is now the principal farm activity in central and northern counties. Despite losses from alfalfa weevil and dry weather yields are about average. Some hay fields after harvest have been plowed and planted to corn.

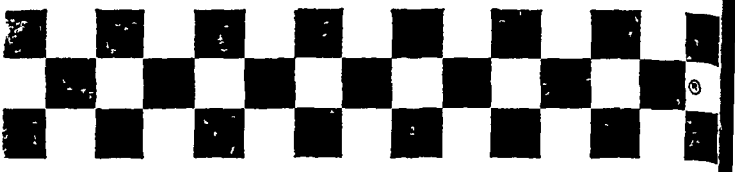
Transplanting of tobacco in the Lancaster area made rapid progress. Most plants have a good start. Potatoes generally show good stands and growth

with most Cobblers in bloom. Harvesting of peas is under way. Early sweet corn in the southeast is coming into tassels and snap beans are in bloom.

Landisville 4-H Elects Officers

The Landisville-Salunga 4-H sewing club elected Mrs. Linda Weidman representative to County 4-H Council to replace Sue Mumma, at the Monday meeting in Hempfield High School Economics room.

At this, the first work meeting, the members were divided into age groups according to years in 4-H. Most of the girls cut their material and began working on garments to be exhibited at the county roundup, August 19, at Penn Manor High School.



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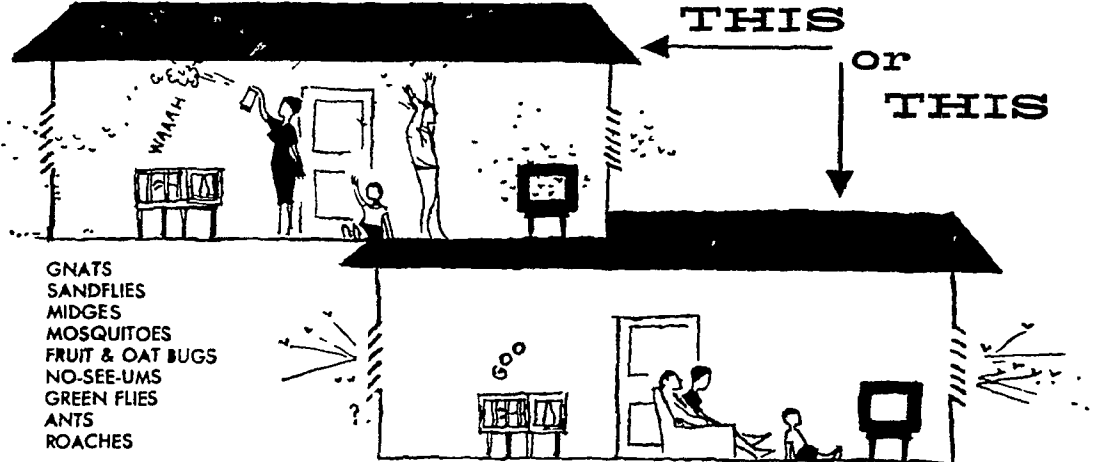


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