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AN EXTREME ILLUSTRATION OF POOR AND GOOD TOBACCO taken at the P.S.U. Southeastern Field Research Laboratory. The hand on the left is made up of small, discolored, frosted and poorly cured leaves while the hand on the right consists of leaves of uniform length, quality and color (a rich, reddish-chestnut), that has been properly cured and stored. The leaves on the right were from the 1963 crop at the research station. L. F. Photo.

Improve Tobacco Returns Through Better Handling

The grower of tobacco can not control the weather or the market, nor can he personally develop a better-producing plant. However, some authorities seem to feel that he can improve the methods in which he handles his tobacco before it is sold.

Henry B. Engle, Research Agronomist at the Pennsylvania State University Southeastern Field Research Laboratory, said that two varieties developed by the Station since 1954—Pennbel-69 and Pennleaf-1—have jumped yields per acre over the old standard varieties by 100-200 pounds or more. These two locally developed varieties also have a bred-in disease resistance, Engle said. Pennbel-69 is for all practical purposes immune to tobacco mosaic, and highly resistant to wildfire disease. Pennleaf-1 is resistant to wildfire.

One place in which growers err in handling these two varieties is topping too high. Instead of leaving 16 leaves, as recommended, many will leave 20, Engle said. The plant will not do the same producing job on 20 leaves

that it will do on 16. Also, since these varieties are slower maturing, they must be planted early enough to fit the growing season.

Another place that Engle felt the grower could improve his handling was by sizing and grouping his leaves after they are cured. Most growers no longer bother with this job, feeling that it is too time consuming. And it is, Engle said, unless the farmer can expect a greater return for the extra work. Some buyers prefer tobacco that has been grouped by size with off-color and damaged leaves removed, Engle said, but others will not pay for this extra. It all depends on what the buyer wants. But, Engle pointed out, it appeared that the tendency toward free and easy stripping has gone right along with a general decline in price. So what the farmer has saved on labor has been lost in price. He felt that the grower could benefit by establishing a reputation for a quality product, and thereby draw more competitive buying interest. However, he added that he expected little renewed emphasis on quality until some sort of grading standards were accepted by the industry; he didn't feel that would come about until farmers accepted acreage controls and price supports, and he could not anticipate any immediate change in the attitudes of Lancaster County farmers concerning price supports on tobacco.

One tobacco buying firm in the area that works on market (Continued on Page 4)

Farm & Home Campaign Builds Steam As Launch Date Nears

With the Farm and Home Foundation Campaign shaping up rapidly, the past few weeks, particularly in the county areas where the drive for \$375,000 will be conducted first, Campaign officials have come up with an over-all summary of how the proposed Farm and Home Center will help farmers. The statement, issued by the Campaign Steering Committee, of which Noah W. Kreider, of Manheim R2 is chairman, presents a pretty clear picture of how the Center can help farm families.

In addition to the special

statement, the General Co-Chairmen of the campaign have announced that the enlistment of volunteer canvassers, countywide, is building up favorably. According to Levi H. Brubaker and Lawrence H. Skromme, every district in the county, with the exception of one small unit, has been in process of organizing. Several hundred names of canvassers have already been received at Campaign Headquarters, located in the Lancaster Poultry Association building, just north of the city.

The Farm Gifts Division is scheduled to launch the campaign with two "Kick-Off" Rallies. The first, for volunteer canvassers in the Northern end of the county, is scheduled for Monday, January 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the Lititz Community Center. The other (Continued on Page 11)

F.B. Stockholders Will Cast Votes On Merger With Agway on Jan. 22

On January 22, stockholders of the Lancaster County Farm Bureau Cooperative Association will vote on the question of merging the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau with Agway.

The special stockholders meeting is scheduled for the Pa. Guernsey Breeders Ass'n sales pavilion was announced by Willis Z. Esbenschade, president of the Lancaster County co-op, during the annual meeting this week at the Manheim Township High School.

About 4,300 common stockholders will be eligible to vote on the proposed merger.

In an election of directors, stockholders elected Graybill Gible, Manheim R3, and re-elected Samuel B. Heisey, Sheridan R1; Paul M. Herr, Quarryville R1, and Melvin R. Stoltzfus, Ronks R1, to three-year board terms.

Speaker for the meeting was Dr. Milford Heddleson, Pennsylvania State University Extension Service agronomist. His topic was land use planning.

Penn State Holding 4 Weekly Dairy Feeding Clinics In Chester Co.

A series of dairy feeding clinics, related meetings, sponsored by Penn State University, will be held at two locations in Chester County—Honey Brook Fire Hall and Russellville Grange Hall.

The meetings are designed to furnish rather complete instruction and will go into greater-than-usual detail to acquaint farmers with recent research data which has an application to their present (Continued on Page 14)

Trimble Again The 4-H County Corn Champion

For nine straight years, since 1955, Paul D. Trimble of Quarryville R1 has won champion or reserve champion honors in the Lancaster County 4-H corn roundup.

He made this year number 10 by winning his sixth county grand championship with a single cross hybrid—Pioneer 3131—which yielded 149 bushels per acre.

Trimble, a 1962 graduate of Solanco High School, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Trimble of Chestnut Level.

His county championship assures his contention in the state competition at the Farm Show next week, where he has won southeastern district honors six times in the past.

Reserve champion in this year's county show was Kenneth Hess, 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Hess, Jr., of Strasburg R1.

Hess exhibited a sample of (Continued on Page 4)

Veg Growers Assn. Plan Farm Show Activities

At the Pennsylvania Farm Show next Wednesday the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association plans a series of talks on the general topics of Marketing, and Bedding Plants.

These meetings will take place in the Main Show Building—Room F. Meetings will begin at 10 a.m., the group will break for lunch and then reconvene at 1 p.m.

Weather Forecast

Temperatures for the five-day period Saturday through Wednesday are expected to average above normal. Normal for the period would be a high of 39 and low of 24 degrees. It will be mild Saturday, cooler Sunday and Monday, mild Tuesday, then cooler again Wednesday.

Precipitation for the period is expected to amount to 1/4 - 1/2 inch. This will occur as showers on Saturday, and again on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Farm Calendar

- January 11 — Pennsylvania Farm Show, 11-15 — 8 p.m. Fulton Grange No. 66 meets.
- January 12 — 6:30 p.m. Hybrid Seed Corn Banquet at Cafeteria of Nationwide Insurance Co., Harrisburg — 8 p.m. Manor Young Farmers at Penn Manor High School; subject: "Quality Milk."
- January 13 — FFA Mid-Winter Convention in Forum of Education Bldg., Harrisburg. — 6:30 p.m. Pennsylvania Poultry Federation Banquet in Grand Ballroom of Penn-Harris Hotel, Harrisburg.
- January 14 — 7:30 p.m. Ephrata Young Farmers at Ephrata High School.
- January 16 — Farm Women No. 3, Mt. Airy Fire Hall. — 8 p.m. Lancaster County Pomona Grange at L.C. Farm Bureau Bldg., Lancaster.

 The annual FARM SHOW section will be found on pages 5 through 12 of this issue of Lancaster Farming. The section includes feature stories about the show, a story on Lancaster County's FFA Keystone Farmer Degree winners, and the complete Farm Show schedule. We suggest you lift the section out and take it to the Farm Show with you. Other regular features of Lancaster Farming will be found in their regular spots in the paper.
