

Lancaster Farming

SECOND SECTION

Linear Programming Is Now Available, From Pa. Extension Service

The Cooperative Extension Service of The Pennsylvania State University is adding another educational service to Pennsylvania agriculture, according to Thomas H. Patton, extension director.

This service, called "linear programming," will use electronic computers to provide farmers and agricultural businesses more accurate answers to their management problems and aid in decisions where a number of factors enter into consideration. It will help in solving complex problems or assist in choosing other systems that would be more feasible in the farming enterprise.

R. James Becker, extension farm management specialist, has been testing linear programming as a farm planning technique during the past several years. Professional workers and farmers who have used this planning tool feel this is a step forward in helping farmers make more profitable adjustments in their businesses.

One farmer had a problem of committing sizable amounts of capital to expand his business. Linear programming helped him make a sound decision on the proper size of operation to maximum profits. The technique was used to help a greenhouse operator make a decision on determining the most profitable crops to produce. Also least-cost machinery combinations have been worked out. Minor problems on least-cost feed formulas have also been programmed.

Linear programming is now available on a fee basis to any person engaged in agricultural business in Pennsylvania.

The Dairy Herd Improvement Association and Forage Testing Service have been using computers to process reports and furnish data which has aided hundreds of farmers in improving herd management.

"This program may correct existing problem situations, suggest alternatives that are most profitable, or in many cases, eliminate problems before they arrive," Becker points out.

Penn State To Hold A Dairy Clinic Series In Chester Co. In Mar.

During a series of milking clinics to be held in March, Penn State specialists — Stephen Spencer and Dr. Samuel Guss — will discuss function and structure of cow's udder, proper milking techniques; milk handling and milk quality; care of milk equipment, and reducing mastitis incidence in the dairy herd.

On March 3, 10, 17, and 31, there will be an afternoon clinic at the Honey Brook Fine Hall at 1 p.m., in the evening, 8 p.m., the same material will be given at the Oxford High School Library.

Each Wednesday's session will be different, but will be related to each of the other sessions. Therefore, interested dairymen are urged to plan to attend all the meetings where possible.

USDA Amends The P & S Rules

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced amendment of the Packers and Stockyards Act "prompt payment" regulation to extend its protection to agents who use their own funds in purchasing livestock or other persons.

The amendment — which becomes effective April 1 — was proposed in November by the Packers and Stockyards Division of USDA's Consumer

and Marketing Service.

It amends current regulations to require meat packers, market agencies, and dealers to fully reimburse their agents for transactions made by the agent with his own funds before the close of the next business day following notification of the transaction, unless an alternate agreement was made prior to the purchase. Any such agreement must be disclosed in the records of the principal.

Packers and Stockyards officials explained that the Act's

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County Agents Advise Farmers On Purchases Of Forage Seeds

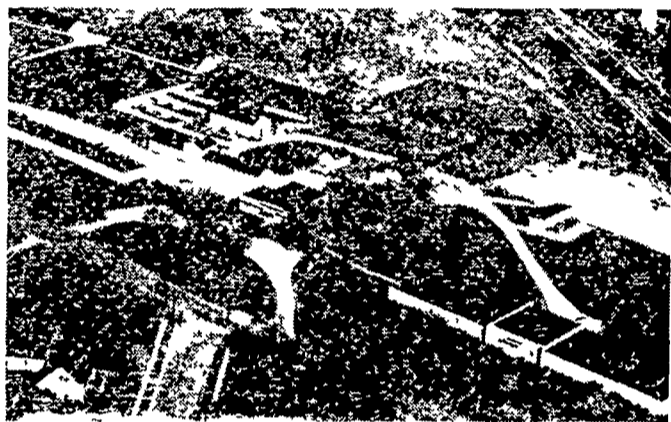
Farmers currently buying seed of sudangrass or sudan-sorghum hybrids for summer and green chop, the hybrids forage were advised to buy Piper sudangrass for pasture or hay and the hybrids for green chop or silage.

The suggestions came from county agricultural agents on the basis of field trials in Westmoreland, Centre, and Lancaster Counties as carried out in 1964 by the Agricultural Experiment Station of The

Pennsylvania State University. When harvested for silage and green chop, the hybrids outyielded Piper sudangrass by about 38 percent. Hay and pasture yields were about equal from the two forages.

The agents reported that Sweet Sioux sudan-sorghum hybrid produced over 5 and one-half tons of dry matter per acre at the heading stage, compared with only 3 and

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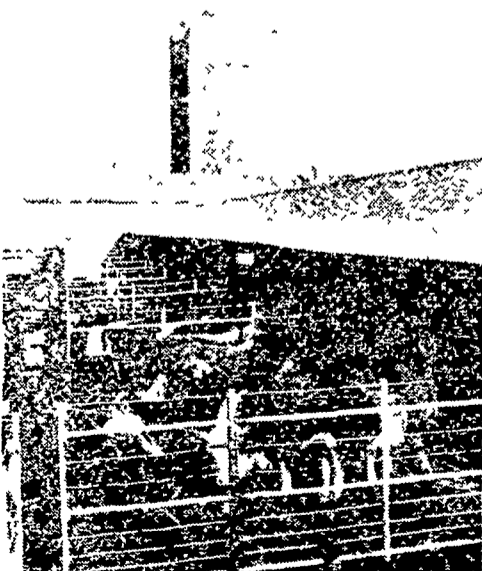
Aerial View, McMullen Feed Research Farm, Decatur, Indiana



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