

● NEPPCO

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Drought Cancels Corn Field Day

HARRISBURG — Cancellation of this year's statewide corn field days program emphasizes the severe hardships that drought is causing Pennsylvania farmers. State Agriculture Secretary Leland H. Bull said Tuesday.

The corn demonstration program — scheduled to have been held at the Harvey P. Sunday farm at New Kingston, Cumberland County, September 28 and 29 — was called off last week after the planning committee viewed drought damage in fields there.

"The corn was stunted, fields were spotty with large bare spaces, and there wasn't much point in going on with plans for the program," Bull said.

"The real tragedy, however, is that conditions on the Sunday farm are typical of what is happening in many parts of Pennsylvania this year," he added. "Take a drive almost anywhere and you can see the damage caused by this dry, hot weather" (Less than two inches of rain fell in Central Pennsylvania in three months — May, June and July).

"In the hardest hit areas I have seen corn, scarcely knee high, in tassels. Fields are ragged looking, with many bare spots. Leaves are curled and beginning to dry. Corn such as this will never ear out. It is too late.

"These fields are total losses, with not enough growth even for ensilage. Some farmers already are disking poor fields, hoping conditions will improve in time for fall planting."

Secretary Bull pointed out that these are extreme conditions observed in the driest parts of Pennsylvania.

"In some sections," he said, "corn fields were helped by sporadic storms and look fairly good. Color is a good, dark green. Growth is even and tasseling and ear development appear about normal. But stalks are short and, if cut for ensilage, will yield less than average amounts."

● Guernsey Day

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Miss B. Frank Eshelman's green, shady lawn to ask the four-member panel such questions as:

Q How long do you let calves drink from the cow after they are born?

A (1) take away the first day (2) a week to two weeks (3) not at all and (4) 3 days

Q How much grain in ratio to milk do you feed?

A (1) depends on roughage quality (2) As long as they are in the milking parlor (3) all the grain they can eat when fresh (4) ratio is 14 or 5

In answer to the question of how you go about pushing the fresh cow the panel made such statements as "I don't push grain" and "I feed more roughage."

The discussion was really cut short. A cloudburst sent everyone scampering for cover to adjourn the meeting in a huff.

Victor Plastow, Lancaster County associate agricultural agent, told the group that Sudan Grass or Sorghum are about the only crops to plant now if you need more roughage. "If we don't get moisture there is still a big question mark if it will grow." Also if you do get a crop and you want to green chop it, "don't cut it before it gets 30 inches high," Plastow warned.

Concerning low butterfat test, Victor said the trouble may be too much short feed and green chop and not enough roughage. "Not enough roughage could reduce the butterfat test," he said. "Encourage your cows to eat more hay. That's the first thing to do."

Other featured persons on the program were Miss Carol Hess, Lancaster County Dairy Princess; Raymond Witmer, National Director of the American Guernsey Cattle Club and

John Blyholder, fieldman for the Pennsylvania Guernsey Breeders Association.

Lewis Ayers, Ephrata High School vocational agriculture teacher, served as judge.

previous association with the poultry industry.

The search for additional sponsors and entrants from the 14-state NEPPCO-land area continues from the Council's headquarters at 10 Rutgers Place, Trenton, N.J. Girls without sponsors will be assigned them after applications are received.

The contestants will be judged in evening gowns and bathing suits at the annual NEPPCO Banquet on Wednesday, October 5, in the ballroom of Harrisburg's Penn Harris

Hotel. The winning "Princess" will receive her crown, velvet robe and title amid all the splendor and excitement of a junior Miss America pageant.

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