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Adding Heat In Tobacco Shed May Be Profitable; Management Holds Key

by Don Timmons

Preliminary findings from three years of tentative studies show that the addition of artificial heat in the tobacco shed may aid in curing tobacco, whether or not the process is profitable depends to a great extent on management.

This was the way John Yocum described the current findings this week to this reporter. Yocum, superintendent of the Penn State University Southeastern Pennsylvania Field Research Laboratory near Landisville, reported on the study done on the 1966 tobacco crop on the farm of cooperator Jay Rohrer at Manheim R2.

Rohrer generally plants about 14 acres of tobacco each year. In cooperating with PSU, he harvested five acres of Pennsylvania between September 2 and 13. This was hung in a shed which was divided by a floor-to-ceiling plastic barrier. Three acres of tobacco were hung on the heated side, and two acres on the unheated side.

SHOWS LOSS

Although heating three-fifths of a tobacco shed yielded cost figures showing a loss of \$36.58 per acre treated, Yocum said the study indicates the value of continuing the work next year.

"We realize from this year's effort that there is a point beyond which you can't economically go in supplementing tobacco curing," Yocum said. He went on to explain that in the Rohrer shed this year, they kept running the gas heaters in an attempt to cure the last two or three, immature leaves on the stalks. Whether or not they would have succeeded will never be known since a cold snap in early November caught them with the heaters off, and the last leaves were lost anyway.

Yocum implied the study might well have shown a profit for heat if they hadn't wasted gas in trying to get those last few leaves cured.

BREAK-EVEN POINT

The loss of \$36.58 per acre (Continued on Page 8)



EXAMINING EFFECTS OF SUPPLEMENTAL heat on leaf quality are Jay Rohrer, left, and John Yocum. Yocum supervised the project designed to test for economic advantages to tobacco growers from adding artificial heat during the natural curing process. This photo was taken on January 31st in Rohrer's tobacco cellar. L. F. Photo

Farmers Warned On Land Grab & River Basin Compact Problems

More than 100 members of the Lancaster County Farmers' Association Thursday night at the Strasburg Fire Hall heard some sharp criticism and words of warning on pending legislative matters.

Speaking at the group's annual spring meeting, Hollis Hatfield, administrative secretary of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association, labeled Senate Bill 253 as "the lowest level of land stealing ever seen."

It would authorize the Departments of Forests & Waters, Agriculture, and county governments to acquire land for open spaces by the power of eminent domain, he declared.

"We already have enough agencies with this power; we don't need any more," Hatfield said. He added that State

Agriculture Secretary Leland H. Bull has the power to "kill this bill" if he desires. At the very least, Hatfield suggested, Bull would have the right to withdraw his department from such an arrangement.

BIGGEST PROBLEM

Hatfield described the Susquehanna River Basin Compact as "the hottest issue of our time."

(Continued on Page 16)

4-H Tractor Clubs Plan Tour & Roundup

Dates for the annual tour and roundup for all Lancaster County 4-H tractor maintenance clubs were announced this week by associate county agent Winthrop Merriam.

TOUR

The tour is scheduled for Tuesday evening April 4. Members and their fathers are invited on a trip through the baler assembly plant of the New Holland Machine Company at New Holland.

All members who are interested should meet in the lobby of the baler assembly plant at 7:30 p.m., Merriam noted. One (Continued on Page 10)

F & H Foundation Meets With Farm Leaders To Plan \$100,000 Campaign

Two dinner meetings were held this week between leaders and officers of the county's 40 farm organizations and directors of the Lancaster County Farm & Home Foundation.

The objective, as developed at a recent directors' meeting, was to enlist the support of farm people through their organizations in completing the fund raising campaign for the Lancaster County Farm & Home Center now under construction.

According to fund-raising committee co-chairman Levi H. Brubaker, the balance needed

is \$140,000. It is hoped that \$100,000 of this amount will be raised from farmers, by farmers, thus eliminating the expense of enlisting professional fund-raising assistance.

RESPONSE GOOD

Response by the farm leaders to the directors' meeting was excellent. Brubaker reported, with 55 leaders attending the March 27th meeting at the Quarrville Methodist Church, and 70 others at Hostetter's Dining Hall in Mount Joy on the 29th.

ELMER EBSENSHADE REMEMBERED

At the March 21st directors' meeting, the board passed a resolution noting their appreciation to Elmer L. Esbenshade for his generous contributions to the community and to the (Continued on Page 9)

Farm Calendar

April 3 — 6:30 p.m., annual spring banquet of Honey Producers & Fruit Growers Assns., at Meadow Hills Dining House.

April 4 — 7:30 p.m., all 4-H Tractor Maintenance Club members tour at New Holland Machine Co. baler plant, New Holland.

— 8 p.m., Solanco Holstein Club at Solanco High School agriculture room.

— 8 p.m., Ephrata Adult Farmers Plan & Fun night at Ephrata High School.

April 5 — 8 a.m., Lancaster (Continued on Page 9)



SEEN AT THE SPRING MEETING of the Lancaster County Farmers' Association Thursday night were, from left: Glenn D. Thrasher, representing National Live Stock and Meat Board; Hollis Hatfield, administrative secretary of PFA; and County Farmers' Assn. president Noah Wenger. L. F. Photo

Food And Drug Sets Tolerances For DDT

The Food & Drug Administration established tolerances for residues of the pesticide DDT in milk and milk products at levels recommended by a scientific advisory committee.

The tolerances will permit DDT residues of up to 0.05 parts per million in whole milk and 1.25 parts per million on a milk-fat basis in manufactured dairy products. These maximum residue levels apply to DDT, its chemical degradation products DDD and DDE, or any combination of the three, FDA said.

Both the advisory committee, (Continued on Page 14)