



Lancaster Farming

SECOND SECTION

Spring Fire Season Here

HARRISBURG — District foresters, fire wardens and personnel of the Division of Forest Protection, Department of Forests and Waters, are keeping a wary eye on the weather forecasts these days.

Pennsylvania has now entered what is known among foresters as the "spring fire season," one of the two periods in the year when the danger of fire is most prevalent. The other is the "fall fire season."

"Spring is that time of the year," said E. F. McNamara, Chief, Division of Forest Protection, "when most Pennsylvanians, particularly in rural areas, begin cleaning up and burning up the debris and trash which accumulated over the winter months."

"In most cases," he added, "this is accomplished without any problems but occasionally there are all too many cases which end in tragedy."

"This past February for example," he said, "there were 96 fires reported, covering approximately 338 acres, which caused the deaths of at least four Pennsylvanians. Two were burned and two suffered heart attacks."

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GIDEON STOLTZFUS SALE

The Gideon Stoltzfus Sale was held last Saturday, with the following prices received: Tractors \$1,500, \$1,500 and \$810; Hay Conditioner, \$1,180; Baler, \$515; Rake, \$345; Flail Chopper, \$630; Elevator, \$400; Wagon, \$327.50; Bulk Milk Tank, \$2,400; Sputnick, \$825; Milker Units, \$160 and \$150.

The top cow in the sale went for \$1,050.

Average on 68 head of Holstein dairy animals above three-months-old was \$430. Baby calves under 3 months sold with dam.

Fewer Potatoes, Tobacco And Oats To Be Planted

HARRISBURG — State farmers intend to plant fewer potatoes, tobacco and oats this year, the Crop Reporting Service has announced.

Information reaching the Service indicates that farmers expect to plant a record low of 36,000 acres of potatoes. This is 3,000 fewer acres than were planted last year.

The 21,000 acres which farmers intend to plant in tobacco may be the lowest since the record low set in 1934 when 17,800 acres were harvested.

Farmers' planting intentions, the Service said, are often altered by weather conditions, price changes and labor supply.

Oats plantings are expected to total 499,000 acres. This would be the smallest acreage seeded in this grain since record keeping began 102 years ago.

Winter wheat and rye plantings are also down, the Service reported. Wheat acreage dropped 91,000 acres to 414,000 while rye plantings were 21,000 acres less than the previous 69,000-acre planting made in the fall of 1966.

Barley and soybeans are two products where acreage will be increased. Farmers have indicated they will plant 190,000 acres of barley, 17,000 more than last year, while the soybean acreage will total 27,000 acres, 2,000 more than last year.

Acreage intended for corn is estimated at 1½ million acres, about the same as last year. Farmers intend to harvest two million acres of hay, the same acreage as was cut in 1967.

Cats Carry TB Research Shows

HARRISBURG — Research being done for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture shows farm cats are suspects as carriers of tuberculosis.

Secretary of Agriculture Leland H. Bull said cats came under suspicion when it was found that destruction of tuberculous cats was not successful in stopping the disease on certain farms.

Secretary Bull said scientists from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine became interested in the cat carrier possibility when autopsies of cats taken from farms where cattle had been destroyed because of tuberculosis.

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