

● Tobacco
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38.8 million pounds, 23 percent below the 1962-66 average production, and the smallest crop in 30 years. Acreage continues to decline and is currently estimated at 20,000 acres, down 1,000 from 1967 and the lowest since 1934.

Adequate moisture and warm temperatures promoted fast growth during July; however, size of tobacco ranges from very small to harvesting size. Most of the variation is due to weather conditions at planting time. Early transplanted tobacco is right on schedule with topping of some fields completed by August 1 and cutting has started somewhat earlier than normal. Excessive rainfall in later June and early July delayed much of the transplanting to as late as July 15. Growers are not too concerned about the late plantings, and they report the later planted crop could be the better tobacco. Plant shortages were reported this year as many plants were too large for transplanting when transplanting resumed in early July. Insect control on all plantings is excellent.

Ephrata Young Farmers Tour

The Ephrata Young Farmer tour was held Wednesday with 41 members and friends in the group. Ivan Yost, Region II Vice President accompanied the tour.

A stop at Carpenter Steel in Reading showed the farmers how scrap metal is processed into high grade steel for use in the USA Space Program. About 55 percent of this company's contracts are for the government. Of special interest to the group was the fact that they have no worker's union.

Also visited was the A. F. Moyer Meat Packing Co. at Souderton. Here they dress 800 steers a week for market wholesale. A subsidiary, the North Penn Poultry Waste and Feather Dehydrating plant was visited too.

William High's dairy farm at Pottstown R1 showed the group bunk feeding, free stall housing, liquid manure handling, a milking parlor and a jugging operation.

Summer Or Fall Liming Good Drought Insurance

Applying lime to fields and gardens in late summer or early fall can help to avoid the ravages of another possible dry spell next summer, says Albert S. Hunter, professor of soil technology at The Pennsylvania State University.

This lime increases the ability of plants to make the best use of soil moisture in dry years. Dr. Hunter has observed in numerous experiments at the Agricultural Experiment Station of Penn State. Lime also increases the ability of plants to use fertilizer efficiently. He claims there is no better time to apply lime than late summer or early fall.

Lime makes phosphorus more available for crop use, Dr. Hunter points out, adding that phosphorus has been found to be one of the most critical

nutrients for crop production on many soils.

"For maximum utilization of phosphate on corn, our research indicates that the pH level of the soil should be brought up to about 6.8 to 7 by liming before phosphate is applied," Dr. Hunter says.

In a seven-year experiment on an acid soil low in phosphorus, lime alone produced higher

yields of both corn and hay than any quantity of phosphate without lime. However, the combination of lime and phosphate fertilizer was required for maximum yields.

Lime does best when applied at least six months ahead of the growing season, all studies show. This allows the lime to react with the soil to neutralize soil acids. And there is less danger of soil compaction in the fall when using heavy lime-spreading equipment.

"When the press is free and every man able to read — all is safe." — Thomas Jefferson.

All-American Entries Due By August 20

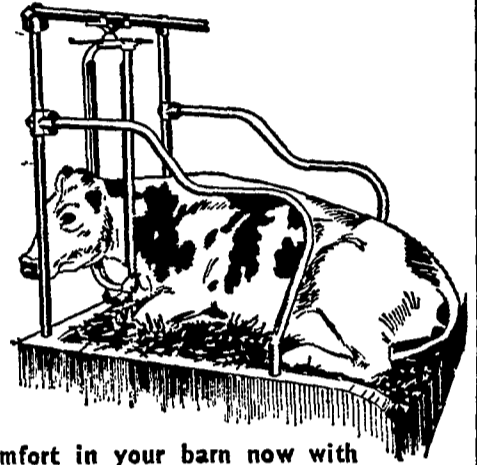
Dairy cattlemen are reminded that entry lists close August 20 for the fifth Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show, September 23-27, at the Farm Show Building, Harrisburg.

Dairymen may enter purebred Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, Jersey and Milking Shorthorns. The All-American is open to breeders in the United States and Canada.

Premium lists and entry forms have been mailed to former exhibitors. Interested breeders who have not previously shown at the annual event may obtain information and the necessary forms by contacting Harold R. McCulloch, show manager, at the Farm Show Building.

Approximately \$50,000 is offered in premiums in the open classes of the All-American. Additional premiums are provided for two all-Pennsylvania events.

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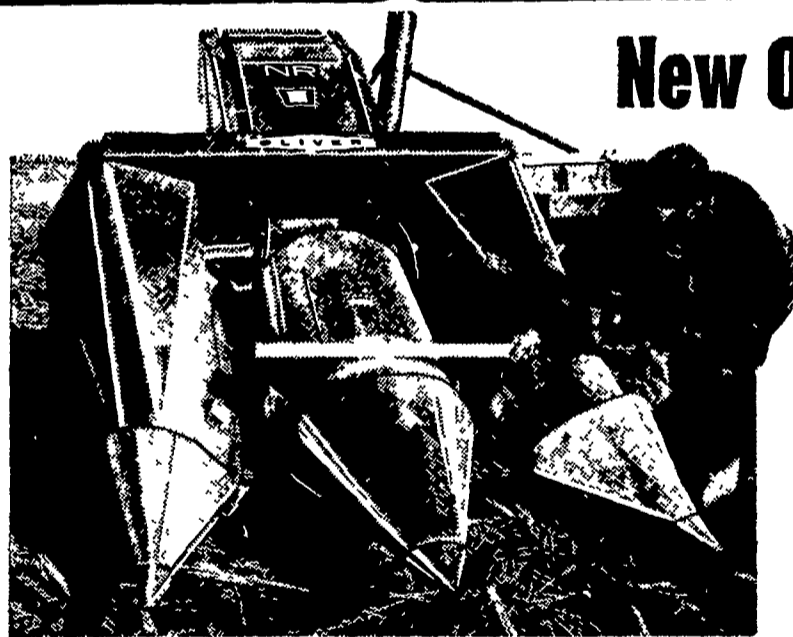


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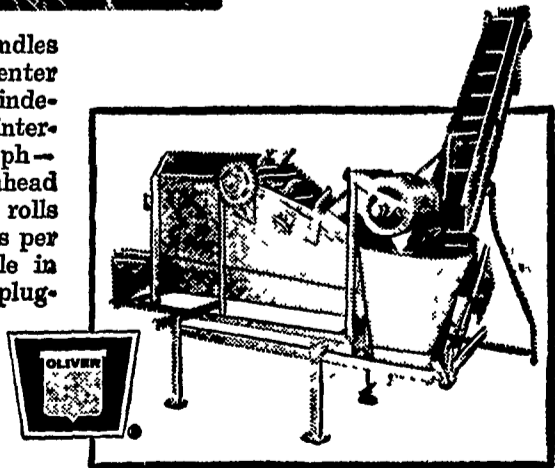
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