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# Lancaster Farming

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Lancaster Farming, Saturday, August 22, 1970

\$2.00 Per Year



Ten-year-old Glen Wiegand of Glen Moore RD1 with Yorkshire crossbred gilt shortly after the animal was named grand champion at the Chester-Delaware County 4-H Hog Roundup at the Vintage Sales Stables last week. (See Story on Page 9.)

## Rootworm Is Reported Serious Corn Problem

Corn rootworm is now a serious problem for many corn growers in Southeastern Pennsylvania, it was learned this week.

The problem is particularly acute on some farms which grow corn on the same field for several years straight.

Corn yield loss can be up to one-third in fields where the small, green bug gets well established. Local sources indicated the loss stems from a combination of root injury by the rootworm larvae which saps the growing strength of the plant, harvest losses when the weakened plant falls or blows over, and reduced yields from poor pollination when the adult bug feeds on the silk and pollen.

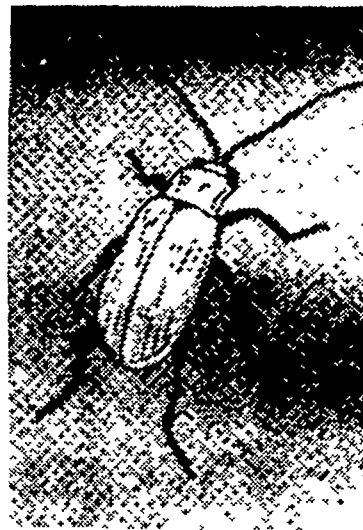
When fields get heavily infested, four or more of the bugs per plant can be found, it was reported.

Willis Rohrer of P. L. Rohrer & Brother, Inc., Smoketown, well-known farm supplier, said this week that farmers should look at the corn crop now to see if the problem is serious in their own field in order to be able to evaluate whether corrective action is needed next year.

Rohrer said reports from his salesmen indicate the problem is quite serious in many areas in Lancaster, Chester and Lehigh Counties and on the Eastern shore.

While there is no reliable way to determine crop loss from the rootworm, some sources indicate a 30 bushel loss per acre is possible. Some farmers in Chester County estimate a 15 bushel loss, Rohrer said.

Against such losses, Rohrer



Corn rootworm, several times larger than actual size.

said, treatment, depending on how close the rows are, normally runs about \$3 to \$3.50 per acre. Earl Kleider and son Melvin

of Manheim RD1 are among the growing number of farmers who are finding that treatment of the corn crop for rootworm is profitable.

Last year, the Kleiders figure they "only got half of the crop" and the bugs got the other half in some areas. This serious damage, they note, was in the continuous corn areas.

The Kleiders have a steer fattening operation and the corn, along with grain and hay they grow, is an important part of their feeding program.

This year they bought a special attachment for their tractor to spread an insecticide band about seven inches wide on the row. A press wheel followed the band. They put about eight to ten pounds of Bux-ten per acre and say they have no rootworm problem this year, except for four rows they missed when they

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## Local Grain Prices Jump In Wake of Blight Scare

Local grain prices jumped sharply this week and a local grain buyer said the increase largely stems from the national Southern Leaf Blight scare.

At the same time, however, he cautioned that the blight scare may now be blown out of proportion to the actual situation by speculators and predicted grain price increases have about reached a peak—barring further adverse corn crop news.

Albert Landis, purchasing agent for Miller & Bushong Inc., Rohrerstown, said upward pressures were already on corn prices even before the blight scare. These included a report by the federal government that the national corn inventory was down. Corn had been getting increased usage in feed production. Corn

yield was also expected to be lower.

"We knew the new crop was going to be high," Landis said. "But what really caused it (the

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## Farm Calendar

Saturday, August 22

7 p.m.—Lancaster County Pomona Grange picnic, Holtwood Athletic Field and Pavilion.

Sunday, August 23

Farm Women Camp at Camp Swatara near Bethel, August 23-25

Tuesday, August 25

Pennsylvania Poultry Festival and Dutch Days, Hershey, August 25-30

Countywide 4-H Pig Show and (Continued on Page 13)

## Melvin R. Stoltzfus Is Elected Farm Foundation Chairman

Melvin R. Stoltzfus, a 50-year-old Ronks RD1 dairyman, is the new chairman of the Farm and Home Foundation.

Stoltzfus was elected at a Foundation board meeting this week to fill the unexpired term of John H. Herr, who recently died unexpectedly. The term runs till January.

A member of the original Foundation board when the Foundation "was still in the struggling stage," Stoltzfus pledged immediately after election to continue the basic policies of the Foundation. "I think we're travelling in a sound path and I hope we can continue in the same direction our past leadership has been taking us," he said.

As in the past, Stoltzfus said, "our number one goal is to reduce the mortgage on the Farm and Home Center and I'm opti-

mistic because people are more inclined to give to a going opera-

tion than to one that's in financial trouble.

Earlier in the meeting, it was announced that contributions totaling about \$5,800 have been received since a letter was sent out last month to previous contributors. "The response to that letter indicates faith in the organization," Stoltzfus said.

Stoltzfus also said the Foundation has "crossed many hurdles" and "our public image has improved." The large numbers of meetings in the Farm and Home Center, he said, shows "it's a much needed building."

A dairy farmer with 100 head of purebred Guernseys, Stoltzfus worked on his father's farm until 1960 when he went on his own.

He is married to the former Pauline Hufford of Akron (Pa.) and they have four children, three daughters. Mrs. Donald (Continued on Page 5)



Melvin R. Stoltzfus

## Southern Corn Blight Spreads, But None Reported Yet in Pa.

Corn growers across the nation have been shocked by the spread of a new and devastating type of corn blight, called Southern Leaf Blight, has been spreading northward and inflicting heavy crop losses even into the Midwestern corn belt.

The reassuring word from Penn State University this week is that the new blight has not been reported so far anywhere in Pennsylvania and that even if it now occurs it is too late in the growing season for the blight to inflict serious damage in the state. If it becomes established, however, 1971 could be serious, early reports indicate.

While extent of the blight damage is highly uncertain, some reports have indicated the blight could destroy up to half the nation's corn crop. If this happens, it is expected to increase the price significantly for the remaining corn. Other grains also should receive market boosts as substitutes are used for corn.

Max Smith, Lancaster County agricultural agent, this week released a letter. John E. Ayers and Donald H. Peterson, Penn State department of Plant Pathology, presenting the latest statewide information on the deadly new blight.

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