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Lancaster Farming

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\$2.00 Per Year



Among those participating in a recent meeting of the Lancaster County Holstein Breeders Association board of directors are:

Left to right, front, John Harnish, treasurer; Jay Landis, president; Clarence Stauffer, vice president; and Clyde W. Martin, secretary.

Back, Curtis Akers; Robert Kauffman; Elvin Hess Jr., state vice president; Galen Crouse, and Elam Bollinger, DHIA representative. Board members not shown are Robert Book and Arthur Wenger.

During the recent business meeting, the group discussed plans for the annual Lancaster

County Black and White Show. Tentative plans for the annual summer meeting were reviewed, including tentative dates for early August.

Export of Holsteins, including an order from Costa Rica for 145 Registered calves in the \$325 to \$350 price range, was discussed.

Hess reported that Pennsylvania has been divided into two districts for administrative purposes by the Pennsylvania Holstein Association. The eastern area, which includes Lancaster County, is headquartered at Bloomsburg, and the second district has headquarters in Indiana County.

Farm Calendar

Monday, April 19

6 30 p m — Lancaster County Fruit Growers and Honey Producers, Meadow Hills Dining Hall, New Danville Pike

Tuesday, April 20

7 30 p m — Farm and Home Foundation board of directors, Farm and Home Center

8 45 a m - 2 15 p m — Co-op Career Day, Farm and Home Center

8 p m — Ephrata Young Farmers monthly meeting, Vocational Agriculture Department, Ephrata High School, Topic, Farm Insurance and Liability Protection

Wednesday, April 20

48th Annual Dairy Exposition, Penn State University, April 21 - May 8
Earth Day

Thursday, April 22

7 30 p m — Lancaster County Swine Producers Association, Farm and Home Center

Friday, April 23

1 p m — FFA Milk Contest, Penn Dairies

8 p m — Reorganization and planning meeting of the Lancaster County Dairy Princess Committee, Farm and Home Center.

Saturday, April 24

7 a m - 2 p m — 4-H Flapjack Day, Farm and Home Center.

8 a.m. — 54th Little International Livestock Exposition, University Ice Pavilion.

9:30 a.m. — Tri-County Relief Sale, Morgantown.

Farmers Urged to Consider Planting Some Corn in April

Sunny and windy weather this week, through Friday, was excellent for farmers who are thinking of getting their crops, particularly corn, off to an early start in 1971.

And many farmers took advantage of the good field conditions to get most or all of their plowing done for the new season. This contrasts with last year when wet weather delayed plowing for many farmers.

Farmers should follow through now with an early planting, particularly of corn, Arnold Lueck, associate Lancaster County agricultural agent, advised this week.

Lueck said farmers should consider planting at least part of their corn sometime next week, or at least no later than the last week of April.

The main reason for early planting, as most farmers al-

ready know by now, is to get corn off to a fast start as one means of beating the corn blight.

"All indications are that Corn Belt farmers will plant earlier than they ever have before," Lueck said, and he advised local farmers to plant early, too.

Actually Penn State Extension has been advising farmers to plant corn early all along — and the blight merely adds another reason to follow what has already proven to be a good practice, Lueck said.

"The main consideration in the earlier than usual planting, Lueck explained, "is to push for earlier maturity of the crop in the event the Southern Leaf Blight moves in as it did last year."

While there's uncertainty about the blight and when it will move in, Lueck said, "We learned last year that the early maturing fields had the minimum losses from blight. Later plantings last season were inclined to be harder hit."

But there are other reasons for planting early, Lueck emphasized.

Early planting normally increases yields without raising costs.

Early plantings generally are

better able to withstand summer dry weather, should this occur. "We're about due for dry weather. We've had three good years in a row."

With early planting, the corn vegetation gets off to a better start during the cooler and usually more moist weather in (Continued on Page 5)

Fire Prohibited in Wooded Areas

A proclamation banning smoking, building camp fires, and burning brush and rubbish in or near wooded areas of the state was signed Thursday by Governor Milton J. Shapp.

Effective at 5 p m Friday, April 16, the proclamation prohibits such fire "within woodlands or within 200 feet of woodlands in any county of the Commonwealth."

The governor acted to alleviate a critical state-wide forest fire situation due to a lack of rain on the recommendation of Dr. Maurice K. Goddard, Acting Secretary of the Department of Environmental Resources.

Already during 1971, an estimated 8,500 acres have been burned by 581 forest fires. This is more than twice the number of acres burned during the entire year of 1970. Approximately 4,700 of these acres have been

destroyed since Sunday, April 11.

Fire Weather Forecaster, Cecil Simmons of the National Weather Service, reported that the fire danger "build up," a numerical index based on current weather conditions, is extremely high for this time of year. The main reasons for this are the lack of rain during the past month and the lowest average humidity in five years.

At the present time, a minimum of one-half inch of rain is required to alleviate the situation. As this period is prolonged, it will require a greater amount of rain. The long-range forecasts call for a warming trend with a possibility of scattered showers Sunday evening. Simmons called the condition "critical."

The law provides for a fine of \$100 for violation of the emergency ban.

812 Lancaster Co. Farms Enroll in U.S. Programs

The number of Lancaster County farms enrolled in the 1971 U.S. wheat program is down, but the number enrolled in feed grain is up sharply, according to final figures released this week by the local ASCS office.

Miss Dorothy Y. Neel, County ASCS director, said 524 farms enrolled this year in the feed grain program, compared to 356 last year.

She attributed the sharp increase in feed grain this year to a change in rules to remove restrictions on corn acreage.

Because of high corn prices stemming from the blight, farmers are planting corn under the program, it is believed.

Corn base under the program is 10,221 acres and sorghum base is 38 acres.

The number of farmers in the wheat program is 694 this year, compared to 742 a year ago. This year's figure accounts for 2,777 acres of wheat allotment.

A total of 812 Lancaster County farms are involved in the program, either feed grain or wheat, or both.