

Farmers Urged to Consider Planting Some Corn in April

(Continued from Page 1)
 May and June, so that it is not as hard hit by the hot and dry weather later in the season when the corn is being made.
 "The main purpose is to get the corn crop as far along as

possible to escape possible leaf blight danger," Lueck said.
 Just how soon should the corn be planted

Lueck is recommending that the farmer plant some beginning in the last 10 days of April. This is about 10 days ahead of planting time for most Lancaster County farmers; the first 10 days in May have been the traditional corn planting days.

But Lueck advised against setting an arbitrary date for planting. He suggested the ground temperature should be in the 50s at planting time and that the long-range weather forecast should call for warm weather at the time of the April planting. But he noted that the ground temperature in one plowed field that was checked during the unusually warm day Tuesday was 60.

While the local area normally does not have its last killing frost until sometime in early

May, Lueck explained that the growing plant is in the ground and is not normally hurt by the frost.

Even when there's an unusually late frost in the latter half of May, the farmer who plants early usually gets his corn off to a better start than the farmer who waits to avoid the frost. This is because corn which is frosted will usually suffer some damage on the outer leaves, but keep growing and "grow out of

it," Lueck explained, and still be ahead of the later planted corn.

A replanting normally would not be necessary even with a weather setback, Lueck said.

But both Lueck and Max Smith, Lancaster County agricultural agent, said there's a "degree of gambling" in planting in April and the farmer probably should play it safe by spreading his planting out over several

days to minimize the risk of an unusual cold wave.

But planting always has been a gamble.

The only difference this year is that it's somewhat more of a gamble than usual. This year, the blight must be added to all the other factors and risks.

It's largely a matter of weighing the odds and balancing the scales between the weather and the blight.

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Ressler Wins Conservation Speech

Larry Ressler, son of Mr and Mrs Harold Ressler, East Earl RD1, placed first in the annual Lancaster County FFA Conservation Public Speaking contest this week.

He attends Garden Spot High School where he is a freshman. His topic was "Washed Away"

The runner-up was Dale Weiler, son of Mr and Mrs Marvin Weiler, Elverson RD2. He is a junior at Garden Spot High School. His topic was "The Value of Conservation"

The judges for the public speaking contest were Gerald Kiger, coordinator at the Willow

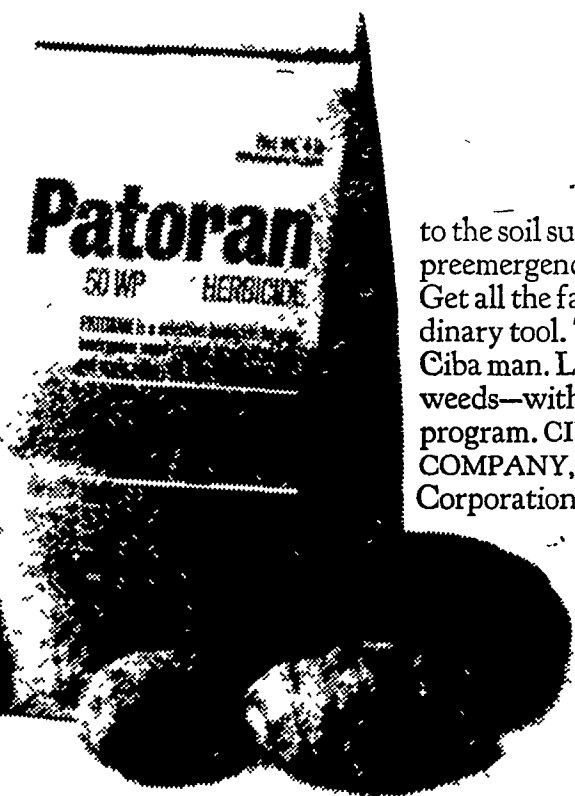
Street Vo-Tech School, Bruce Wohnseidler, English teacher at Manheim Central Senior High School, Roy Geismann, FFA Supervisor for Lancaster County.

There were eight contestants in this contest sponsored by the Lancaster County Soil and Water Conservation District.

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C I B A

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4-H Calendar

- Monday, April 19**
 7:30 p.m. — New Holland 4-H Community Club, home of Mrs. Woodrow Good.
 State 4-H Capital Days, Harrisburg, April 19-20.
- Tuesday, April 20**
 7:30 p.m. — Elizabethtown-Donnegal 4-H Club, Donegal High School
 7:30 p.m. — Lincoln Community 4-H Club, Mount Airy Fire Hall
- Wednesday, April 21**
 7:30 p.m. — 4-H meeting on horse judging, Farm and Home Center
 8 p.m. — 4-H Club Skating Party, Rocky Springs Park.
- Thursday, April 22**
 7:30 - 10 p.m. — Officers Training and New Leader Orientation, Farm and Home Center.
- Saturday, April 24**
 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. — Flapjack Day, Farm and Home Center.

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