

# Lancaster Farming

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## Blight Reported Relatively Stable Nationally, But Spreads In the East

Generally dry weather has slowed the development and spread of Southern Corn Leaf Blight (SCLB) in the Western Corn Belt, the National Federal-State Information Center on Corn Blight reported last week. Only slight increases in infection were reported in Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, Missouri, Kansas, and Michigan.

Some increase in severity of the disease was also reported in Eastern Illinois, in Southwestern and Northern Indiana, and Northwestern Ohio. SCLB also showed a slight increase in spread in West Virginia and Virginia.

Plant pathologists in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey reported rapid spread with severe infection occurring in susceptible varieties of corn. Some increase in husk, ear, and stalk infection was reported in nearly all corn producing states in the Midwest and East.

In states where corn harvest has already begun, farmers report difficulty in harvesting blends of resistant and susceptible corn. The resistant varieties are still fairly green and contain a relatively high percentage of moisture. Susceptible varieties are dry and stalks and ears tend to break off, resulting in substantial harvest loss in some cases. Where ear and cob infection is severe, the ears tend to shatter, often resulting in severe grain loss.

In some Eastern states, infected fields are being harvested for silage earlier than normal because of severe infection.

The disease was reported for the first time in Massachusetts, increasing to 33 the total number of States now reporting SCLB.

Following is a State-by-State summary of the current blight situation:

**Illinois:** Only slight increase in husk and stalk infection, with ear infection decreasing as crop matures and husks dry out. Most extensive damage overall has occurred in Eastern and East Central areas of the State.

**Iowa:** Disease development at a virtual standstill, with only a very slight increase in stalk and husk infection. Very little disease penetration through husks to kernels.

**Indiana:** Stalk, husk, and ear

infection developing quite rapidly in Southwestern part of the State. Some increase in infection in Eastern and Northern counties.

**Nebraska:** Very little development of SCLB during the past week. Some husk and ear infection in lowland fields near the Missouri River. Ear and stalk infection still minor.

**Minnesota:** Overall level of infection still very low.

**Ohio:** Slight increase in infection levels in Southern and Southwestern Ohio, with some severely infected pockets occurring in the Northwestern part of the State.

**Missouri:** Disease spreading slightly, but has slowed during the past week. Husk infection present, but spread to kernels and cob has slowed.

**Wisconsin:** Some severe infection in lowland fields. Disease generally confined to lower half of plant leaves, but some infection is occurring on husks with penetration to kernels.

**South Dakota:** Slight increase in the level of infection, primarily in irrigated areas. Some husk and ear infection.

**Michigan:** No appreciable increase in blight. Minor stalk and husk infection occurring in Southern tier of counties. Some corn in Central part of the State has been cut for silage or abandoned due to severe drought damage.

**Kentucky:** Blight has destroyed some fields of susceptible corn in lowland and river bottom areas. However, blight-susceptible varieties make up only a small percentage of the total crop.

**West Virginia:** Slight increase in level of SCLB, with some infection of leaf sheath and outer layers of the husk.

**Virginia:** Some blight spread in Western part of the State. Heaviest infection occurring in Eastern counties, with some severely infected fields. Some corn now being harvested for grain.

**New York:** Blight reported in 16 counties, with infection light and spotty. Slight spread occurring.

**Pennsylvania:** Disease spreading rapidly, with many fields in Southeastern part of the State completely dead. Virtually all sus-

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## Peach, Apple Market Office Opened by USDA

A federal-state peach and apple seasonal market news office was opened in Martinsburg, W. Va., on July 28 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Consumer and Marketing Service.

H. B. Buchanan, the veteran market news reporter who heads this office, will issue a daily market report until the end of April, 1972.

The report includes peach and apple shipping point prices for the Appalachian District (Virginia, eastern West Virginia, western Maryland, and southern Pennsylvania), as well as supply and terminal market information.

Growers, dealers, and others who need the report can be placed on the mailing list by contacting H. B. Buchanan, Market News Office, C&MS, P.O. Box 1112, Martinsburg, W. Va. 25401.

Peach and apple information is also available by telephone. Buchanan's two telephone numbers are (304) 267-7375 and (304) 267-8606.

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See special feature on page 6 on the new Quarryville health center slated to open October 1. Also, photos of tobacco harvest on page 9 and feature on local FFA member receiving the American Farmer Degree on page 18.

Page 1 includes story on plans for a statewide milk referendum.

## Farm Calendar

**Monday, September 6**  
Labor Day.

**Friday, September 10**  
7 p.m. — Pennsylvania Egg Marketing Association meeting, Sheraton-Conestoga Inn, Lancaster.

**Dairy Banquet Slated**  
The countywide dairy banquet has been scheduled November 5 at the Farm and Home Center. Banquet details are being finalized.



The new Pennsylvania Poultry Queen, Joy Eileen Nickerle, Montgomery County, is shown being crowned last Saturday evening at Hershey Park by outgoing Poultry Queen Betsy Jane Ellsworth. Miss Nickerle, the daughter of an egg producer, is a co-ed at King's College, New York. Other contestants were: Linda Kay Hess, Lancaster County; Susan Jane Spicer, Sue Ann Weiss, Carol Schlosnagle, Bo Ann Myers, and Joann Elder.

## Pork Cookout King Contest Slated

The annual Lancaster County Pork Cookout King contest has been scheduled for 7:15 p.m. Thursday, September 23 at Tent City, Ephrata Fair.

Entry deadline is September 18 through Robert Armstrong, Drumore RD1 17518, or phone (717) 548-2285.

The event is sponsored by the Lancaster County Swine Producers Association. Judges are Mrs. Doris Thomas, Lancaster County Extension home economist, and Robert Malick, WGAL-TV.

The rules are the same as last year. The contestant must be a male over 12 years old, a resident of Pennsylvania, use a Pennsylvania quality product, show originality in selection of products used, and prepare a dish with appetite appeal.

Winners go on to the state contest. The contestant must furnish his own equipment and pork, along with a typed and printed recipe. Entries must be ready for judging by 7:15 p.m.

## Osborne Named State Milk Marketer; Referendum Sought in February

Edison W. Osborne, Peach Bottom dairy farmer, has been named milk marketing specialist for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Osborne's recent appointment coincides with a proposed milk referendum in February. The referendum could result in a statewide five-cent-per-100-pound check-off for milk promotion purposes by next April.

Governor Milton Shapp Tuesday signed legislation passed recently by the legislature amending the Agricultural Commodities Act of 1968. The 1968 Act made it possible for check-off of funds for promotion of commodities.

Under the amendments now in effect, the necessary vote to approve a check-off has been lowered from two-thirds to a simple majority and cooperatives have been given the authority for "representative" voting or "block" voting of their members.

The 20-member Market Development Committee, chaired by Jack Kooker, of the Berks County Dairy Farmers Assn., has already requested the Secretary of Agriculture, James McHale, to hold a milk referendum to allow farmers to vote for a five-cent check-off. If the check-off is approved, the market commit-

tee would also, in cooperation with the Secretary of Agriculture, determine how to spend the money which is raised by the check-off.

A hearing is expected October 28 at Harrisburg to officially determine if a milk referendum is needed. A similar hearing was held in Albany last week on a similarly proposed referendum in New York.

If a referendum is found to be needed, it is expected to be held in mid-February. If approved by farmers, it would probably go into effect about the first of April, Osborne explained.

Osborne noted that many local

dairy groups are already contributing five cents for milk promotion.

If the referendum is adopted, this would make everybody contribute "instead of a few," he said.

Osborne said that about \$750,000 per year is raised for promotion in Pennsylvania under the present voluntary program. If a referendum is approved, the total would reach about \$3,400,000 a year, he said.

Osborne explained that study of milk market conditions indicates that the five-cent rate would be sufficient to have an impact on milk marketing. He

noted that the voluntary programs in most of the neighboring states also are approximately at this rate.

Osborne indicates that his new position as milk marketing specialist will involve working closely with dairy organizations throughout the state in promoting the referendum. He will also work closely with the Market Development Committee.

While Osborne presently is the only state employe working exclusively with milk marketing, he will work with and be assisted by others in the state market development section under Donald Cunnion.