

Lancaster Farming

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Action by U. S. Secretary of Ag Sought:

Poultrymen Warned of 'Devastating' Newcastle

Potentially far more destruction than Merek's disease.

The disease? Newcastle
It's a new form of Newcastle beginning to appear in the US

from many foreign countries
Poultry producers used to suffering relatively modest

setbacks from Newcastle are getting a sharp warning
This foreign Newcastle is far,

far more "devastating" than anything which has been known in this country

Flocks hit by the foreign Newcastle disease can be virtually wiped out in a few days. Mortality rates of 20 to 95 per cent can be expected, according to Jay W. Irwin, associate Lancaster County agent. Producers with a 10,000 flock can expect to see as many as 500 birds a day die, if the disease strikes, Irwin warned.

In a recent joint report by Irwin and Dr. Floyd Hicks, Penn State University poultry Extension specialist, it was stated:

"The foreign form of Newcastle disease is capable of causing devastation to our poultry populations. Extremely high death losses were experienced in two large ornamental flocks in New York and Florida. In a five farm outbreak in Texas and New Mexico nearly one-quarter million chickens died. This represented a 21 per cent mortality rate in birds that had been triply vaccinated.

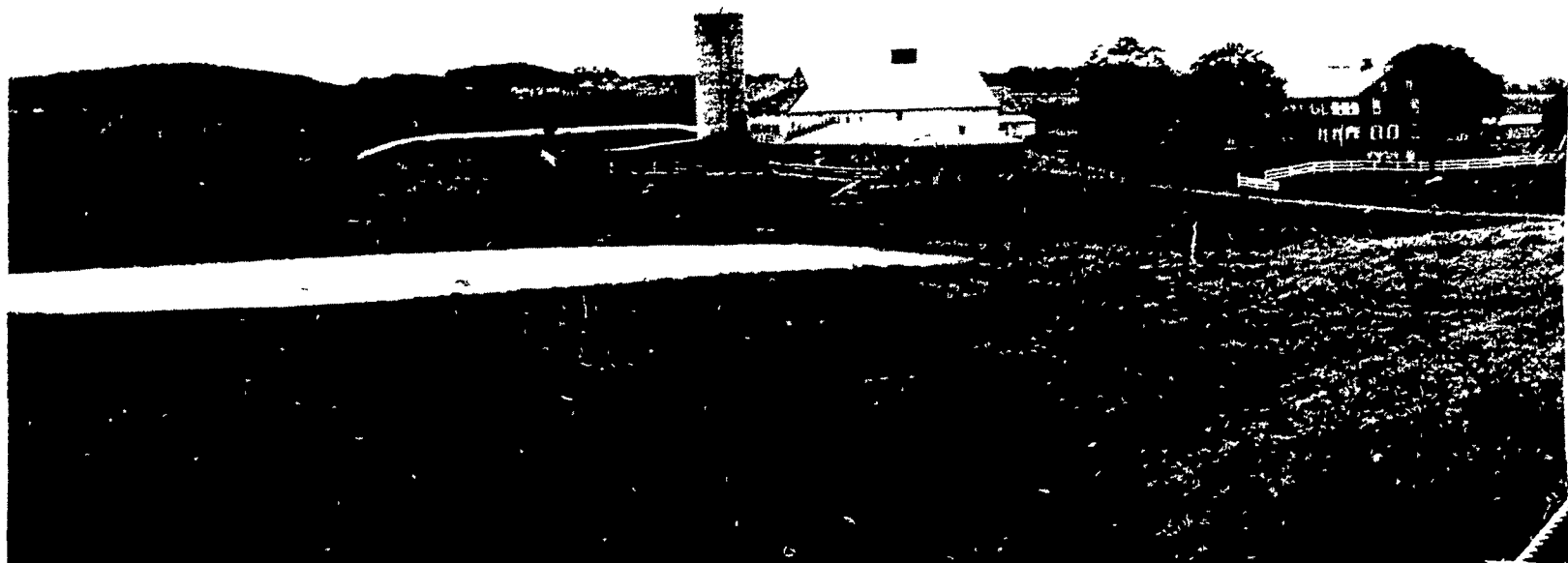
"The signs usually seen in Newcastle outbreaks are respiratory distress (sneezing, coughing), decreased egg production and nervous system disturbance (twisted neck, paralysis).

"Any ailing or sick birds should be taken to the State Diagnostic Laboratories for analysis. A flock history should be taken to the lab with the birds. There is no charge for the service of diagnosis. Labs are located at Summerdale near Harrisburg and the new Bolton Center east of London Grove."

In a letter prepared by the Lancaster County Poultry Association this week and being sent out under the signature of Vernon Leininger, president, and John Huber Jr., vice president, local poultrymen were told:

"Seventeen foreign countries have near epidemic situations with this exotic Newcastle disease in poultry flocks and ornamental birds. The quarantine loopholes in federal importation regulations for ornamental birds and the heavy importation of exotic fowl into the United States from these countries infected with the disease have brought about this situation."

The Lancaster County
(Continued on Page 3)



Pretty as a picture is the old but well-kept farmstead of John B. Groff at Mount Joy RD1. The beauty is partly natural and partly functional. The pond, for instance, was installed primarily as a source of water for the farm's

animal waste irrigation system. (For details on the animal waste issue in general and how Groff and other farmers are handling the problem, see page 14.)

USDA Urges 5-Cent Promotion In Federal Order

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently recommended amending the Middle Atlantic Federal milk marketing order to establish an advertising and promotion program for milk products.

USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service said the recommendation is based on evidence from a public hearing held at Baltimore, Md., in September, requested by dairy cooperatives representing a majority of producers supplying milk to the order.

This was the first such hearing on adoption in a Federal milk order of this kind of a program, as authorized by a 1971 amendment of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act.

The program would be funded by an assessment of 5 cents a hundredweight on all milk that producers deliver to the market each month, before returns are paid out to producers through the marketwide pool. Quarterly refunds would be made, however,

to any producers not wishing to participate in the program.

The recommendations were scheduled to be published in the Federal Register December 1, and comments may be filed up to December 21. Four copies should

be sent to the Hearing Clerk, 112-U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, where they will be available for public inspection.

Copies of the decision may be obtained from Market Ad-

ministrator Edward L. St. Clair, 710 S. Washington St., Alexandria, Va. 22314, or from the Dairy Division, Consumer and Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.



Young John Holloway of Chester County receives a trophy Wednesday for his grand champion animal at the Southeast District 4-H Baby Beef Show at the Lancaster Union Stock Yards. Presenting the trophy

is Dennis Cox, representing the New Holland Division of Sperry Rand Corp. The 1,100 animal was bought later in the day by Whitford Sales Co., near Exton, for 97 cents a pound.

Farm Calendar

Monday, December 13

Deer Season, does only, December 13-14.

Tuesday, December 14

7:30 p.m. — Garden Spot Young Farmer meeting, vocational agriculture department, Garden Spot High School.

7:30 p.m. — Ephrata Young Farmer family Christmas party, Ephrata Area Junior High School auditorium.

8 p.m. — Farm and Home Foundation board of directors meeting, Farm and Home Center.

Wednesday, December 15

National Farmers Convention, Kansas City, Mo., December 15-17.

In This Issue

Classified Ads	26, 27
Editor's Desk	16
Egg Bust Warning	23
4-H Beef Show	1
Market Reports	2, 3, 4
McSparran Feature	18
Pa Poultry Banquet	17
Tax Report	8
Washington Report	7
Women's News	19, 20, 21

Also, see special report this week on page 14 on the animal waste problem and what some local farmers are doing about it. The new REAP funding is explained.

The McSparran feature this week involves the well-known Aaron Stauffer family. See page 18.

Alert to all poultrymen! Read our page one story on the foreign Newcastle disease.