

Lancaster Farming

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Damaging, Not Crippling

Farmers Digging Out; Some Help Available

Lancaster County farmers have been hurt by the recent floods and rains, and some have been hurt badly. According to county agent Max Smith, however, the County as a whole will not suffer a staggering agricultural loss.

Smith said crop and erosion losses could run into the millions. Many terraces and some fences would have to be rebuilt. Some barn and equipment damage was reported, but it doesn't appear to be as extensive as it could have been.

Virtually no livestock was reported lost, a fact which some feel is almost miraculous.

This year's barley crop appears to be the most heavily damaged of all. Some growers

feel they'll lose their entire crop, others feel they might save half of it.

Smith feels both the corn and the wheat will come up. Some tobacco was flooded, but there is time to replant.

Disaster Comm. Meets

Lancaster County's Agricultural Disaster Committee met Thursday morning for the first time in about ten years. The meeting was called to discuss flood and rain damage, and to determine what relief fund, if any, would be available to Lancaster County farmers.

The last time the committee met was during the drought of the early 1960's.

Briefly, the committee decided to:

1. Request authorization to harvest or graze set aside areas.

2. Make an appeal to all farmers to report damage to waterways, terraces and other conservation practices.

3. Make a rough estimate of crop damage in the County.

4. Determine the extent of all damages and the relief available.

Serving on the committee are Fred G. Seldomridge, chairman of the Lancaster County ASC Committee; M.M. Smith, County Agricultural Extension Agent; Roy H. Giesmann, County FHA Supervisor, and Dorothy Y. Neel, County Executive Director, ASCS.

Also attending the meeting in an advisory capacity were John

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Barley was one of the crops hit worst by the rains of Agnes. Some farms may lose the entire crop.



Erosion, especially on farms without conservation plans, was an unfortunate consequence of the storms torrential rains.

Fire Destroys Root's

Fire completely destroyed 80 stands at Root's Country Market and Auction on Wednesday of this week. The market, between Manheim and East Petersburg, has been a favorite shopping of Lancaster County farmers for the past 47 years. For some, it's also been an outlet for farm products.

Some buildings were saved by the 11 fire companies which responded to the call. But the main complex was leveled.

Firemen were hampered by a lack of water. There are no

hydrants in the vicinity of the blaze, and only one small pond. The closest source of water was the Little Conestoga Creek, about a mile-and-a-half away.

Abram Root, owner of the auction, was unable to determine the exact amount of the damage. He said the Auction will be open for business as usual on Tuesday, July 4, if the weather is favorable. Tables will be set up outside to accommodate standholders and customers.



Flames raced uncontrollably through the main building at Root's Country Market and Auction.

Local Members Win 67 FFA Week Medals

Local supplies of gold, silver and bronze medals soared as FFA members came home from FFA Week, held at Penn State this past Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. A total of 67 medals and 15 honorable mentions were garnered by the local youngsters.

Mike Martin from the New Holland Chapter was named president of the state FFA, and Joe Lefever, Manheim, was also named as a state officer.

Listed below are the contests, number of contestants for each, and local winners with their medals and standings. Some of the prize winners will be taking part in national or regional area contests to be held later in the year.

Dairy, 264 Contestants — Gold Medals: Carl Yoder, Owen J. Roberts, second; Marlin Smoker, Cloister Chapter, Ephrata; sixth; Wayne Kreider, Solanco, 10th; Stanley Guest, OJR, 11th; Michael Buckwalter, Oxford, 13th; David Bitler, Solanco, 17th.

Silver Medals: Richard Hess, Lampeter-Strasburg; Frank Mast, OJR; Fred Lefever, Solanco; Melvin Weiler, Cloister.

Bronze Medals: Clair Hostetter, Lampeter-Strasburg; Donald Miller, Pequea Valley; Ray Martin, New Holland; Wayne Stanton, Oxford; Honorable Mention: Paul Horning, Cloister; Dennis Yoder, Octorara.

Dairy Teams — Owen J. Roberts, first; Solanco, second; Cloister Chapter, seventh, and Oxford, ninth.

Poultry, 46 Contestants — Gold: Charles Kauffman, Penn Manor, first place; Rick Gensemer, Cloister, third; Robert Buckwalter, Penn Manor, fifth; Kevin Rohrer, Manheim, sixth; Brian Weber, ninth; Mike Charles, Penn Manor, 10th; Roy Hoover, Grassland Chapter, New Holland, 13th.

Silver: John Harnish, Lampeter-Strasburg; Bronze: Dave Gerhart, Solanco.

Dairy Products, 41 Contestants — Gold: Barry Wissler, Cloister, third; Silver: Leonard Martin, Cloister, sixth.

Bronze: Donald Unger, Solanco, seventh; Joanne

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Farm Calendar

Tuesday, July 4

Independence Day!
1 p.m. — Steam Whistle Blow and Garden Tractor Pulling Contest, Rough and Tumble Historical Association, Kinzers.

Wednesday, July 5

7:30 p.m. — Lancaster County Soil and Water Conservation District meeting, Farm and Home Center.

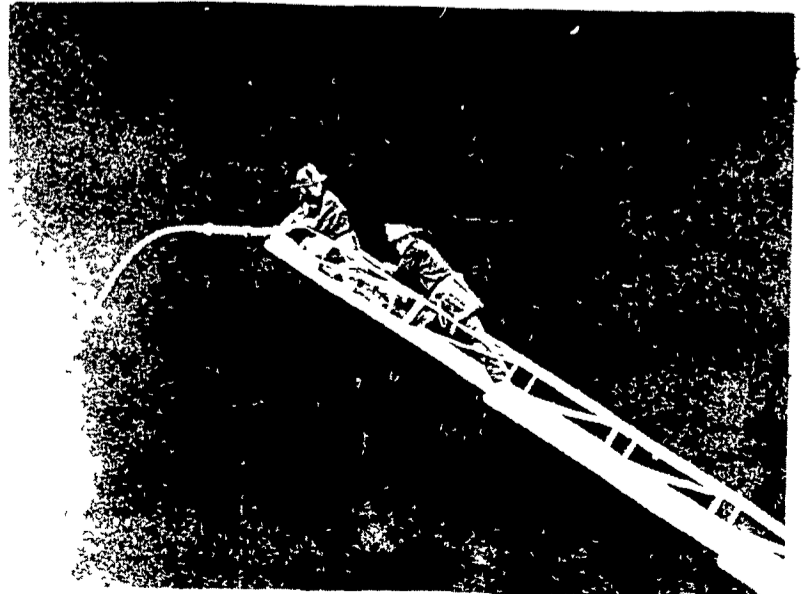
Red Rose 4-H Baby Beef and Lamb Club, Farm and Home Center.

Saturday, July 8

1-5 p.m. — Second Annual Wheat Harvest, Schaefferstown.

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Firemen attempted to fight the blaze from above, but were hampered by a lack of water.