

Lancaster Farming

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Federal Inspections Start Monday

U.S. Wrests Meat from Pa.

Meat inspection in the state of Pennsylvania will pass from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to the U.S. Department of Agriculture on Monday, July 17.

The state had been fighting the federal takeover for the past several months. Paul Carey, of the state attorney general's office, called Lancaster Farming Friday morning and said they had lost a last-ditch effort to get a restraining order preventing the takeover.

Judge Herman, in Harrisburg's federal district court, heard the state's plea Thursday

night and decided not to issue a restraining order. He did, however, schedule a full hearing for Thursday, July 20.

This means that all meat plants in the state, except those which come under the heading of custom-exempt, will have to be visited by a federal meat inspector on Monday in order to keep their doors open. Custom-exempt are those which process meat for farmers and others who bring meat to the processor.

Inspectors will be on hand Monday for the inspections, this newspaper was told by Dr.

Maurice McNay, deputy director of the USDA's meat and poultry inspection service in the Northeastern region

McNay said that at least 250 inspectors are being brought in from out of state to handle the inspections on Monday. They will inspect some 560 meat plants. McNay said he anticipates no problems either in getting the plants inspected. He said inspectors will take into consideration the individual merits of each operation, and they

(Continued On Page 29)

Defense Committee Pegs Lancaster Co. Ag Loss at \$25 mil.

Farm damages in Lancaster County from tropical storm Agnes were pegged at \$25.2 million during a meeting last week of a county agricultural defense committee. The meeting was attended by officials of various USDA agencies, and the Lancaster Civil Defense Director.

Crop damage accounted for \$13,567,000, farm houses were hit with an estimated \$5,946,000. \$5,000,000 was the figure for land erosion damage, and farm buildings accounted for \$600,000 in damages.

Another \$395,000 was said to be lost to damaged machinery and equipment, wells, community water and sewer facilities, stored feed, fertilizer and other ag chemicals, and livestock.

According to Miss Dorothy Neel, the figures are fairly accurate estimates, which will be

reported to the federal government. The figures will be used there to determine what, if any, relief will be coming to Lancaster County.

The biggest dollar loss is expected to be in the tobacco crop, Miss Neel said. Storms and floods have reduced anticipated tobacco harvest from 32 million pounds to 20.8 million pounds, for a dollar loss of \$4.5 million.

Grain corn has also been hit hard. A pre-storm production estimate for the county was 10.3 million bushels. The post-Agnes figure is 8.2 million bushels, for a cumulative dollar loss of \$2.7 million.

Dollar value of alfalfa hay is expected to be down about \$2.3 million, other hay should be off \$650,000. Barley income is expected to drop some \$780,000, fresh vegetables \$500,000 and potatoes \$294,000.



Lancaster County 4-H'ers played host this week to 4-H delegations from Michigan and North Carolina. Ten youngsters came from Michigan, and are pictured here with

their Lancaster County hosts. They arrived at the Farm and Home Center Thursday evening, and they'll be leaving for home on Wednesday, July 19.

County Leads State in 1971 Farm Production

Preliminary figures indicate production and income increases last year for Lancaster County farmers. Dairying again led the way, with total cash receipts for the year estimated at close to last year's figure of \$48.7 million.

The figures are from the 1971 crop and livestock annual summary published by the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. Production figures for 1971 are included in the summary along with preliminary income figures.

Precise farm income for the state and county won't be available until later this year, because of the complicated computations involving different marketing seasons for various crops and animal products.

The report did show that the

County's total cash receipts from farming operations was \$170.5 million for 1970.

Lancaster County again led the state in milk production for 1971, with 713 million pounds produced.

The County also topped the state in the value of meat animals, field crops and poultry products produced.

Layers in Lancaster County produced almost a billion eggs last year worth some \$26 million. Nearly 91 million pounds of broilers were produced for a production value of \$14.5 million, and farm chickens and turkeys brought another \$2.9 million to the area. The combined value of all poultry meat and eggs produced last year was \$43.5 million.

Livestock production and in-

come figures for the year have not been computed yet. However, at \$71.2 million Lancaster county led the state in the value of livestock on farms at the end of the year. The county had 134,000 hogs valued at \$3.9 million, 218,200 cattle and calves valued at \$67.2 million and 7,900 sheep valued at \$172,900. Lancaster led in hogs and cattle, but there were several counties with more sheep.

The value of production for all field crops, fruits and vegetables was pegged at \$50.7 million. Corn was the leading crop, with grain production valued at \$12.7 million and silage production at \$11 million. Tobacco was the number two crop with a production value of \$10.1 million, and hay was next with a value of \$9.7 million.



Twins Alfred and Art Reist (Art is on the right), will be two of the volunteer slaves for the July 28 Farm and Home Center auction.

Volunteers Sought for Farm & Home Auction

Volunteers are needed for the annual Farm and Home Center Slave auction, according to Raymond Stoner, chairman for the event.

Stoner said they are looking for young men and women between the ages of 15 and 20, who are willing to donate one eight-hour day of labor. At the auction,

bidders will vie for the services of each volunteer.

Sometime during August, the volunteer would perform whatever reasonable chores the bidder requests. The volunteer would have to give a maximum of eight hours, and the time for performing the service would be

agreed upon by the bidder and the volunteer.

The sale will be conducted July 28 at the Farm and Home Center auditorium. It will start at 8:30 p.m., but there will be a volleyball game for volunteers starting at 7:30.

All proceeds from the sale will go to the Farm and Home Center.