

Emergency Livestock Feed Program Offered in 38 Pennsylvania Counties

The U.S. Department of Agriculture last week made available government-owned feed grain at reduced prices in 38 counties in Pennsylvania where excessive rainfall has resulted in heavy crop damage.

Pennsylvania has suffered from a continuously deteriorating livestock feed supply due to the above normal amount of rainfall this year. The situation was aggravated by tropical storm Agnes during late June. The loss of livestock feed was compounded for many livestockmen who, because of the storm, had such added expenses as the repair of farm buildings, fences and machinery.

ACSC officials in Pennsylvania

report that damages resulting from Agnes are the greatest wrought by any storm in this century, although the degree of damage varies greatly from farm to farm. The livestock feed program is urgently needed to assist eligible livestockmen who would otherwise have to liquidate many numbers of their foundation herds.

The 38 eligible counties are Armstrong, Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Cameron, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Crawford, Cumberland, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Huntingdon, Indiana, Juniata, Lackawanna, Lawrence, Luzerne, Lycoming, Mercer,

Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Somerset, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Venango, Wayne and Wyoming.

The livestock feed program becomes operative in counties where the Secretary of Agriculture determines that severe drought, flood, or similar conditions have reduced feed supplies to the point where assistance is required to help eligible farmers preserve and maintain foundation herds and other eligible livestock.

Under these circumstances, Commodity Credit Corporation-owned feed grains are offered at reduced prices in keeping with local support levels for the kinds of grain supplied.

The grain, as available, will be offered through the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) county offices, which are charged with the responsibility for determining eligibility of individual producers for assistance.

Sinking Chips

Freshly hewn birch chips sink when they fall into water since birch has a high proportion of green wood; that is, cells filled with sap instead of air.

Twin Valley FFA Chapter Involved in County Contests

Last Friday, August 25, 10 Twin Valley FFA members traveled to Kutztown to participate in the Berks County FFA Dairy and Livestock Judging Contests.

Six Twin Valley students were among 23 participating in the livestock judging contest. Livestock judges were required to place a class of market hogs, a class of breeding gilts, and a class of market steers.

Frank Stoltzfus, State FFA vice-president, was the only Twin Valley member to place in the top 10, finished seventh. Other Twin Valley livestock judges were Ronald Smoker, Lloyd Simmers, Glenn Vickers, Melvin Houck and Thomas Carskadon.

Nevin Mast, Twin Valley president and Berks County vice-president, finished third in the dairy judging contest, highest of the four Twin Valley participants. Other Twin Valley dairy judges were Terry Murray, Robert Stoltzfus and Robert Evans.

Dairy judges were required to place one class of mature Holstein cows, one class of mature Milking Shorthorn cows and one class of yearling Holstein

heifers. First place in the contest was earned by Richard Dietrich of Kutztown. Twenty-eight contestants participated in the contest, representing the eight FFA Chapters in Berks County.

Friday afternoon eight FFA members - one from each Chapter in the County - participated in a tractor driving contest. The tractor driving contest is divided into three parts. First, the contestant must perform a safety check on the tractor he will drive. Then he hooks up to a manure spreader, losing points for each half-inch the tractor hitch is off-center. Then he must pull the spreader through an obstacle course. Here, contestants lose points for touching the sides, fouling equipment, and for each change of direction.

Finally, the contestant must pull a four-wheeled wagon from a stall and back it into an adjoining stall. The wagon can be pulled only 40 feet forward and no more than five feet to either side of the stalls. The stalls allow six inches clearance on both sides of the wagon. The contestant loses points for each inch off-center at both the front and rear of the wagon, for each inch over two inches from the rear of the stall, and for each time the wagon or tractor touches the sides of the stall, and for each change of direction. Contestants are scored for safety throughout the contest.

Twin Valley's Nevin Mast placed second in the contest.

Pa. Mushroom Industry is the World's Biggest

Pennsylvania still has a firm grip on the title of mushroom capital of the world. Production during the year ended June 30, 1972, was 140.5 million pounds, an increase of nine percent, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Growers in the state intend to utilize 56.6 million square feet of growing area during the next 12 months which would up next year's crop another 6.6 percent.

The average price paid to the mushroom farmers during the past year was 45.8 cents per pound. Twenty-five percent of their production went into the fresh sales market where the average price was up to 59.5 cents per pound.

The increasing popularity of mushrooms has helped offset the threat of lower priced imports from the orient. Mushroom production in the other 49 states climbed even faster than in Pennsylvania, up 16 percent, but Keystone State growers still produce 61 percent of the national total.

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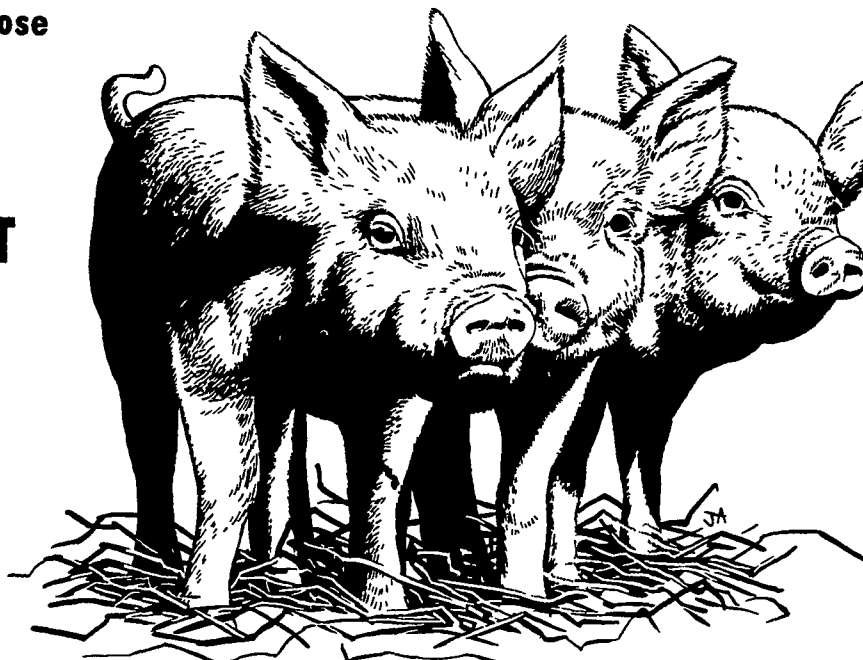
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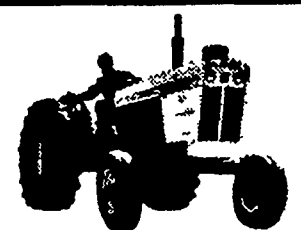


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