

Tobacco Meetings Set at Martindale

John O. Yocum, director of the Southeastern Field Research Farm at Landisville, will be the leadoff speaker for a series of tobacco meetings sponsored by the Eastern Lancaster County Adult Farmer Program beginning on Wednesday evening, November 21, at 7:30 p.m. in the Hinkletown Elementary School, located just off of Route 322 near Martindale.

Topic of discussion will include the areas of seedbed and field management, seedbed sterilization methods and procedures, weed control, and the results of trials conducted in tobacco production at the Penn State Research Center. Yocum is a well-known figure in tobacco research in the state and has worked with many farmers in the Lancaster County area.

The following Wednesday evening, November 28, at 7:30 p.m. Jerry Skoog, tobacco researcher for the United States Department of Agriculture at Beltsville, Maryland will speak on the diseases which are

currently problems to tobacco farmers of the county. Black Shank and Black Root Rot and procedures dealing with them, including some disease resistant varieties, will be discussed.

The series will be concluded on Wednesday evening, December 5, at 7:30 p.m. with a discussion of the various phases of tobacco marketing and will include such topics as foreign competition, grading and handling tobacco for quality, and the demand for Type 41 tobacco in the future. Representatives of the major tobacco companies of Lancaster County have been invited to participate.

All interested area farmers and related businessmen are invited to attend these meetings. Transportation within the district can be arranged for groups of farmers wishing to attend by calling Robert Herr at 354-5640.

Purple Ink Approved For Meat Mark

Consumers will soon once again find the round mark of inspection stamped on meats in a purple ink, the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced recently.

Approval of the new purple ink, though, is the first step towards an eventual return to use of purple as the official color for branding ink.

Meat plants may begin using the new purple ink immediately.

Officials indicated that several firms are readying purple ink formulas for USDA testing. USDA must approve each new formula before it can be used, seeing to it that it is safe, legible and durable.

The announcement follows USDA's approval of first safe purple ink for marking meat since the dye formerly used—Food, Drug and Cosmetic (FD&C) violet number 1—was removed from the market in April for safety reasons. The newly approved ink combines several dyes already approved as safe by the Food and Drug Administration, according to officials of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

In the immediate future, inspectors will also continue to allow use of the approved red, yellow, green and blue inks which have been permitted since the April ban on violet number 1.

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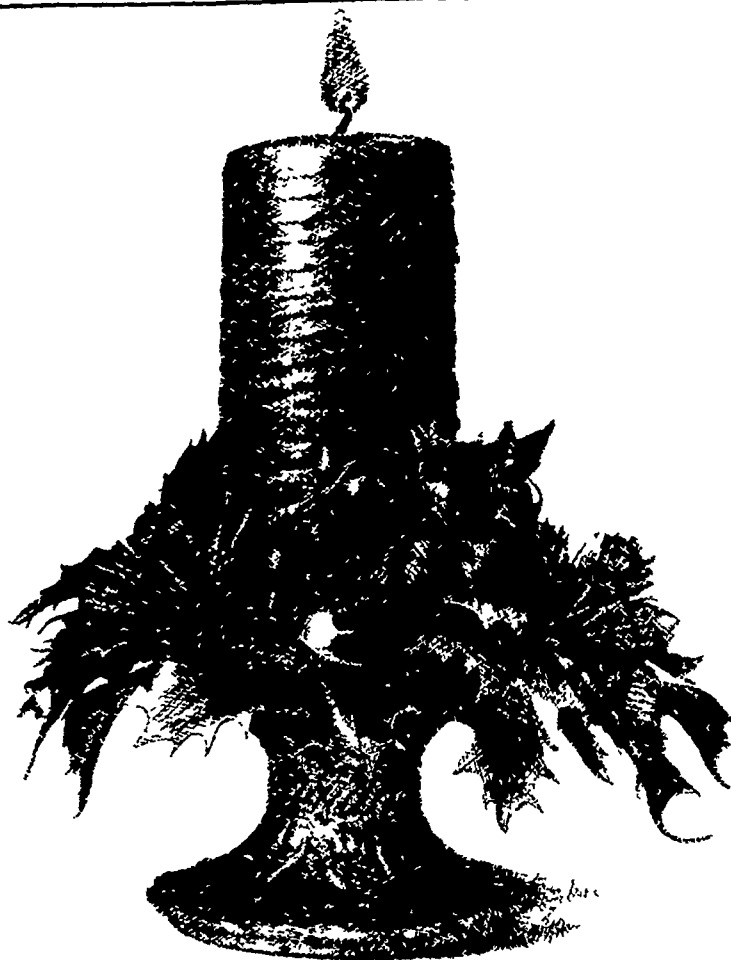
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