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Lancaster Farming

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Lancaster Farming Photo

Tobacco harvest came about as early as it ever did this year for Ammon Shelly, Lititz RD2. Usual first harvest date for Pennsylvania Type

41 tobacco is about August 10, but Shelly said his crop was ready a good week earlier. Shelly also said this is one of the best crops he's ever seen.

Barring Weather Damage . . .

Excellent Tobacco Harvest Predicted

Ammon Shelly was spearing tobacco this year about as early as he's ever done it, and as far as we could tell, he was the first farmer in Lancaster County to start filling his tobacco shed.

"I got my plants in by May 26," Shelly told Lancaster Farming, "where usually I don't get them in much before Decoration Day." Shelly expects this year's crop to be among the best he's ever had. He grows about 5 acres on his Lititz R2 farm.

"Everything just seemed to go right this year," he said. "We got rain at the right time, and we had dry weather at the right time. Some of my plants were topped for 23 days when I started cutting, and they look very good."

Associate Lancaster County Agent Arnold Lueck said he's seen some very good fields of tobacco throughout the county, and is predicting an excellent crop if no major weather catastrophes occur between now and the end of August.

Lueck said that August 10 is the usual early harvest date for tobacco in the county. Nearly all of the crop is generally harvested between August 25 and September 20, with some years seeing tobacco still coming in until the first of October.

Another grower, A. K. Mann, said he expects to start harvesting some of his 25 acres by early next week.

Mann said his father, George Mann, was very close to harvesting some of the 80 acres he grows on three farms near Manor, and all of it is looking very good.

When we talked to John Yocum on Friday morning, he said, "We plan to top some of our tobacco today, so we'll be harvesting it in another two or three weeks. Our crop looks very good so far, and so do the other crops I've seen."

Yocum is director of Penn State's Field Research Laboratory near Landisville.

He noted that some of the earliest varieties might not yield to high because of a dry spring, but that the later crop should do exceptionally well. "Pennbel is going to be very big," he said.

Arthur Reist, 1050 Eden Rd., Lancaster, said their crop isn't ready to cut yet, but they've got no complaints at all about their tobacco this year. He said they have about eight acres of tobacco and, barring hail and damaging wind and rains, they should have one of their best crops ever.

Conservation Field Day Draws Good Turnout

"The best crowds we've ever had," was the way Everett Kreider described attendance at this year's Lancaster County Soil Conservation Field Day and Plowing Contest which was held Tuesday. Kreider, a director of the Lancaster County Conservation District, is this Perennial field day chairman. At least 150 people came to Harold Hough's farm at Peach Bottom R1 to watch and participate in the contour and level land plowing contests, and an FFA soil judging contest, topped off by a scramble after a

greased pig arranged for children 13 and under, and a rooster chase for children eight and under.

Harvey Sauder, New Holland R1, won the contour plowing contest for the third year in a row, which means he retires the traveling trophy presented each year to the winner of that event. Frank Burkhart, 1030 Silver Spring Road, Lancaster, took the level land honors, repeating county wins in 1971 and 1972.

Both Sauder and Burkhart are eligible for berths in the state plowing contest set for August 28 in Bloomsburg

during Ag Progress Days. Lancaster County will also be represented in the state

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York DHIA

This week marks the first appearance of the York County DHIA results in the pages of Lancaster Farming. The figures will be run every month. Now appearing in this newspaper are DHIA figures from Lancaster, Lebanon, Chester, Berks and York Counties.



Lancaster Farming Photo

Raising market lambs is one of the many livestock projects that the Strauss boys have. Each is shown

with one of the three breeds they keep on the farm.

Dairy Princesses Named In Berks, Dauphin Co.'s

Last weekend, both Berks and Dauphin Counties saw the crowning of new dairy princesses. Debra L. Miller, 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. Miller of Linglestown R4, was named Dauphin County Dairy Princess on Friday night at the Middletown Community Building.

The following evening saw Susan Seidel crowned Berks County princess at the Kutztown fair grounds.

Miss Miller is a graduate of Central Dauphin High School, and is a member of the Singing Millers, a well-known family singing group.

Dauphin County runnerup was Marjie Kay Hoffer, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Aaron W. Hoffer, Middletown R1. Miss Hoffer is a

Middletown Area High School graduate now attending Harrisburg Area Community College, where she is majoring in the library technology program.

The winner was crowned by Ralene Harbold, 1973 Lancaster County Dairy Princess. Judges for the event were Mrs. Sally Bair, wife of Lancaster County associate agent N. Alan Bair and herself a former Adams County dairy princess, Robert Staz, owner and manager of Brookwood Dairies, and Willis Ritchie, director of member service for Atlantic Breeders.

Gayle Carson, program director for the Pennsylvania Holstein Association, was kept busy performing as master of ceremonies at both the Friday and Saturday night events.

In Kutztown, a throng of people crowded into the amphitheater of the Fair Grounds to see Miss Seidel accept her crown from Phoebe Ruth, 1973 Berks

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Strauss Brothers Teamwork Really Counts

by: Melissa Piper

For the three sons of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Strauss, RD1, Ephrata, teamwork is what really counts.

Robert, 18, Richard, 15, and Steve, 14, have been working together on several FFA projects over the past few months. Their projects have included corn, market hogs, market lambs and vegetable gardens.

Richard and Steve combined their labor recently in building a new animal barn which will be used for lambs and market hogs. The building which involves some intricate work has been nearly finished to perfection and for young men in their teens such perfection is commendable.

Another team effort involving Robert and Richard paid off last week when their market hogs captured the Reserve Champion honors at the FFA Hog Show and Sale.

The brothers have also combined their efforts and won numerous prizes for their animals and vegetables at the area fairs. They have shown the grand champion market lamb at the Ephrata Fair and have placed third in the carcass lamb division. Along with many blue ribbons for their vegetables.

Last year at the Pa. State Farm Show the boys had the Grand Champion Medium FFA hog and placed second in the light-heavy hog division.

Although the boys believe

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