

Tobacco

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A Farmersville grower with nine acres who's been growing tobacco for seven years told us the crop in his shed was about as nice as he'd ever seen. He has mostly Pennbel. "I haven't had any offers yet," he told us, "and right now I don't think I'd sell for less than 60-cents. Last year I got 50-cents."

John Yocum, director of Penn State's Southeast Field Research Laboratory near Landisville, said he feels, too, that this has been an outstanding year for tobacco. "There will be some

shed damage because we had rotten weather for tobacco curing in the early part of the harvest. But unless there's a lot more shed damage than I think there is, farmers are going to be sending a lot of good tobacco to the buyers."

Asked to comment on the Maryland tobacco and the higher price it seemed to be bringing, Yocum said, "The Maryland varieties are lighter colored, and more marketable for cigarette tobacco. But they're also lighter weight, and a farmer needs at least 15-cents a pound more to make the same amount of money he'd make from Pennbel. You can expect to get 500 pounds an acre less with the Maryland varieties."

"Some farmers have gotten close to 2000 pounds to the acre with Maryland tobacco, but they had to put the plants closer together. If they'd move Pennbel closer together, they'd still get more than they're getting from the Maryland variety."

"The big reason many growers are getting interested in Maryland tobacco is because of its resistance to black shank. I've heard stories of farmers losing half their crop to black shank, and if a grower has that kind of problem, Maryland tobacco might help him to lick it. But along with the black shank resistance, you get susceptibility to etch virus, which can also damage a lot of leaves."

Overall, it looks like a good production year for tobacco farmers. How the marketing situation will develop is a question that remains to be answered. Last year's crop sold for an average of around 54-cents a pound. The buyers we talked to on Thursday said they had no idea yet of when the buying would begin in earnest, or what the price levels might be this year.

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Big Money
Just got a letter from an old friend. Last I heard he was making big money in the East somewhere. Come to find out it was about a third of an inch too big.

Better With Age?
People claim whiskey improves with age Scotch and bourbon too. Wonder why it is that drunks don't improve with age?

Words
Then there's the man and his wife who were always having words — most of them were hers.

Hog - Beef Discussion Slated

The Ephrata Area Adult Farmers Association will sponsor a panel discussion program on new developments and management on beef and hog production on Tuesday evening, December 10th at the Ephrata Senior High School. The program will begin at 7:45 p.m. in the Ag classroom.

Trends in the production area and management practices to cope with the new trends in hog and beef production will be discussed by speakers that will include specialists in the field as well as producers and buyers.

Interested farmers are invited to attend the meeting. Refreshments will be served.



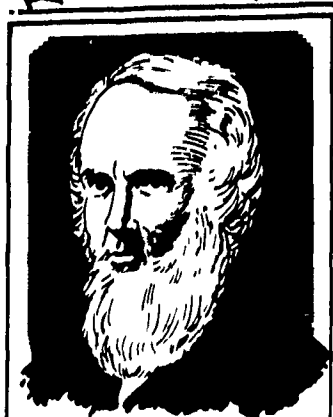
Red Rose DHIA Banquet Plans Set

The Lancaster County Dairy Herd Improvement Association will hold its annual membership meeting on Thursday, December 12th, at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center. Tickets for the luncheon, which will begin at 11:45 a.m., are available from all DHIA supervisors.

The speaker for the affair will be Rev. Raymond Charles, who'll talk about an offering of cattle. Organ music will be provided by Rufus Brubaker.

During the meeting, directors will be elected for the coming year, and high producers will be recognized with awards.

American Viewpoints



*We cross the prairie as of old
The Pilgrims crossed the sea,
To make the West, as they the East,
The homestead of the free!*
— John Greenleaf Whittier
The Kansas Emigrants

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Cattle Prices

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animals up to 42- or 43-cents a pound, but the big packers don't seem to be too willing to go above that 40-cent mark. And a farmer these days is lucky if he gets 40-cents."

This week, choice steers on Lancaster County auctions sold for \$39.50 to \$40.75 on Monday in Lancaster, \$39.00 to \$41.50 Tuesday at Vintage, dipped to \$38.00 to \$40.10 on Wednesday in Lancaster and rebounded to \$39.00 to \$42.75 on Thursday at New Holland.



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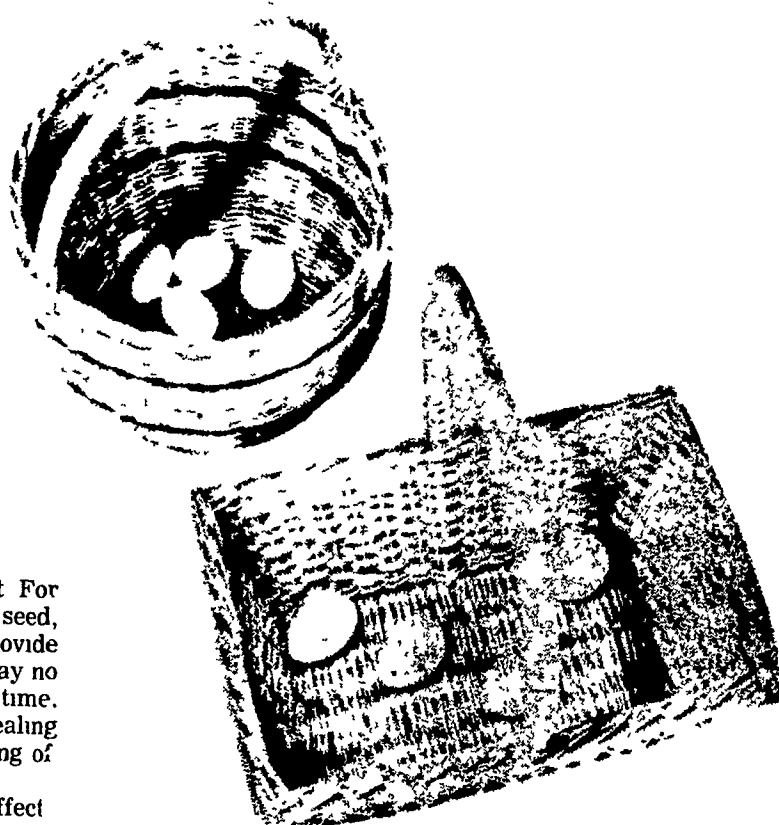


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