

# Lid scarcity

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culprits become numerous enough, they could An overall evaluation of this year's fruit crop revealed that the heavy rains which fell over most of these parts of the state did little harm, but may have, in fact, been beneficial. The outlook calls for a big harvest of apples and peaches. Sweet cherry production suffered somewhat due to the heavy rains causing them to crack, but sour cherries did well. Pears and plums seem to be coming along a little bit lighter than last year. "They're scarce around here," Lucabaugh commented.

"Apples look really good now," an employee at Paradise Orchards, East Berlin, remarked, "but what we'll harvest depends on the next few weeks' weather." He added that the crop has looked this good in other years, but by August things just didn't measure up anymore to what had been expected.

Mites are a potential threat to this year's apple crop, Lancaster Farming was told, and if the tiny

stunt the growth of apples.

What's needed for the next six weeks to assure continued good development of apples is a good shower per week. The plentiful amounts of moisture so far this year have allowed crops to grow well, although it did create the necessity of having to spray more frequently. Paradise Orchards reported they've been out spraying once every seven days in alternate rows. At Lucabaugh's 140-acre Nunda Fruit Farm, spraying has taken place every ten to twelve days this year, compared to every 14 to 16 days in other years. "We have an average of 11 sprays on apples during most seasons," Lucabaugh revealed, "this year I've sprayed 13 times already and it'll continue right up until harvest time. The reasons for spraying are to keep ground rot, fungus, and insects under control

In explaining the comparatively low yields expected for pears, a crop amounting to only about 60 percent of what was picked last year, the Paradise Orchards employee noted that the trees are full on top, but practically bare at the bottom. "We had no frost while they were blooming," he noted.

Thursday was the first day for picking peaches at the 130-acre orchard, located just off route 234 near East Berlin. Asked what the price per bushel of peaches would be, the spokesman answered.

"Eight dollars a bushel, if we can get it." He added that last year things weren't selling as well as they should have because of the canning-lid shortage and fruit producers were nervous about the situation this year.

Lucabaugh, who sells an estimated 75 percent of his crops at his own fruit stand, emphasized nobody would be able to stay in business if the present trend continues. In spite of the poor economic outlook, the middle-aged Lucabaugh kept a smile on his face, and shook his head slowly in what appeared to be an "I give up" gesture. "The consumers are hollering our products cost too much, yet they'll go down here and spend \$3.50 at the track and think nothing of it"

The plight of fruit farmers has come to the attention of Congressman William Goodling, who represents parts of York, Cumberland, and Adams Counties, a noted fruit growing region. According to his findings, the canning-lid shortage could leave housewives holding empty jars and orchardmen with full fruit baskets they can't sell. Canning lids were supposedly manufactured and distributed, but none are showing up at the retail end.

"The consumer is willing to freeze and can, providing they find materials and supplies to can with," Lucabaugh insisted. "They're scarce."

# Conservation day held

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winner in this contest will also be going to the state competition in August.

Judged in 14 categories - uniformity between furrows and rounds, even furrow ends, trash coverage, good pulverization, defacing tilled surface with the tractor or implements, plowing all land, depth of finishing furrow, smooth and level furrow bottom, clean furrow walls, adhering to boundary, uniform depth, depression in center, furrow straightness, and quick penetration - contestants had two hours to plow a plot equalling about one acre in size.

In the land judging competition, which had students from four Lancaster County high schools

represented, Tom Jackson of Solanco walked off with first place honors, with team mate Jim Krantz placing third. In between them for second place was Garden Spot's Tim Weaver. Elvin Huyard, also from Garden Spot, came in fourth; fifth place was a tie between Solanco's Ken Wiker and Garden Spot's Dan Witwer; and in sixth place was Robert Sanders, Garden Spot.

A tractor driving contest for County 4-H'ers was won by 18-year-old Ron Nolt from Donegal High School. He is now eligible to compete at the State 4-H Days at Penn State on August 11, 12, and 13. Carl Thomas of Millerstown, and Allen Ackley,

Litz, took second and third places, respectively, in the tractor driving event.

Concluding the day's events were a pig chase for youngsters between the ages of nine and 15 and a rooster chase for those eight and under. Eight year old Paul Archibald emerged as the triumphant winner of the rooster chase, proudly holding up his feathered prize. The young pig, which raced dumbfoundedly through a stubble field, couldn't outmaneuver Dan Witwer, who put his arms around the squealer and returned it to the temporary cage. He and Archibald were allowed to keep their "prizes."



Pig chase delighted youngsters at field day



A contestant in the plowing contest makes adjustments



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