

# Tobacco needs rain

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Again, the critical factor is rain - tobacco growers need it badly within the next few days.

Neidigh, who has been working with tobacco since he was six years old, and this year has a total of 25 acres to work with, says his crop is a little leafier this year than it was in 1974. "A good rain would finish this crop up good," he remarked. He added that the rain falling over the County Wednesday night only amounted to two-tenth of an inch in his locality.

Fifteen miles to the east, about midway between Manheim and Lititz, Rufus Nolt measured six-tenth of an inch of rain on his property. But that didn't seem to make much difference. Nolt has eight acres of tobacco out and described it as not being as good as last year. The father of four sons, two of them fully grown, Nolt is a veteran tobacco grower, having been at it since boyhood. He agreed with other reports that if rain comes soon, the tobacco harvest won't be too bad. Without rain, the yield will be on the light side.

Nolt doesn't expect to cut more than 1,500 pounds of tobacco per acre this year and expressed some pessimism about achieving that much. Neidigh, on the other hand, is counting on 1,600 to 1,900 pounds per acre from his fields.

Since Neidigh didn't plant his tobacco until June 10, about two weeks later than he would have liked to, he isn't figuring on harvesting until late this month. Many other growers in the county are in similar situations, although a few growers are beginning to cut now. Early reports confirm Neidigh's and Nolt's findings that this year's yields will be somewhat lower than those of last year.

Asked if there was as much money in tobacco growing today as what there was five years ago, Neidigh tugged on his chin for a moment and responded with an affirmative answer. In fact, he thought there was a little more money in it now. "But it takes a lot of work," he added, "back-breaking work." He had just returned from one of his fields where he was topping the plants. He expressed satisfaction with recent prices of tobacco and hopes for similar or even improved prices this year.

Nolt commented that "if they need it bad enough, the price might be as good as last year. Last year's price of 58 to 60 cents per pound won't be much, he added if yields per acre come in with not much weight. He didn't necessarily feel that there was more money in tobacco farming today than what there was five years ago, since all of his expenses are going up. Neidigh noted that his production



Charles Neidigh of Marietta, a tobacco grower for over 30 years, walks through one of his three fields to top the plants.

costs have gone up "considerably," in some cases by 300 percent.

Another grower simply said that if tobacco prices aren't what they should be this year, there'll be less tobacco grown in the County. He expressed disappointment in rising prices and observed that the "young people today don't want to work like we older people did."

## Kutztown Fair Schedule

The annual Kutztown Area Fair will be staged August 18-23 with an entire slate of entertainment and agricultural events planned for the whole family.

The following events are scheduled for the Fair:

**Monday, August 18**

Fair Preview Evening with fair opening at 4:00 p.m.  
Eastern District Holstein Show at 3:00 p.m.  
Blue Ridge Quartet and Mark Four Show at 8:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, August 19**

Dairy Fitting and Showing Contest at 6:00 p.m.  
Porter Wagner Show at 8:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, August 20**

Judging Holstein Cattle 10:00 a.m.  
Weight in for Market Swine 10:00 a.m.

Judging Sheep 4:00 p.m.

Judging Colored dairy breeds 6:00 p.m.

Weigh in for market steers 1:00 p.m.

Sheep blocking and grooming contest 3:00 p.m.

Billy Walker Show at 8:00 p.m.

**Thursday, August 21**

Judging Breeding Swine 9:30 a.m.

Judging barrows 10:30 a.m.

Beef fitting and showmanship 2:00 p.m.

Judging of beef cattle 6:00 p.m.

Susan Raye Show 8:00 p.m.

**Friday, August 22**

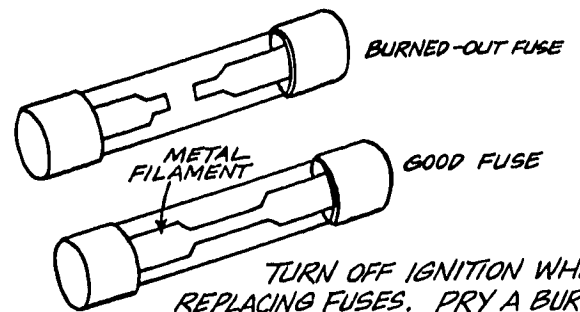
FFA Dairy and Livestock Judging Contest 9:00 a.m.

FFA tractor and driving contest 1:00 p.m.

4-H Dairy Judging Contest 7:00 p.m.

For well shaped big round bales, Sperry New Holland engineers say use a windrow that is less than 3½ feet wide or 5½ - 6 feet wide. Medium size windrows, 3½-5½ feet, can produce barrel-shaped bales. In light crops, rake two or more windrows into one to get the benefit of a heavier windrow.

## Auto Service Tips



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# Ag trends

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prices may have an effect on hog prices, as will the consumer's willingness to buy comparatively high priced pork.

Thanksgiving turkeys aren't likely to be as plentiful this year as last, and that should call for an upswing in prices. Turkey supplies are down - with frozen stocks taking a 30 percent plunge.

The trend for egg prices shows a gradual upward curve for the next several months. Prices may be about three cents ahead of last year, while production is expected to trail by about five percent.

The outlook for soybean production is good, not only in this country, but also in other major soybean producing countries such as Brazil, where a record harvest was produced. Prices are expected to go significantly lower if U.S. production reaches 1.5 billion bushels.

Current utilization rate of soybeans is less than one billion bushels per year and this year's domestic crop is forecasted at roughly 1.5 billion bushels. Carryover is said to be more than adequate to maintain a reserve.

Meanwhile, in Russia, soybean research and production is getting a few shots in the arm to meet demand and catch up to U.S. production levels. USDA reports that the average yield per acre for Soviet soybean fields is a mere 6.8 bushels per acre, or only about one-fourth the U.S. average. Some experimental plots at Penn State's Landisville Agronomy Research farm could attain a yield of 80 bushels per acre.

Commonwealth Bank's newsletter suggests that holding wheat into September may be a good risk, and a way of preventing major price declines. The supply and demand situation for that crop points to lower prices in the future. Poor crops in the communist part of the world might give demand a boost, however.

Checking wheat futures on the Chicago Board of Trade, we find that the September price posted Thursday night was 380, up 13 cents from Wednesday. On July 30 it was 376, while back on July 18 a 5,000 bushel contract went for 360 per bushel. Local millers describe the market as "strong".

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