



Andrea Dekert, from the Eastern Lebanon County Future Farmers of America, won 1st place at the Lebanon County Creed Contest. Andrea is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dekert, R3, Myerstown.

Another member, Gene Hurst, won 4th place.

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Tobacco market stirring

By Dieter Krieg
LANCASTER — The 1976 tobacco market is beginning to show some signs of life, although only very slightly.

A few buyers from southern states have reportedly been in Lancaster County, and one observer of the scene claims that one percent of this year's crop may have been sold already. The general opinion of extension personnel, growers, and buyers is, however, that the market really hasn't opened up yet and there isn't much activity.

Buyers from the South who had contracts signed were reportedly paying prices ranging from 45 to 75 cents per pound, Lancaster Farming learned during telephone interviews on Thursday and Friday.

While stripping and sales activity is still only very slight, anticipation for good prices is high. A few of the farmers cited problems they had while growing their cash crops this summer, but no disappointments were expressed regarding the condition of tobacco in the sheds.

The quality of this year's tobacco is expected to be better than average, according to early statements from growers in Lancaster County. With this in mind, they are expecting prices of around 70 to 75 cents per pound.

Several tobacco growers described the curing of their tobacco as coming along "very nice." While this may be true for a number of in-

dividuals, John Yocum, director of the PSU agronomy research farm near Landisville expressed some concern.

Yocum said he judged tobacco at the East Lampeter Fair this past Fall, and observed that some evidence of shed damage was evident even then. Both he and Lancaster County Extension Director, Max Smith, noted that very few growers have started to strip their crop,

and the true condition of tobacco can't be accurately revealed for another few weeks when activity really begins.

Farmers themselves reported no incidents of molding at this time, although shed damage can't be ruled out yet by any means, agree all concerned. Much can take place between now and January, the traditional time for getting tobacco ready for sale.

Angus group elects officer

H. Roy Meier, a registered Angus breeder from Jackson, Mo., was elected president of the 49,000-member American Angus Association at the 92nd annual meeting of Angus delegates recently in Louisville, Ky. Meier replaces retiring president William Clark, Houston, Tex.

H. Roy Meier has served six years on the American Angus Association Board of Directors and last year was vice president and chairman of the Executive Committee. He bought his first Angus in 1940 when he was 23 years old and now runs a 150-head registered operation on 550 acres of southeastern Mo. land.

Meier has been a long-time supporter of the Mo. Angus business. A member of the board of directors of the Mo. Angus Association for more than 30 years, he has served two terms as vice president and one as president.

Soybeans

A soybean plant can lose as much as 30 per cent of its leaves before flowering without affecting final yield. After the pods have been formed it can lose as much as 10 per cent of its leaves without reducing yield.

Carryover feed stocks great

WASHINGTON — Despite increased feed use both at home and abroad there will be a moderate buildup in carryover stocks in 1976, according to speakers at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Outlook Conference held here last month.

The speakers were agricultural economists with USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS).

James J. Naive stated that the 1975-76 feed grain forecast calls for increases in domestic feeding, record large exports, and some carryover stocks. Livestock and poultry prices have risen enough to improve feeding margins, even with relatively high feed prices, to levels that generally have generated expansion of feeding operations in the past. Exports are expected to be a fifth to a third more than the 1975-76 level of 39 million tons. While much of this increase stems from the Soviet Union, it appears that feed demand may also be up in some major importing countries. In spite of record exports and increased feeding, there will still be a moderate increase in carryover stocks to 21-24 million tons.

George Kromer reported that the 1975-76 U.S. soybean outlook is for record large supplies, significant ex-

pansion in utilization, sharp buildup in carryover stocks next fall, and lower average prices than in 1974-75. If the current soybean-corn price ratio of 2 to 1 continues, soybean plantings in 1976 could drop below 1975 levels. Mr. Kromer also stated that the U.S. oilseed harvested acreages this year were about 66 million, down 2 million from 1974. A sharp drop of 3 million, down in cotton more than offset a million acre gain in soybeans. Total oilseed production is forecast at 52 million short tons, 18 percent higher than 1974.

Miss Pa.

contestants sought

Applications are now being accepted from all over the Keystone State for the annual MISS PENNSYLVANIA PAGEANT to be staged for the 6th consecutive year at Washington, Pa., in the Grand Concourse of the Franklin Mall in early March. The MISS PENNSYLVANIA PAGEANT is an Official Miss USA - Miss Universe Contest.

There is no "TALENT" requirement, all judging is on the basis of poise, personality and beauty of face

and figure. Applicants must be between 18 and 28, never married and at least six month residents of Pennsylvania, thus college dorm students are eligible. All girls interested in competing for the Title must apply to Miss Pennsylvania Pageant Headquarters, 35 West Chestnut, Washington, Pa. 15301 by December 31st. Applications must include a recent photo, a brief biography and phone number.

The girl chosen as MISS PENNSYLVANIA, will represent the Keystone State in the Miss USA Pageant, nationally televised on CBS-TV from Niagara Falls, N.Y. in May. The new winner will be awarded a host of prizes including an exciting 11 day stay in Niagara Falls, a full wardrobe by Fashion Bug and a glamorous jewelry ensemble created by Sarah Coventry.

The current Miss Pennsylvania, 22 year old Pat Hurley of Wilkes-Barre, will be present to crown her successor at the Franklin Mall in March.

Application deadline is December 31st.

Spice Consumption

U.S. imports of spices in 1974 set an all-time record—more than 306 million pounds. Coupled with domestic production of spices, this made America's total consumption of spice approximately 408.5 million pounds. Domestic production now accounts for about 25 per cent of the spices consumed in this country.



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