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Beef and soybean prices drop

By DIETER KRIEG
LANCASTER — Agricultural markets continue to puzzle economists and farmers. This week, for example, the local price for soybeans dropped to below \$6 per bushel, after having been above \$7 per bushel just a month ago. And beef prices, for months already an agonizing situation,

continue to slump after hitting new lows for 1976 within the past 10 days. Things have picked up just a bit, but cattlemen still don't have much to smile about. Al Landis, Pennfield Corporation, told Lancaster Farming on Friday that he believed the price of soybeans went up too high a few weeks ago, and the

various economic pressures are now coming into effect to bring about more realistic relationships between the price of feed and finished beef and dairy products, etc. Prices rose dramatically several weeks ago when the Soviets announced their grain purchases and U.S. stocks are low anyway.

Acreage of soybeans are low too.

The price of beans on the Chicago market was \$5.85 on Monday (a low) and bounced back up to \$6.20 by Thursday. According to Landis, not even officials at Central Soya, a major soybean concern, know exactly

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Tobacco crop varies in county

By JOANNE SPAHR
LANCASTER — Various and sundry weather conditions around the county have given rise to an assortment of tobacco reports. In the Millersville-Manor area, cutting has been going on as long as a week and a half now, while in the northwestern portion of the county around Mt. Joy, tobacco farmers still have

topping to do because of having to replant hail-damaged crops during the second and third weeks of June. The largest percentage of growers, however, are in the midst of topping and spraying for suckers, awaiting their first cutting.

Wilmer Rohrer, Lancaster R2, is one grower who has had excellent conditions and

is running ahead of schedule. He began cutting on July 28, and in a week's time had harvested five out of his 22 acres.

This first cutting, he said, was about the same as last year's in some cases and "above average" in others.

When Rohrer says "as good as last year's," it must be noted that his crop was of good weight then, also,

whereas some farmers in the county did not have a big crop because of too many extremes in weather conditions.

"Once and a while, you run into some spots that aren't as big as others," he said. However, he went on to acknowledge that this is a normal occurrence for any crop.

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Farmers advised to be informed

By DIETER KRIEG
MECHANICS GROVE — It isn't at every dairy cattle judging contest that someone registers a perfect score, but it happened Thursday at the Maurice Welk farm, near here, where Lancaster County Holstein breeders were gathered to hold their annual field day. Ken Groff, Leola, did the deed, amassing a total of 300 points. He thereby bested

runner-up Bob Kauffman of Elizabethtown, and winners in both youth and ladies divisions and received an appropriate trophy for the accomplishment. Placing third in the men's division of the contest was Richard Hess, followed by Gerald Kreider and Ellis Denlinger. All received prizes donated by John Kreider, Holstein breeder and equipment manufacturer.

Mrs. Richard Hess of Strasburg scooped up the ladies' first place for at least the second time, but she's

reluctant to attach any significance to it. "It's just luck," she commented matter-of-factly. Ruth Clark,

Mim Kauffman, Averill Royer, and Cindy Bollinger followed in that order to complete the "top five" in ladies' judging. Prizes were

given by Penn-Jersey Harvestore.

In the youth division, it was Leonard Stoltzfus capturing first place, followed by Mervin Minnich, Cheryl Bollinger, Bruce Kreider, and Phil Crouse. Leonard is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Stoltzfus, Gap R2, who just a week earlier captured the premiere

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200 attend Holstein field day

By JOANNE SPAHR
ELVERSON — A balmy, breezy day settled on Chester County last Tuesday and made a perfect setting for the Chester County Holstein Field Day held on Rocky Side Holsteins farm owned and operated by Jefferson Yoder, here.

The morning's activities included judging two classes of Holsteins, 3-year-olds and aged cows, and "nosing around" the dairy operation

which consists of a 55 cow milking barn and 60 heifers. All told, Yoder farms approximately 1200 acres with 85 on the home farm, and has about 800 of the acres in corn. He also grows wheat and hay.

While dairy judging was the main event of the day, socializing was just as important, as friends, neighbors, and interested Holstein breeders got together to have a good time. Ap-

proximately 200 people showed up to share in the fun.

After a noontime lunch of chicken barbeque, four speakers took the podium to individually enlighten the contented, relaxed crowd on key aspects of dairying.

Carol Yeager, Chester County dairy princess, was the first to lead off with a very brief speech on promoting milk.

"I've noticed when I go

places, that some farmers don't even drink milk," said the blonde-haired princess.

She went on to say that farmers have the responsibility of pulling together and setting an example to promote their product.

Next, Peter Blodgett, who was also the official for the day, spoke on bull proving, saying that Holstein breeders constantly need to

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Science seeks superior species

By DIETER KRIEG
LANDISVILLE — It takes 10 to 12 years to come up with a new plant variety — one which might be resistant to anthracnose, corn blight, potato leaf hopper, or black shank disease. In fact, it may take longer than that. This is what visitors to Penn State's research farm, near here, were told on Wednesday as they carefully inspected the University's experimental

plots and asked a variety of questions.

The occasion was the annual field day, when the facilities are formally opened up to interested farmers, extension agents, and agribusiness people. Unlike in previous years, this year's tours were conducted in a way which allowed visitors to spend as much time as they wished at any one stop. A tractor and wagon made the rounds;

visitors hopped aboard and jumped off at any point they wished. There were no 10-minute speeches, just a lot of answers to questions.

As every year, researchers from the University experiment here and at 13 other locations across the state. The crops featured at Landisville include tobacco, flowers, forage crops, corn, potatoes, grapes, and soybeans. Trials take seed, fertilizer, insecticides and

herbicides into consideration, with the ultimate goal being better plants for the farmer.

John Yocum, superintendent of the Landisville facility, led visitors through the tobacco research plots, where primary efforts are being concentrated on finding plant varieties which are less susceptible to the etch virus and black shank

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Lancaster Farming Photo by Dieter Krieg