

# Peaches over, apples coming

By JOANNE SPAHR

LANCASTER — The peach harvest is almost over, if not totally completed, in Lancaster Farming's coverage area, and the general consensus is that the present apple crop is good in quantity and quality with "spotty" variations in the different varieties over the area.

### Peaches

Most of the peach orchardists completed this year's harvest last week with the crop nearly two to three weeks ahead of schedule. Overall, the report is that the fruit was of "excellent" quality and anywhere from slightly below to slightly above average in yield.

One fruit farm near Quarryville reported a larger than average amount

of late peaches from previous years. The late rains of the season were credited with producing this occurrence.

Statewide, the crop averaged a few less than last year, and on the whole, prices hovered near last year's mark with a few growers asking slightly higher prices.

At present, cold storage peaches are still being harvested, but by the beginning of this week, all varieties of the fruit should be cleaned up.

### Apples

Apples are spotty around southeastern Pennsylvania. Paul McPherson of Maple Lawn Farms, York County, reports that his Red Delicious crop is shorter than usual, but that the Stayman Winesaps are in good quantity.

He also noted that his crop is in "pretty good shape," however, because, although the crop is smaller than usual, the size is larger than average.

Another orchard in York County, however, reports that their particular Red Delicious crop is "fairly good" with no marked reduction in number. In

general, however, they agree with McPherson that the apple crop is smaller than usual this year. One reason cited for this occurrence was the cold, wet weather in early spring which prevented the blossoms from pollinating properly.

Lancaster County orchardists reported the same contradictions. Some have full apple orchards, while

others have as low as half a crop. The Red Delicious was a low producer in some parts of Lancaster County, also.

In general, the apple prices for this year will be a slight bit higher than last year's prices.

### Pears

Pears, as well as peaches, are over for the season. They were of good quality and quantity and ranged close to last year's produce.

## Johnston named to committee

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz named Mrs. Rita Zimmer Johnston of Bethesda, Md., as a "grassroots consumer" member of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Advisory Committee on Regulatory Programs.

The two-year committee was established in early March to evaluate selected regulations affecting agriculture and the food industry. In late March Secretary Butz appointed the committee's original members, selecting them from a variety of backgrounds. The eight-member panel met formally for the first time in June.

The appointment of Mrs. Johnston, who has been closely associated with consumer concerns, is the Department's response to public requests for a strengthened consumer representation on the committee.

Mrs. Johnston is a member of the National Panel of Consumer Arbitrators and a past chairperson of the Montgomery County (Maryland) Advisory Committee on Consumer Affairs.

In 1946 she became a registered professional nurse at the Nazareth College School of Nursing, Rochester, N.Y. She received her B.S. degree from Nazareth College in 1949, and did post-graduate work at the Roswell Park Memorial Hospital, Buffalo, N.Y., and at the University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y., in 1950. In 1974 Nazareth College made Mrs. Johnston an honorary doctor of humane letters.

Mrs. Johnston has also been active in the following organizations: the Inter-American Commission of Women (of the Organization

of American States); the National Commission of the Observance of International Women's Year (Department of State); the Women's Institute of the American University; and the U.S. Committee of Cooperation with the Inter-American Commission of Women.

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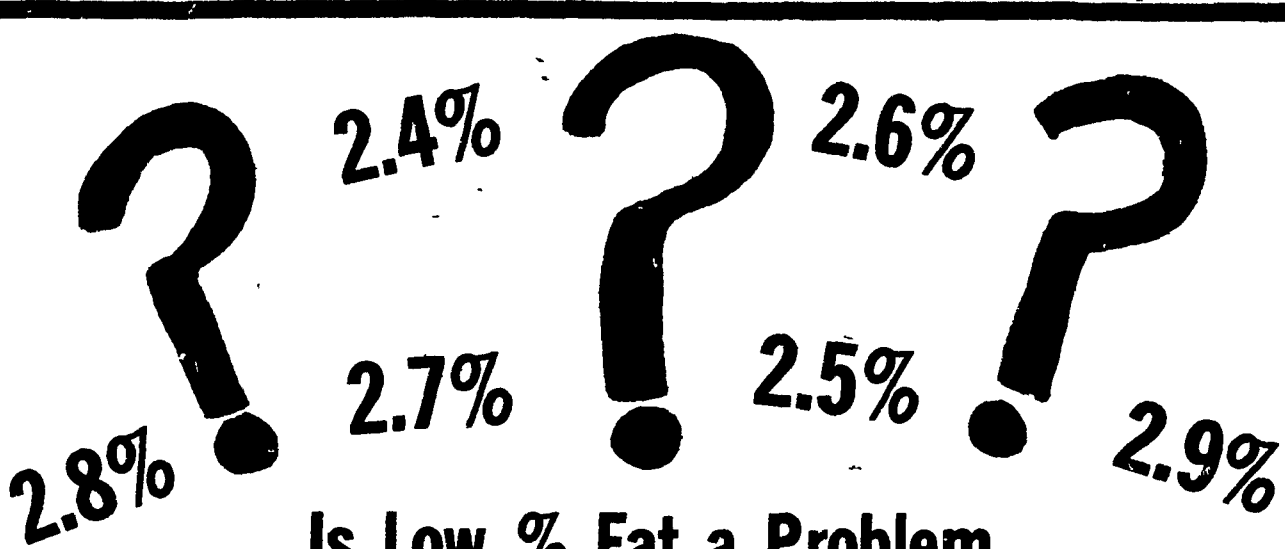
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