One last look at year 1976



Hay was plentiful in Pennsylvania last year, but better quality hay was scarce due to frequent rains.

By DIETER KRIEG EDITOR'S NOTE:

This continues ² story begun last week on the year that was - 1976. We begin with the month of May, since the first portion of the year was covered in last week's issue.

The Agricultural Advisory Committee to the Department of Environmental Resources voted at its May meeting to name a committee to work with the Department's Bureau of Air Quality and Noise Control on potential air pollution problems related to farming.

Right at about that same time, a group of farm women in York County made fun of the bureaucracy which rules and regulates agriculture. The skit was put on by the Womens' Committee of the York County Farmers' Association and directed most of its barbs at OSHA. PREDICTION TRUE

"There's a possibility we'll have a record corn crop in 1976," predicted USDA man Don Paarlberg before the crop was even planted. We all know how that turned out.

A total of 17 fairs scattered throughout the state were awarded \$333,109 in matching funds for capital improvement, it was disclosed in early May by Secretary of Agriculture Raymond Kerstetter. Potato growers received the green light from Kerstetter to go ahead with a referendum vote for a fund raising program.

Another item coming out of Harrisburg which was of big interest to farmers was that they would be exempt from water and sewer assessments if they did not hook up to those systems even though the lines crossed their property.

A unique farmers' group, the Octoraro Farmers' Club, celebrated 120 years of existence in May.

Hot-rod tractors were being readied for another season of pulls.

KUNZLER FFA PRIZE Mike Hartman, a 17-year old senior at Garden Spot High School won the Kunzler FFA scholarship in May. The youth is not from a farm, but nevertheless elected to

enroll in the FFA program due to his big interest in the outdoors.

The Pennsylvania Society of Farm Women gathered for their annual Spring Rally in Gettysburg, with nearly 1400 members present.

Penn Packing Company of Philadelphia announced in mid-May that it would be buying hogs directly from producers, beginning May 31. Their buying-receiving station was set up at the Green Dragon Market, Ephrata.

As Summer neared, the outlook for excellent crops and plentiful fruits and vegetables looked great, even though growth was slow. Indeed they did, but a storm was yet to come which changed the scene dramatically.

Legislation to protect the farmer ''from

mismanagement of their cooperatives" was approved by the House Agriculture Committee in May. tobacco to ribbons and stripping fruit from trees. It was one of the worst such occurrences anyone in

FAIR EXPANDS AGAIN Solanco Fair The Association kept its expansion and improvement program not only alive - but going strong. A second barn was built and the Community Building received some extra attention to make it more attractive and functional. The bulk of the effort was made possible through donations and voluntary labor.

BEEF, HAY, TWINE,

and EGGS Baler twine prices dropped last Spring, and the hay crop was exceeding expectations. The drought of early Spring and subsequent rains had left many a farmer with doubt in his mind as to what he might reap from his hay fields. It turned out to be "'good."

Cattle prices weren't so good, however, and virtually everyone was scratching his head over the issue. Not only were prices down, they jumped around a good bit and nobody seemed to know just why.

The Plain and Fancy Egg Ranch of Elizabethtown celebrated its 10th anniversary in late May and noted that it had marketed a billion eggs in that time. DAIRY ISSUE

June 5 was the date for Lancaster Farming's annual Dairy Issue. Making front page news that week were: Dairymen themselves who by a vast majority, had

who, by a vast majority, had an optimistic outlook for their industry.

A severe storm went through the area on June 1 and left many fields in shambles. Lightning, heavy rains, hail and extremely strong winds were responsible for cutting corn and tobacco to ribbons and stripping fruit from trees. It was one of the worst such occurrences anyone in southeastern Pennsylvania could remember. The storm was very fickle, however. Its path of destruction was felt by only a relatively small number of people.

Champion steers at the Fat Steer Show in Lancaster brought 45 cents per pound. The top animal of the show was owned by Franklin Countian, Carl Eshleman. Joanne- Spahr, Lititz, joined the Lancaster Farming staff in June of 1976, taking the position of associate editor. She is a 1972 graduate of Manheim Central High School and a Dec. 1975 graduate of West Chester State College.

Inside the June 5 Dairy Issue it was reported that Boyd Gartley, director of member and public relations for Inter-State Milk Producers, had received national recognition for his work with the media.

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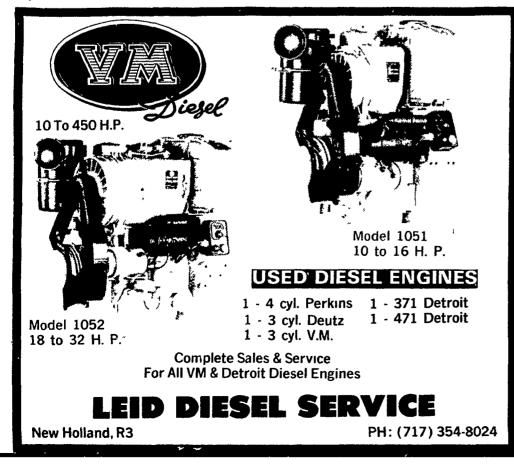
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