

## British farmers impressed with Lancaster County

LANCASTER — Thirty British farmers toured Lancaster County last Saturday and were "quite impressed" with what they saw. Capturing most of their enthusiasm were the Amish families and farms which they visited. They were fascinated by the methods of farming employed by the Amish and amazed at results. Tobacco raising was

of particular interest as well. The British farmers came over on a tour which was organized by Ciba-Geigy Company of Britain. P.L. Rohrer and Sons, Smoketown, hosted the tour here for the visitors from Europe. Acting as guide was Ivan Baughman a retired farmer who is now a salesman for the Lancaster County seed firm.

The varieties of food served at Lancaster County's well-known eating places raised a few eyebrows as well, according to Jack Beideman, Ciba-Geigy sales representative for this area.

The British, known for their proper manners, left the farmers they visited with framed prints of Cambridge University in England, a

gesture which was impressive to the Americans. Amish farmers in the Intercourse area and the Ken Hershey farm near Gordonville were among the stops the group made while in the County.

The visitors were a group of mostly grain farmers — rye, wheat and barley — although a few dairymen

were along as well. They stopped in Lancaster County for a day, and then continued on to the Midwest.

A few crop comparisons were made, and it was learned that significantly higher yields per acre are accomplished in England due to the more intense farming methods. It's not unusual, for example, to harvest 80 bushels of wheat

per acre. Britain's greater population density mandates intense farming practices.

In concluding their visit, the Britains left it be known they were fascinated by everything they saw.

## Wood identification tests most of your senses

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — Wood is a fairly complex material, being made up of various types of cells — tiny needle shaped wisps about a seventh of an inch long and several thousandths of an inch thick. The single cell exhibits surprising strength and when it unites with millions of other cells, the collective strength is astonishing.

Each tree produces a different fine structure from wood cells resulting in surface grain, color, luster, texture, hardness, weight, and odor that can be recognized with practice. Although all woods are basically similar, each piece shows variability that gives wood its unique character.

Cells vary in size and shape and are (with the exception of pores or vessels) closed at both ends. The relative size and arrangement of wood cells are fairly constant in the wood of each species but vary between species, and

thus form a reliable means of distinguishing one wood from another.

Each year a tree adds a layer of wood consisting of these small cells on the outside of previously formed wood. In our temperate climate, cells formed at the beginning of each year's growth (springwood) are larger than those formed later in the growing season (summerwood). A distinctive boundary is thus formed for each year's growth. In cross section, these layers of springwood and summerwood appear as concentric bands called annual rings.

The end surface of a piece of wood shows a cross section of annual layers of growth. This cross section shows size and arrangement of cells better than any other surface and is the principal surface used in wood identification. When wood is cut lengthwise through the center of a tree, the exposed surfaces are called radial or

quartered. A longitudinal surface which does not pass through the tree center is a tangential surface.

The end surface of a log shows an outer lighter colored region called sapwood and an inner darker core, the heartwood.

Pores are hollow tubes resembling exaggerated drinking straws. They are composed of larger cells with open ends, set one above the other. Pores are confined to hardwoods.

In course-texture hardwoods some pores are plainly visible to the naked eye. In fine-texture woods pores are visible only with a good hand lens. In some hardwoods, pores are larger at the beginning of each annual growth ring, decreasing in size toward the summerwood. These woods are classed as ring porous. In other hardwoods, pores are relatively uniform in size throughout the growth ring and are called diffuse porous woods.

Rays are narrow bands of cells aligned radially in a tree, extending at right angles to the grain from the bark inward. Some rays are wide and give the attractive ray-fleck found in some oak furniture. In the cross section of some woods, rays are so fine as to be inconspicuous without a hand lens. The width of rays is often an important feature in distinguishing one wood from another.

Many woods give off a characteristic odor when cut. Woods should be whittled and the freshly cut surface held close to the nose. Since it is more difficult to describe odor than color, known samples are often used for comparison.

Wood identification tests most of your senses and is one more skill which will help you get to know Pennsylvania's forests.

## World eating more meat, but U.S. consumption declining

WASHINGTON, D.C. — More than half the countries in the world reporting per capita consumption of red meat reported increases in 1975. Only 25 per cent of them — including the United States — reported decreases. This, according to a USDA Foreign Agriculture Service Circular issued last week.

As a result, the U.S. has dropped from its traditional 3rd place position in per capita meat consumption to 5th place.


Through per capita consumption of beef and veal in the U.S. increased from 54 kilogram (119.0 pounds) in 1974 to 56 kilogram (123.5 pounds) in 1975, consumption of pork decreased from 30 kilogram (66.1 pounds) to 25 kilogram (55.1 pounds) and over-all red meat consumption decreased from 85 kilograms (187.4 pounds) to

82 kilograms (180.8 pounds). Meanwhile, both Australia and New Zealand moved ahead of the U.S. with total red meat consumption up to 101 kg. (222.7 lbs.) in Australia and 95 kg. (209.4

lbs.) in New Zealand. Uruguay, with 104 kg. (229.3 lbs.) and Argentina, with 98 kg. (216 lbs.) continued to lead in total red meat consumption.

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### Egg marketing assn. meets in Lancaster

LANCASTER, Pa. — The Pennsylvania Egg Marketing Association met at the Sheraton Conestoga, Lancaster, on Friday, May 13. The main speaker for the meeting was Steve Fetrow from IBM Corporation. The topic was "The Growing Need for Computers in the Egg Business."

The next scheduled meeting will be held on June 10, 1977. Interested individuals can get more information by calling Paul Hess, Jr. at 717-665-3511.

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