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Summer's serenity on the
Russell Sauder farm
near Manheim



Lancaster Farming photo by Dieter Krieg

Prices paid to farmers drop sharply

WASHINGTON, D. C. - Index of Prices Paid by Farmers, which moved up steadily for straight months, dipped sharply during the month ended June 15. At 184 (per cent of its Jan. - Dec. 1967 average), the index was down 10 points (five per cent) from a month earlier, 11 points (six per cent) below a year earlier. The decline was the sharpest month-to-month cutback since that of October - November 1975, when the index also moved down from 194 to 184. The reason for the downturn is generally lower prices across the board. Soybeans, cattle, corn, wheat, vegetables, and fruit are all lower. At \$8.18 per bushel, soybeans were down \$1.03 from a month earlier; at \$2.09 per bushel, corn was off 16 cents; Beef cattle [Continued on Page 24]

Survey of ag weather needs to be conducted

DIETER KRIEG - Taken for granted whenever its calm, normal, weather is in the main this week for two reasons: First, severe thunderstorms sliced through sections of Lebanon and Lancaster Counties, injuring people and damaging property. Included in the tragedies was an incident in southern Lancaster County in which two children were struck by lightning. The second reason for weather making the news again is the the U.S. General Accounting Office is mailing out questionnaires to determine agricultural weather needs. Reports of efforts being made by the U.S. government to upgrade weather reporting services for farmers were first reported in Lancaster Farming last Fall. Since then, subsequent articles have reported on the progress of the government's efforts to improve meteorological data as it applies to the farming [Continued on Page 26]

Wheat yields surprising, prices disappointing

DIETER KRIEG - The wheat crop in southeastern Pennsylvania is coming off surprisingly well, with the disappointment being the price. Within Lancaster County, millers are paying an average of \$2.29 per bushel of wheat delivered to the farm. Quotes reported to the Lancaster Farming this week ranged from a low of \$2.10 to a high of \$2.38. In the huge wheat producing areas of the Midwest, the crop is bringing \$1.79 per bushel. With transportation costs knocked off, prices drop even lower. Coupled with the low prices are carryovers which are the highest since 1963. An international and national wheat glut is responsible for the depressing figures. The harvest itself, however, is coming along well. Badly needed rains during the last few days have brought combining to a halt, but few farmers (if any) are complaining about it. The rain hasn't hurt the wheat so far, and other crops are [Continued on Page 14]

Lancaster Co. canning center opens next week

JOANNE SPAHR - MARIETTA, Pa. - "Canning is a lethal thing, it's not something I'm to fool around with," Maxine, the executive director of the soon-to-be-opening community canning center in Marietta. In the beginning of next week, the center, housed in the basement of the Marietta borough hall, will be opening its doors to the public, of Lancaster County and Ms. Kress and her four assistants have worked out a system which they believe is "safe, sanitary, and friendly," for everyone taking part. The canning center is the first of its kind in Lancaster County, although a prototype had been set up two years ago in Lebanon County. According to Judy Stover, chief of the division of Consumer Services with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Rural Affairs, the Lebanon Center was implemented on an experimental basis to see if canning could be done on a community level. That center was the first to ever be introduced into Pennsylvania, and from its inception, two centers have sprung up this year—the Marietta facility and one in Nanticoke, Luzerne County. Lancaster County's center, according to Ms. Stover, is a follow-up project of the facility that began two years ago. Much of the [Continued on Page 30]