

# Heat 'burns'

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occurred in the Delmarva Peninsula and New Jersey, where the poultry business is heavily concentrated. Drought has also been more pronounced there than it has in southeastern Pennsylvania, where rainfall has even been generous.

A survey of farmers follows:

Preston Bankert, Red Lion, says his pigs are doing fair. Sows don't have as much milk, but he's had no trouble with farrowing. The shoats on the lot are doing fine, but the pigs in confinement aren't doing the way they should.

Field conditions are quite dry in York County, Bankert continued, saying that the early corn looks good but needs rain badly. Soybeans look surprisingly good despite the conditions, a situation which might be due to moisture and humidity which was available for their growth right after planting.

Bankert described the sweet corn in his area as

really poor, with the ears not even half filled out.

For the first time in his life, Bankert had to plant corn over again this year because of its failure to germinate during the severe dry spell. "I should have planted a lot more over," he admitted, stressing the extent of the drought in York County.

The York Countian described the small grain harvest as having been average, and yet "really good" considering the severe Winter and Spring the crops had to endure.

Ed, Dick, and Jim Yost of Tri-Y Farms, Bernville, milk over 100 Holsteins and report a decrease in their cows' appetites and production levels. A few more cases of mastitis have also been discovered. About the only times the cows go to the feed bunk is early in the morning and during the evening, says Ed.

Mark Yorgey of Red Wing Farms, Fleetwood, reports "the weather didn't hit us hard at all." The Yorgeys are poultry and crop farmers. He reports no significant problems either in the chicken house or field, and considers himself fortunate, realizing that some operators have been badly hurt by the sustained onslaught of high temperatures.

John Reese, who farms right on the Pennsylvania-Delaware state line, is concerned about running out of pasture despite having had rain about once a week. More is needed, he says, to keep the pasture growth coming. He recently quit his poultry business due to high feed costs.

James Hoopes, West Grove, has worked under

conditions a lot of farmers can identify with: making, hauling, and stacking hay in this hot weather. The difference is that Hoopes is involved with 1000 acres of hay. "It's terrible trying to make hay and straw—a guy can only take so much of these hot mows," he commented in a telephone interview Wednesday evening.

Hoopes also noted that the heat was affecting the performance of his tractors. Corn is starting to curl up in some Chester County areas, he reported, although occasional showers have hit the County.

A mushroom grower near Kaolin says this hot weather is really bad for mushroom farmers who are attempting to get a harvest right now. That's not the case for most growers, however, since most mushroom houses are either empty now or being filled. It's the off-season for most mushroom farmers, but a few are on a different schedule. A big expense for mushroom farmers during this hot weather is air conditioning. The houses and storage areas have to be kept cool. Crops may be off by as much as 50 per cent for those who had mushrooms ready to harvest these last few weeks.

Marvin Weaver of Peach Bottom talked mostly about his new air-conditioned tractor when he was asked to describe the effects of hot weather on his farm. Having just purchased the air-conditioned Case, he's really happy about it because it's offering him some relief from the heat. "If it wouldn't be for that, I don't think I could keep at it every day," exclaimed the southern Lancaster County dairyman.

"We can't slow down because of this hot weather," Weaver continued, "when the hay is ready, we have to be ready too, and yet we can only take so much of this

heat and humidity." He has put away 10,000 bales of hay so far this year.

Weaver noted that conception rates and production have dropped during the hot spell, but not as much as he might have expected. Milk production had held up until last Monday.

John Strawbridge, York County hog producer from the Stewartstown area says the hot weather has given him a few extra chores to do. He has his pigs out on pasture and helps to keep them cool by hauling water to them for drinking and "bathing." He says he has to be watching his 500 head of hogs very regularly to avoid losses and claims crops still look pretty good in his area. "It's dry, but we're not suffering yet," he concluded.

A farmer in the New Holland area reports that some of the corn is curling its leaves due to drought, despite showers passing through Lancaster County two and three times per week. Overall, he conceded, it's not bad though. Lancaster Countians consider themselves fortunate.

The prolonged hot spell was bad news to most farmers. The good news is that the heat wave is being replaced with some cooler weather.

## Potato farm tour

YORK, Pa. - Potato growers in York County have announced their annual field inspection tour, scheduled for July 29, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Participants will first visit the Clair Flinchbaugh farm, near Felton. Stops planned from there are at the farms of Roy Jackson, Jr., Felton, R2, Harry Miller, Jr., Felton

R1, and Eugene Manifold, Airville R1.

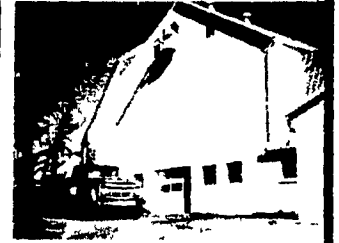
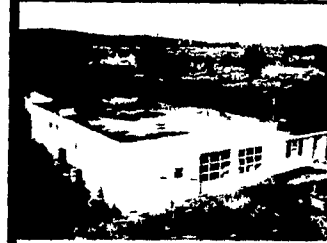
The field inspection will end near Stewartstown at the Chem-Agro demonstration plots, where a barbecue luncheon will be served.

Reservations for the tour and the lunch can be made by contacting John Smith, York County Extension Service, at the Court House.

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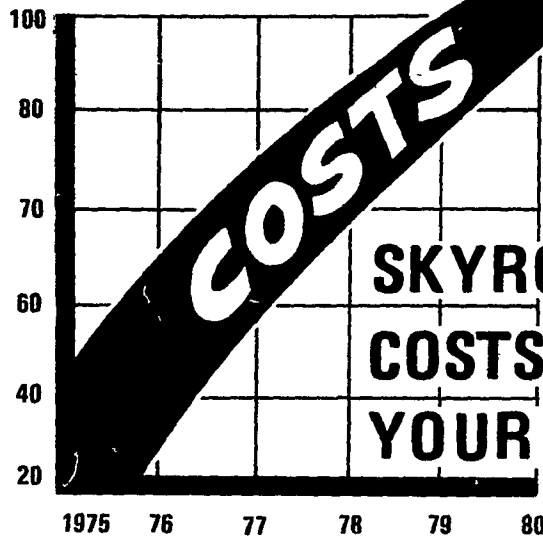
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