

# Crops watched closely by 'eyes' in space

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The impact of weather upon major food crops throughout the world can be monitored, and future crop yields estimated with high accuracy, as the result of a four-year, cooperative experiment conducted by three government agencies, a team of scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has reported.

The scientists, from NOAA's Environmental Data and Information Service, made their report last week at an international symposium evaluating

progress of the Large Area Crop Inventory Experiment (LACIE) held at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston, Tex. LACIE is being conducted jointly by NOAA, NASA, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The experiment was an attempt to produce estimates of total wheat production by country from information obtained through the Landsat satellite and a global meteorological network. Satellite imagery permits estimation of the proportion of cropland in a country devoted to growing wheat, while the weather

data is used to estimate crop growth state, vigor, and potential yield.

Jerry D. Hill, a senior member of NOAA's LACIE team, reported the team has developed special computer models to estimate wheat yield, using monthly precipitation and temperature data to assess crop yield potential.

Modelling accuracy, he said, is illustrated by the 1977 wheat yield and production estimates for the Soviet Union. LACIE scientists estimated total wheat production would be about 91.4 million metric tons, close to the USSR

reports of 92 million metric tons released at the end-of-the-year.

According to Hill, yield estimation capability developed by NOAA scientists for the LACIE project demonstrates another application of

weather data to the solution of a variety of critical national problems. The NOAA team already has applied its modelling capability experimentally to the problem of allocation of natural gas during the heating season.

Co-authors of the paper presented by Hill at the LACIE seminar were Dr. Norton D. Strommen, Chief of the EDIS Climatic Impact Assessment Division, and Malcolm Reid, Chief of the Climatic Assessment Branch.

## Schuylkill Co. DHIA reported

TAMAQUA - The herd of William R. Daubert, Pine Grove R3, had the highest milkfat in Schuylkill County for the month of September, 1978, according to information released by Penn State and J. Allan Shoener, county agent.

With 69 cows on test, he averaged 2.00 pounds of milkfat per day and 54.3 pounds of milk per cow per day.

Second for the month was Miller & Rex, Inc. Andreas R1, who, with 34.5 cows on test, averaged 50.1 pounds of milk per cow per day and 1.94 pounds of milkfat per day.

Third was Emmett W. Rhein, Pine Grove R3; fourth was Heisler Brothers, Tamaqua R1; and fifth was Carl and Dale Heisler, Tamaqua R1.

Seventy cows finished lactation records with 600 pounds of milkfat for September. The records are

based on 305 days or less, two times actual production.

Highest was Miller and Rex, Inc., with their cow Lucy, who had 23,552 pounds of milk and 902 pounds of milkfat. Second was Emmet

W. Rhein's Love, with 12,476 pounds of milk and 839 pounds of milkfat. Heisler Brothers' Dixie was third. She had 19,744 pounds of milk and 811 pounds of milkfat.

## Land-use meeting set

BIGLERVILLE - Adams Countians will have the opportunity next week to air their views and listen to others' opinions regarding agricultural zoning and land-use planning. The meeting which will focus on these subjects is a public affairs activity that is scheduled to get underway at 7:30 p.m., November 8, in the Penn State Fruit Research Laboratory, Biglerville.

Cooperative Extension Service planning specialist Stanley Lembeck and resource development agent, John Munson, will be joined by Ralph McGregor, York County farmer and planning commission

member to describe measures for preserving land in agriculture as operating in nearby states and counties. Problems and possibilities for the different measures will be discussed.

## Membership urged

YORK - Farmers in the York County area are invited to join the York County Farmers Association, uniting with 2.8 million members nationwide.

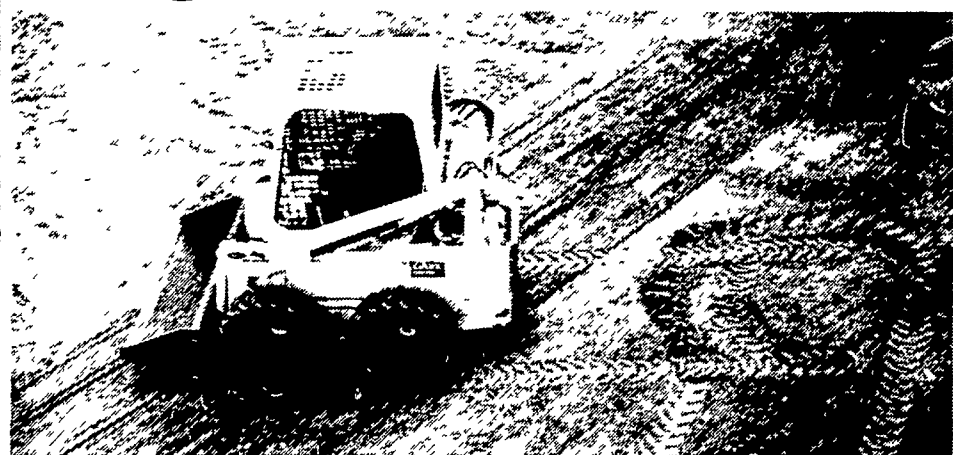
Those interested in more information about the group, can contact F. H. Hut-schenreuter, Box 75, Route 2, Airville, Pa. 17302.

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7:30 P.M. FARM & HOME CENTER, LANCASTER, PA.

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