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Fields feel brunt of Winter storm

By KENDACE BORRY

LITITZ — Erosion, that ever-present enemy of all farmers seemed to be the biggest concern of farmers after the rainfall and flash floods of this past week.

Farmers all over the Lancaster Farming area told of more inconveniences caused by the heavy rains and high waters, but when naming the problem that most resulted from the wet weather, the answer came again and again, erosion.

The waters which flooded and lay in the fields on Wednesday didn't stay long enough to damage crops, farmers and Extension county agents in the area agreed.

As Jay Irwin, Lancaster County Extension Service, said, the water just wasn't on that long. He thought that the Winter wheat and hay would not have been hurt very much at all. He did mention that some barley fields, if in a low lying spot, where the water would lie on the field for a long period of time, or turn into ice, the barley seed might be damaged.

Irwin thought that there wouldn't be too much damage to crops at this time of the year because most are in a dormant stage, and the damage potential would be a lot less than at certain critical periods over the Spring and Summer months.

From York County, John Smith, county

agent, and several farmers reported that they did not know of any farmers who were flooded out really bad. They thought that water may have gotten into a few barns, but their major concern with the gully erosion that was evident in uncovered fields.

They told that the ground on the surface

of the fields had thawed, while that underneath stayed solid. As a result, instead of being absorbed the rain ran off the fields, washing the thawed ground along.

From Chester County, Glenn Shirk, county agent, said that in his county, because of the frozen ground, they too had less absorption and more runoff. He

thought that surface applied lime and fertilizer, put on this past Fall, might have had slight losses due to the washoff, but didn't think the problem was a serious one. He imagined that some barns "got wet" but thought that classified as more of a nuisance than anything else.

He thought the word inconvenience summed up the whole effect of the weather, for he noted that unlike last year, when many chickens were lost, due to water backing up, he had heard of no such incidences this year. He believed there would be little financial loss in livestock or wet grain.

The other loss he did mention was the fact that the water could not get into the ground where it could do some good.

Berks County farmers too talked of the soil erosion, telling of gullies that they had seen in fields. Jim Haldeman, county agent, echoed their thoughts, calling some of the erosion problems "fairly serious" but noted that there hadn't been too much property or livestock damage because of the storm.

Warren Archibald, district conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service, said that he saw evidence of sheet and gully erosion, especially on bare, unprotected fields.

(Turn to Page 40)

Vegetable meeting slated for Feb. 5-7

HERSHEY — The 1979 Pennsylvania Vegetable Conference and Trade show will be held February 6, 7, and 8, at the Hershey Motor Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey. Highlight of the conference will be the speech of USDA Secretary of Agriculture Robert Bergland, who will address the group on Wednesday.

Tuesday will be Processing Tomato Day, with topics such as the factors influencing herbicide performance, what's new in tomato varieties, and diseases in tomato transplants being discussed among many others.

During the lunch, Cindy Lesser, the 1978 Milton Tomato Harvest Festival Queen, will present tomato awards.

Wednesday is general vegetable day, with problems in dry beans, snap beans, cabbage, sweet corn, muskmelon, pumpkins, Winter squash, eggplant, pepper, and celery covered as well as talks given on new varieties of plants and drip irrigation, to mention some of the day's activities.

The Hon. Robert Bergland, secretary, USDA, will speak Wednesday morning, advising the growers on the United States

(Turn to Page 40)

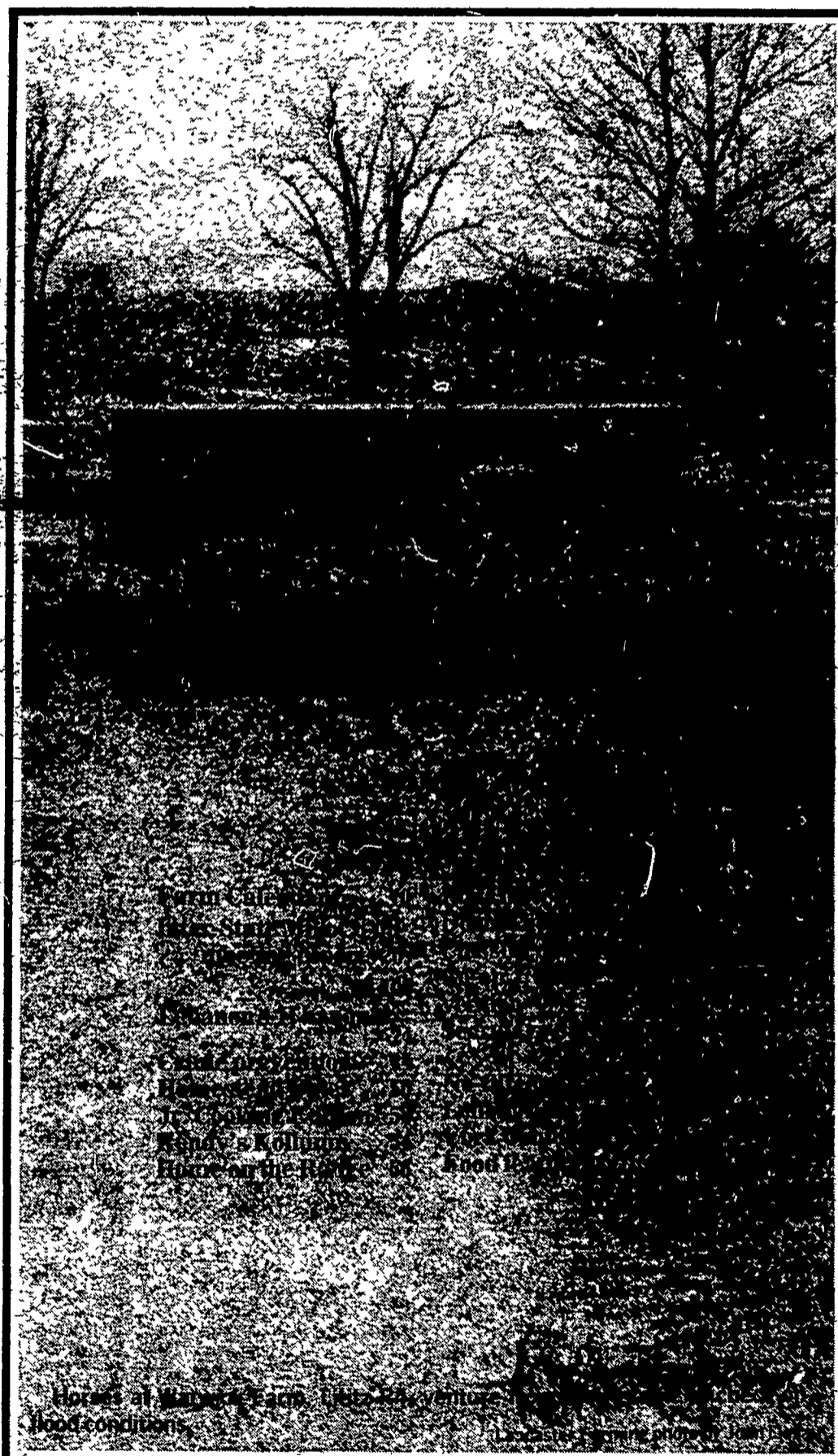
Hay abundant, prices stable until Spring

LITITZ — The general agreement among hay dealers is that there is plenty of hay around, and hay prices are not expected to go much higher this Winter.

According to Robert Frame, manager of Vintage Sales Stables, "any time cattle is cheap, hay and straw is high priced." He explained that the reverse is also true. Frame said "the only hay that will stay high is the real good quality hay." He felt that "we've seen all we're going to see" in the way of prices. "They have a lot of hay on hand upstate" he added.

Norman Kolb of New Holland Sales Stables, said "there is a fair supply of hay around. I would look for the market to stay about steady through the Spring." He said "hay was high last year because the South was dry. This year we have had good weather all around. Even the local people don't have to buy hay" he added.

"Straw had an unusual Fall" Kolb continued, "Farmers baled a lot of fodder and now we have more straw on hand." "Straw sales are still good, considering the fodder" he said. Kolb attributed the price differences in hay and straw to quality. The bottom price for hay is usually \$45 a ton. This hay will be used for mulch.



Moore also has some tips on how farmers might make an extra 20 cents per bushel of corn sold. See page 103

Very good future seen for cattlemen

By DIETER KRIEG

LANCASTER — Cattlemen can look forward to a very good year, according to Penn State's agricultural economist H. Louis Moore. Moore, who has an informative and entertaining

style that's uniquely his own, was one of the featured speakers at the Lancaster County Cattlemen's Day. He predicts good prices in all phases of the industry, and bases that opinion on low

cattle numbers and reasonable feed prices.

Moore's optimistic report comes on top of record-setting prices that are already being recorded at area sale barns. According to the easy-to-listen-

to Moore, feeders will command the most advantageous prices. Cull cow prices will also be very favorable, and may, in fact, outstrip fed cattle prices at times. The reason for that, explains Moore, is that there

is likely to be a 25 per cent drop in cull cow numbers, compared to a year ago.

Moore sees fed cattle slaughterings as going up two to three per cent this year. Non-fed steer and heifer slaughter will be up 50

per cent, he says, and cow slaughter may drop by 25 per cent. He sees total slaughter as going down by five per cent.

Overviewing the statistics, the Penn State economist

(Turn to Page 36)