

Drought assistance available to state farmers

HARRISBURG — The lack of rainfall in Pennsylvania has caused production problems for many farmers this summer, and Friday State Agricultural Secretary Penrose Hallowell reminded farmers of assistance programs available to help offset drought-related losses.

Hallowell also announced the Agriculture Department is working with federal agencies to secure a disaster area designation for the Commonwealth which would

make emergency loan programs available to any farmers who suffer property or production losses.

Currently, seventeen counties (Adams, Berks, Bradford, Bucks, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Juniata, Lebanon, Lehigh, Lycoming, Mifflin, Northampton, Snyder, Sullivan, Union and York) have been designated as disaster areas.

The Agriculture Secretary stressed the importance of a disaster designation.

"Our latest reports show soil moisture levels to be 90 percent short throughout central and southern Pennsylvania. Quality and yield of our crops have been affected, and many farmers are facing severe losses. We hope that a declaration from the Farmers Home Administration of USDA will be forthcoming for the entire state, in order to most effectively and rapidly deal with the problems facing farmers due to the drought conditions," he said.

Hallowell noted several programs of assistance are already available through the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and the Farmers Home Administration.

"The ASCS disaster payment program provides

farmers with direct payments for losses in wheat, corn, barley and other feed grains if their yields are reduced by 40 percent or more due to drought," he said. Payments under this program are limited to \$100,000 per person.

The ASCS also has an emergency feed program under operation to pay livestock producers for feed purchased to replace their normal feed grain production.

"Payments under the Emergency Feed Program are limited to 50 percent of the cost of feed grain equivalent up to two cents per pound," Hallowell said.

The program covers payment for up to 10 pounds of feed grain equivalent per day per animal.

The Bucks County farmer said other assistance was available through the FmHA for Lehigh County farmers, and for other farmers who qualify. Under farm disaster emergency loans, farmers are eligible for loans to cover actual losses on production and property, and to refinance debts, up to \$500,000.

The FmHA can provide a 90 percent guaranteed loan at current market rates if the farmer obtains financing from conventional sources. Insured loans are available at five percent interest if conventional financing is not available.

Other FmHA loan programs include economic emergency loans which are available in designated areas when farm credit is

unavailable due to economic stress. These loans would cover production, chattel and livestock purchases and debt restructuring.

Farm operating loans are also available through FmHA at 10.5 percent interest for farmers who are unable to obtain credit on reasonable terms.

Hallowell said the Administration would continue to monitor farm economic and production situations and would continue to seek a disaster designation for the Commonwealth in light of the continuing shortfall of rain.

Further information on availability of these ASCS and FmHA programs can be obtained through the county offices of FmHA, ASCS and at Agricultural Service Centers.

Woodson Farm Holstein wins show

LANSDALE — Woodson Rorae Gent Evelyn, a three-year-old cow shown by Woodson Farm, Pennsburg, was the champion cow of the Montgomery County Holstein Show held recently at the 4-H Center, Lansdale.

Reserve champion was E-Bert Complete Story, an aged cow shown by Fred L. Seipt, Freddy Hill Farms, Lansdale.

Junior Champion was shown by Daniel and Timothy Alderfer Du Mar Farm, Harleysville, and reserve junior champion was shown by Woodson Farm.

A total of eight two-prize animals were exhibited before judge Richard Kauffman, Elizabethtown, a Lancaster county Holstein breeder.

Winning class exhibitors were

Junior calf class - Daniel and Timothy Alderfer and Harry C. Wood, III Pennsburg.

Intermediate calf class - Durrell G. Alderfer, Harleysville and Robert L. Freed, Sr., Harleysville.

Senior calf class - Jonathan Keener, Telford and Nancy Freed, Harleysville.

Junior Yearling class - Mary Renee Slemmer,

Lederach and Woodson Farm.

Senior yearling class - Roderick W. Wood, Pennsburg and J. Harold and Susanne B. Keener, Telford.

Three and Four Year old Dry Cow class - Jonathan Keener and Roderick W. Wood.

Dry Cow Class - Roderick W. Wood and Fred L. Seipt.

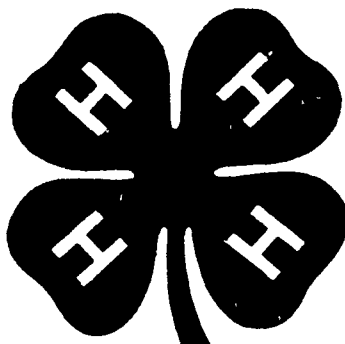
Junior Two year old - Harry C. Wood II, Pennsburg and Phillip Derstune, Souderton.

Senior Two Year Old - J. Harold and Susan B. Keener and Woodson Farm.

Three Year Old Cow - Roderick W. Wood and Daniel and Timothy Alderfer.

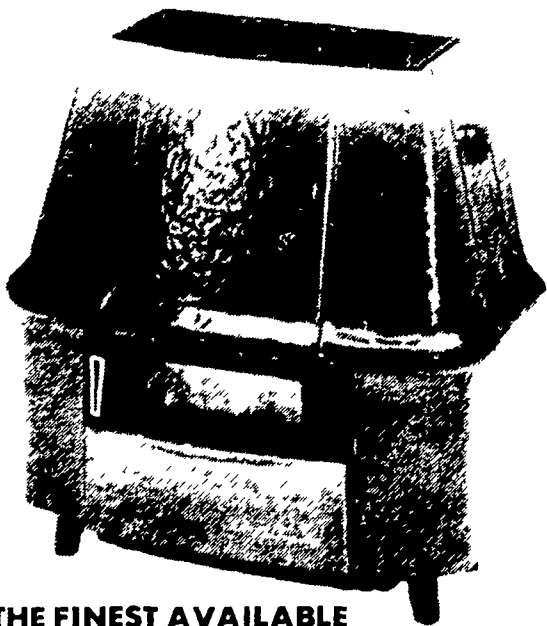
Four Year Old - Woodson Farm and Robert L. Freed.

Aged Cow Class - Fred L. Seipt and Roderick W. Wood.



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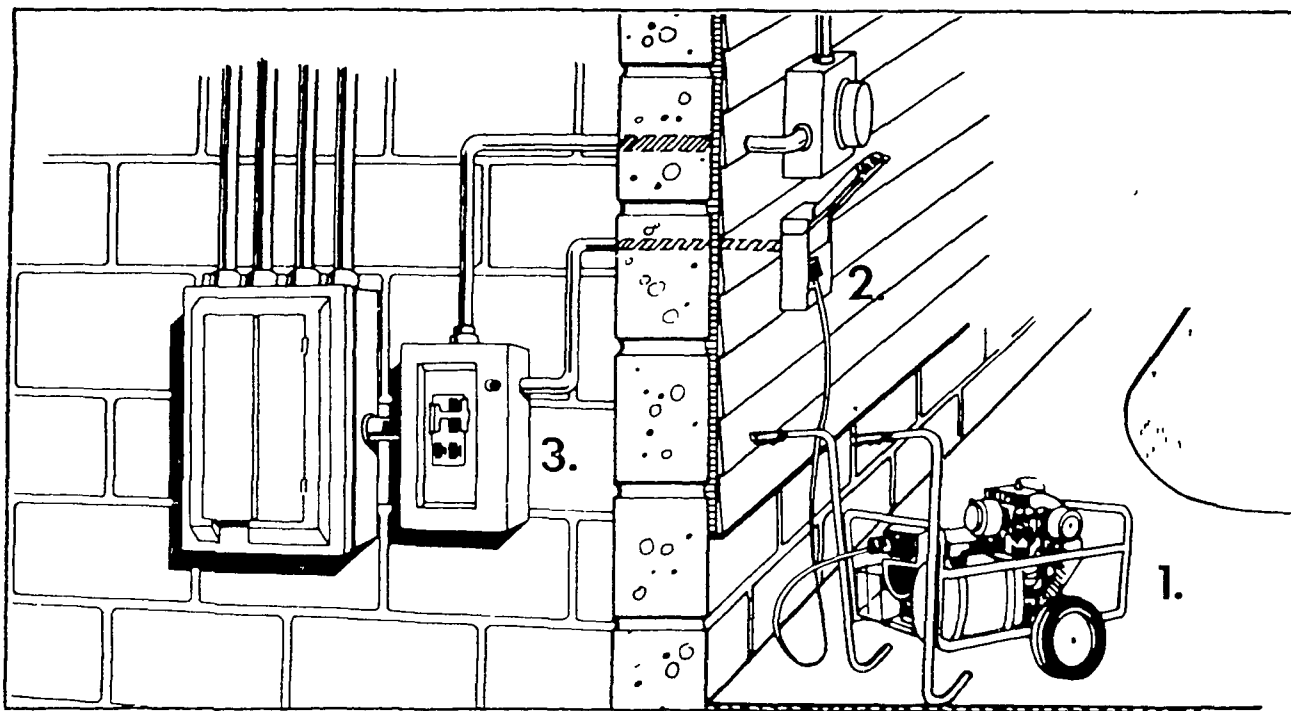
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