

Now Is the Time

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arrives. When we fertilize during the Fall we encourage new growth, which will be tender, and will winter-kill in zero weather.

It is best to wait until early Spring to apply any plant food to these types of plants. Mulching is a good thing to preserve moisture and control weeds, but keep the fertilizer in the bag until 1982.

To Get Serious About PRV

The Lancaster County PRV Task Force has released its guidelines for preventing pseudorabies. This is a volunteer program. The success of this effort will depend largely on the immediate and simultaneous cooperation of everyone related to the hog industry that includes farmers plus all those sales and service personnel who support them. If we are going to make any progress toward slowing down the spread of this disease or eradicating the disease, we have to act fast — before this winter and before it becomes more widespread. There is no guarantee the guidelines will prevent infection, or that if a quarantine is lifted on an infected farm, that the farm will not be re-infected. However, a serious preventive effort should greatly improve the odds of not becoming infected, and it should "set the stage" for successful eradication efforts, exclaims Extension Agent, Glenn Shirk.

The pseudorabies guidelines should also help reduce other health problems — a side benefit. Copies of the guidelines are available from the Lancaster County Extension Office (telephone 717-394-6851).

To Secure Wood Supply

Many home owners are planning to use more wood for heating their homes this winter. This is a

national trend resulting in a strong demand for all kinds of wood. Prices are also reflecting this increased demand. Woodlot owners might be in a position to do some tree culling and thinning and realize some extra income from the area. It's not too early to be getting this wood on hand or to do some cutting. Since dry wood will give better results than green wood, it will be best to have the wood supplies cut and drying before cold weather arrives. As I have traveled the county in recent weeks, I have noticed more and more wood piles in rural areas. Wood is a replaceable natural resource and deserves our attention in production as well as marketing for fuel saving purposes.

Farm Calendar

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Stream Protection Measures workshop, Lancaster Co. Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 22

Ephrata Fair, Ephrata, until Sat.
Harmony Grange Fair, Westover, until Sat.

Lebanon Conservation Open House, Donald Bollinger Farm, Kleinteltersville, 1 p.m.

Guernsey Sale, 56th Renewal and State Sale, Harrisburg

Thomasville 4-H Club meets, 7:30 p.m., York Co. 4-H Center, York

PA All-American Nat'l Guernsey Show

PSU corn field day, 9:30 — 4 p.m., Rock Springs Research Farm

Thursday, September 24

West Lampeter Community Fair, until 26th.

Update training for Pesticide

Township officials hear details on Conestoga clean-up

EPHRATA — Efforts to inform the public about a federal program designed to assist farmers and other landowners in the Conestoga River watershed in Lancaster County continued Thursday evening as township officials met with government representatives here at the Junior High School.

This was the first public meeting to be held within the watershed area, according to Ray Brubaker, county executive director of the Lancaster Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office. Of the nine townships invited to attend this informational meeting, only four

townships were represented: East Cocalico, Clay, Ephrata, and East Earl.

The township officials were brought up to date on the Rural Clean Water Program which will bring \$1.9 million into the Lancaster watershed to improve water quality by controlling nonpoint sources of pollution, like sediment, manure runoff, fertilizer and herbicide runoff, and sewage effluent. It was pointed out that sediment is the number one pollutant of national waterways.

Under RCWP, farmers in Lancaster County can request financial assistance in remedying on-farm problems concerning erosion or manure management with the government picking up 50 to 75 percent of the tab.

"This may be one of the last times for farmers to get conservation practice financial help," stated Tom Johnson, administrator for the Lancaster County Conservation District, citing the current trends of budget cutting in the Reagan Administration. The RCWP funds, which are available to only those farmers in the Conestoga water-

shed, will be added to the \$140,000 allocated by USDA for solving Lancaster County's soil and water conservation problems on an annual basis.

When questioned about whether those farmers who request assistance will be granted confidentiality, the government officials assured the township officials progress in the watershed would be publicly reported by numbers. Presently, only eight farmers have applied for help. None have received final approval on their applications from the ASC committee and District to date.

For those farmers who do apply and are approved for funding, the RCWP program allows for improvements to be made during a three to ten year period. Maximum cost-sharing for each farmer will be \$5,000. In the event a farmer dies before the work is completed, Brubaker explained, the contract would be cancelled unless the heirs or new landowner would want to continue in the program.

Public meetings for farmers are being planned for October and November at locations scattered through the project area to minimize transportation problems for people wishing to attend. Dates will be announced.

"This introductory meeting for township supervisors was held so they can be aware of what the program (RCWP) will provide and so they can steer people who need help to us for assistance," concluded Brubaker. "These people are aware of conservation problems in their townships and are the ones who get requests for help or complaints." — SM

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