

Sewing leader

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curtains, furniture covers, pillow cases and more.

During those years she remembers the 4-H project changing to meet the feed sack need. She explained that the feed sacks were a tightly woven cotton, usually printed or plain colors, but were never long enough to make a full-length dress except for a small child. The girls had to make waists, or what is known as blouses, and skirts.

"When I tell the 4-H sewers today about the 'feed sack era,' they look at me in amazement and distaste," she chuckles. "But it really wasn't terrible, it was just accepted."

"As time moves on so have the Busy Bees," she stated. "Many 4-H'ers and their memories have come and gone during the club's 30 years, and I have progressed with those times," she said. "New fashions: minis, maxis, tailored, baggies, new fabrics-polyesters, rayon, acrylics, inflation and automation."

Now the girls learn to sew on the machine with several built-in stitches. They sew with a variety of fabrics and make suits, coats,

pants and more.

"And today," she sighed, "a spool of thread costs one dollar compared to a nickle of thirty years ago."

Busy Bees has an enrollment of 16 which is much larger than in its novice years she noted, due to the automobile and its speed. "Times have changed, but the basis of 4-H is still the same," said Mrs. Leidigh, "learning, helping, sharing and doing."

Mrs. Leidigh happily remarked, "During my 30 years as a 4-H leader I have enjoyed every minute working with the young people. They are exciting, fun and full of life."

She laughs, "In the club everyone calls me 'Grammy.' 4-H'ers haven't changed much, they still forget their thread, scissors, and measuring tapes and come running to 'Granny' to borrow the tools and ask for help."

"Thirty years isn't a very long time in a person's life, especially when you truly enjoy what you are doing and I truly have enjoyed my involvement with 4-H and will continue to enjoy every minute I am teaching and helping the girls in the Busy Bee 4-H Club," Mrs. Leidigh said.

USDA reports record crop year

WASHINGTON, D.C. — USDA reported last week that this will be a record crop year. It noted the "all crops" index stood at 114 (percent of its 1977 average) on September 1, up nearly 2 percent from both a month ago and the previous all time high set in 1979.

Increased corn, soybean, and cotton prospects were mainly responsible for the rise.

Corn production is now forecast at a record 7.94 billion bushels. That is 3 percent above the August 1 forecast, 19 percent more than a year ago, and fractionally above the previous record of 7.938 billion bushels set in 1979, reported USDA.

Sorghum output is set at 864 million bushels, up nearly 50 percent from last year's small crop and the highest since 1973.

With the production of oats and barley already seen at 7.4 million tons, respectively, that means feed grain (corn, sorghum, oats, and barley) production is being forecast at a record 241 million metric tons, up 22 percent from a year ago, nearly 2 percent above the previous high set in 1979.

Soybean production is now estimated by USDA at 2.09 billion bushels, up 4 percent from the August forecast, 15 percent above

last year's output — and the second largest on record.

Tobacco production is forecast at 1.97 billion pounds, up 11 percent from a year ago and the largest since 1978.

Where is all the production coming from? From more harvest acreage and higher yields per acre.

All wheat is seen at a record 80.7 million acres, up 10 million acres from last year. The total tops a previous high of 75.9 million acres harvested in 1949. Yield per acre, at 34.1 bushels, is up from last

year's 33.4 bushels and second only to the record 34.2 bushels set in 1979.

Corn is forecast at 74.1 million acres, up from 73.1 million acres last year and the highest since 1949. Yield per acre, at 107.1 bushels is up from last year's 91.0 bushel average and second only to the 109.7 bushels of 1979.

Soybeans are seen at 66.9 million acres, the lowest since 1978. But yield per acre is seen at 31.2 bushels, second only to the record 32.1 bushel average of 1979.

Wm. Heald is Extension dairy specialist

UNIVERSITY PARK — William C. Heald recently was appointed to the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service staff as a dairy specialist.

Heald is coordinating programs in the areas of dairy herd management and the Dairy Herd Improvement Association.

A native of West Grove, he received a bachelor of science degree from Penn State in 1964

with a major in dairy science. He earned a master of science degree from the University of New Hampshire in 1966 and doctor of philosophy degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1969, both in animal physiology.

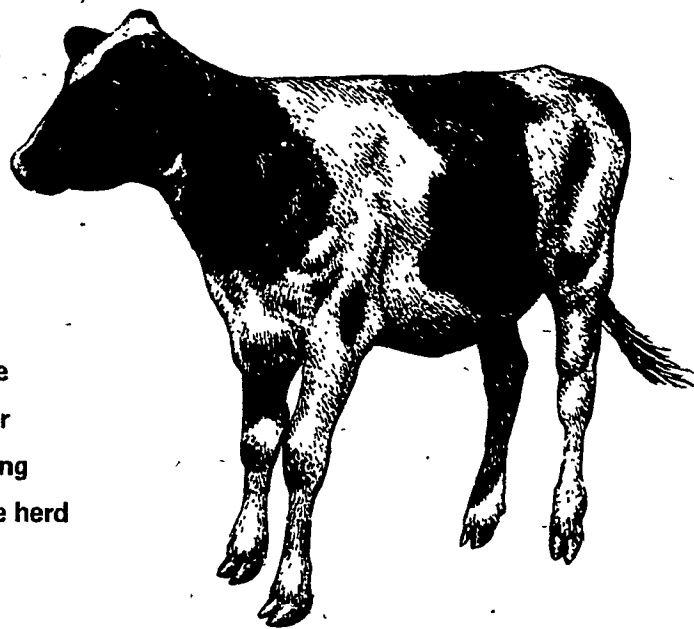
Prior to his appointment to the College of Agriculture faculty, Heald was an associate professor of animal science at Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

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