

Lancaster Farming

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All Roads Lead To Ag Progress

Ag
progress
Days
Theme

BY LOU ANN GOOD

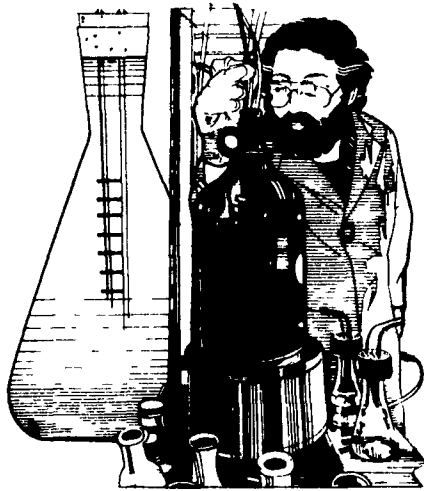
The kids want a vacation, but you need to check out the latest agricultural equipment to make daily chores easier. You don't have time to do both.

Don't despair. You can please the whole family. Visit Ag Progress Days at Rock Springs Agricultural Research Center near State College held August 18-20.

Integrating agriculture education with fun and games fills the schedule of this annual three-day event. General Manager Joseph Harrington said, "Each year gets bigger and better."

This outdoor showcase of university programs and agricultural technology plays a yearly informative role in the lives of countless farmers. And this year, which celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station, promises to be the best ever.

Publicity chairman Charlotte



The Agricultural Scientist: Working For A Better Tomorrow

Murphy said that exhibits will not only display present research but also show the payoff agriculture has reaped from past research.

The theme "The Agricultural Scientist: Working for a Better Tomorrow" stems from a quote by Henry Prentiss Armsby, a 19th century inventor, who said, "We can't afford to give short term remedies to long term reasons." That principal is exactly the reason the experiment stations continue researching—to solve problems not pacify them with temporary answers. The college wants to show how this was done in the past and how it will continue in the future.

Past achievements features a hands-on display of historical and rare machinery with other antique items. Visitors can actually turn cranks, move levers and inspect the implements for a real educational experience.

Those interested in the most up-

to-date equipment will not be disappointed. Over 295 exhibitors will display equipment. Those desiring to purchase machinery for their own farm operations know that there is nothing like watching equipment work to help them make the best purchasing decisions.

Harrington said, "Let's face it. Farmers know what a tractor looks like, but they want to see all those new little gimmicks and gadgets which help make their jobs a little easier. There is no better way to see what's best than to watch competitive products doing the same demonstration."

Weather permitting, here are the daily starting times: Corn chipping—10:30 a.m.; conservation planting—11:30 a.m.; primary tillage—12:45 p.m.; silage bagging—1 p.m.; mowing, tedding and raking—2 p.m.; baling and handling—3:15 p.m. See the

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\$600,000 Fire Damage To Lanc. Barns

BY PAT PURCELL

An estimated \$600,000 in property, hay, straw, and livestock was destroyed by fire in two separate blazes in Lancaster county. A hay barn owned by John Esch was destroyed by fire Tuesday afternoon in New Providence Township and fire leveled the barn of Charles Kreider in Mount Joy Township on Wednesday evening.

The Wednesday night fire swept quickly through the Kreider barn in Mt. Joy Township on Valley View Road. The fire started about 9 p.m. approximately 20 minutes after Kreider left the barn and went to the house. The fire swept the 30-year-old two-story cement block and wood barn and by midnight nearly 200 firemen had responded from nine area fire

companies.

State Police Fire Marshall Barry White estimated the damage to the barn at \$250,000. The milking equipment, 100 tons of hay, 50 tons of straw along with farm equipment were also lost. Forty dairy cows and 20 head of young dairy stock and 20 head of steers were also loss in the blaze. White estimated the additional loss at \$250,000.

According to White, state and local fire officials have two theories on what started the fire. It

appears that there was fire in the silo before it was in the barn. The silage in that silo was six years old, according to White, and the older the silage is apparently the more volatile it is. The second theory is that the fire was started in the straw. According to White Kreider's son had a tractor in the lower part of the barn hauling out manure. The exhaust stack was only a foot below the straw and the sparks coming out of the stack may have ignited the straw.

"I tend to feel it was the tractor

just because it went so fast that it must have come from an open spark. If it would have been from the silo it would not have gone so fast. It went quickly because Mr. Kreider was in the barn just 20 minutes before that," said White.

According to White the cause of the fire at the Kreider farm as well as the fire at the Esch farm are still under investigation.

Despite the efforts of the Refton firemen along with the aid from six additional fire companies the Esch

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Weather Affects County Tobacco Crop

BY PAT PURCELL
LANCASTER — What mother nature has not done to discourage the tobacco crop harvest this year, the tobacco market has. Last year farmers saw what has always been considered a dependable money-making crop drop more than \$.40 a pound from the what it had commanded on the market the previous year.

Lack of rain and the extended periods of intense heat have hurt the county's tobacco crop according to area farmers. The crops which were planted the earliest may have fared better than those planted later in the season and although many farmers have already begun to harvest and some have completed the harvest they are still hoping for some rain to revive what is left in the fields.

With tobacco still hanging in the some barns throughout the county from last year, most farmers are not hopeful about this year's market and some farmers like C. Richard Neff of Neff Brothers Inc. on Sheep Road outside of Mil-

lerville, say it's almost impossible to break-even much less make a profit with today's market prices and labor costs.

"The price and cost of labor almost makes it impossible to make it profitable. It's getting to the point where you are only going to plant just as much as what you can take care of yourself," said C. Richard Neff. "The way the economy is you are going to have to go to something that's just a lot easier.

While some areas had a normal amount of rain other areas nearby had near drought conditions. Apparently those crops planted the earliest in the season are going to prove to be the better crops this year.

"It is a dry crop this year. Some sections had rain and some didn't and those who didn't, there is a difference. Those who planted early around May 15, their crop is beautiful."

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Sugar Sweetens Classic

BY EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

LANCASTER — The first place junior two year old that was reserve grand champion at the recent Lancaster County Holstein Show topped the Conestoga Classic Sale here Thursday evening at \$3,000. Welk-Crest Rex Sugar consigned by Paul Welk of Peach Bottom sold to Melvin Lehman, Bloomsburg. The show heifer was by Maplebound Starlight Rex out

of the Very Good Welk-Crest Jerri Satin with records over 20,000 pounds of milk and 900 pounds of fat.

Two consignments shared the second-high price of \$2,100. A calf listed number one in the catalog from the Niki Syndicate and Jere Skiles, Narvon, sold to Ben Beiler and Tim Barlow, Cochranville. And a fresh cow from Norman and David Kolb, Lancaster,

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Lonna Rohrer, left, and Teresa Martin, right, have something to smile about. Both were winners at the annual Lancaster County Poultry Queen Pageant. Teresa captured the 1987-88 crown. As alternate, Lonna will assist the queen with promotional activities. For more pageant details, see Section B12 and B14.