Lancester Farming, Saturday, August 15, 1987-A21 A20-Lancaster Farming, Saturday, August 15, 1987.

## **Maryland** Committee **Elects New Chairman**

Floyd Allred, a farmer in Colora, Cecil County, Maryland, was elected as Chairman of the State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC) at its meeting on July 15, 1987. Allred, a Cecil Soil Conservation District supervisor for the past 25 years, and member of the SSCC for seven years, was elected to succeed Richard W. Wright of Wicomico County, now President of the Maryland Association of Conservation Districts.

Robert Davis of Wicomico County Soil Conservation District (SCD) has been appointed by Secretary Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. to represent the Lower Eastern Shore. He succeeds Richard W. Wright who represented the Lower Shore for the past eight years.

George H. Godfrey, of Sudlersville, Queen Anne's County, was elected to serve as Vice Chairman of the SSCC. Supervisors reappointed to serve until 1992 included: William Attman of Princess Anne, Somerset SCD, and R. Calvert Steuart of Upper Marlboro to Prince George's SCD.

Farmers in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed are not participating in the Conservation Reserve Program to the extent of farmers in other regions of the country, reported Pearlie Reed, Maryland's State Conservationist. Reed will be meeting with top USDA officials to discuss ways to attract more Maryland participants and asked for suggestion from the SSCC.

He also warned farmers that the Internal Revenue Service Code now requires that all farmers who

use a conservation tax deduction must have an approved conservation plan. The Fifth sign-up period for CRP was July 20-31.

Rosemary Roswell, Maryland Department of Agriculture, announced that MDA will be working together with the Soil Conservation Service, Cooperative Extension Service, and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service to inform farmers about the advantages of the Conservation Reserve Program because of its importance to both the agricultural community and to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Departmental reorganizations became official as of July 1, 1987, reported James Peck of the Water Resources Administration of the Department of Natural Resources. Sixty people will be transferred to the new Department of the Environment from the Water Resources programs. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Office of Environmental Programs is now a part of the new department, said Gould Charsee of OEP.

Other matters discussed by the SSCC included liability insurance for soil conservation district supervisors, and the water appropriations bill, which will be heard by the Environmental Matters Committee on August 4, 1987 in Annapolis.

The next meeting of the SSCC will be held in conjunction with Wye Field Day on August 27, 1987.

For further information, call Louise Lawrence, 301-841-5863.



– As southeastern Pennsylvania entered the eighth week without substantial gains, growth of the majority of crops in the State came to a standstill due to lack of moisture, the State Department of Agriculture reported Wednesday.

Returning from a tour of four hard-hit southeastern counties with Gov. George M. Leader, Agriculture Secretary W. L. Henning declared drought conditions in many areas were reported by some farmers interviewed to be "the worst ever experienced." He said conditions were almost beyond belief in the areas toured over back roads.

- Pennsylvania poultrymen received more for their products in July than for the previous month and there was no change in feed

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prices, the State Department of Agriculture said today.

Egg production in July was 272 million eggs, one percent below June and three percent below July of last year. The 2,125 million eggs produced in Pennsylvania during the first seven months of the year is above the production for the comparable period of 1956.

- Spread of the serious Dutch elm disease in Pennsylvania can be curtailed provided owners of elm trees take proper precautionary measures, the State Department of Agriculture warned today following receipt of inquiries on control.

Dutch elm disease, first found in Pennsylvania in the early 1930's, was believed brought to this country from Holland on a shipment of logs. It is now found in all 67 counties in the State where elms are grown.

- Small reddish flowers on lowgrowing weeds may be danger signals to farmers, particularly in the Southeast, the U.S. Department of Agriculture warned today, Witchweed, a parasitic plant that attacks corn and some other crops, has been found on about 38,000 acres in both North Carolina and South Carolina.

Farmers in these and other states are asked to be on the lookout for an unfamiliar weed with bright green, slightly hairy leaves, and the bright generally reddish flowers. First discovered in this country in the fall of 1956, some witchweed plants were found first breaking the ground surface in latter May of this year in the Carolinas. Wilting of volunteer corn plants was evident a few days later. Witchweed roots penetrate roots of host plants, robbing them of food and water.



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