Farmers Receive Drought Help

AKRON (Lancaster Co.)—Farmers in drought-ravaged areas of Pennsylvania are receiving help from other farmers through the Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) network, reports MDS coordinator Lowell Detweiler.

MDS volunteers are providing corn silage to hard-hit farmers

from Chambersburg north as far as Union and Perry Counties, Detweiler said. Some corn in these areas is only two feet high and not worth harvesting, he said.

Farmers will share shelled and ear corn and hay for their silos in the next weeks.

To date, Amish and Mennonite

farmers in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley have sent 84 semitrailer loads of silage to central Pennsylvania. Farmers in eastern Lancaster County have shared about 100 tractor trailer loads. Farmers donate the corn for silage -receiving the silage sometimes help pay trucking costs.

PDA Boar Test Going Well

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Pennsylvania's official boar testing program, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Meat Animal Evaluation Center (MAEC), is well underway with an exceptionally good set of boars far into the testing 'period.

These boars are consigned by some of the most progressive

purebred breeders from throughout Pennsylvania and surrounding states.

Small boars weighing between 40 and 65 pounds are delivered to the MAEC and are placed on a one- or two-week adjustment period determined by weight.

They are then put on test in pens of four boars each (by one sire) until the entire pen reaches an

average boar weight of 230 pounds. During testing the boars are on full feed and are weighed every 14 days.

After each 14-day test period, each pen's average daily gain and feed efficiency are calculated and the boars are ultrasonically scanned for back-fat thickness and loin-eye area. After passing the sale committee's screening for soundness, the top one-half to two-thirds of the boars are catalogued for sale.

Pennsylvania's first annual winter performance-tested boar sale is scheduled for Wednesday evening, February 12,1992, beginning at 6 p.m. at Penn State University's Ag Arena.

For more information on Pennsylvania's performance testing programs or to request a boar sale catalog, please contact: Glenn Eberly, Director, Meat Animal Evaluation Center, 651 Fox Hollow Road, State College, PA 16803; phone (814) 238-2527 or (814) 865-5857.



Mike Martin of Martin's Mulch, Ephrata, helps fill trucks for transporting sliage. The corn sliage pictured came from the farms of Levi R. and John and Daniel Stoltzfus near Morgantown.









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