

Lancaster Farming

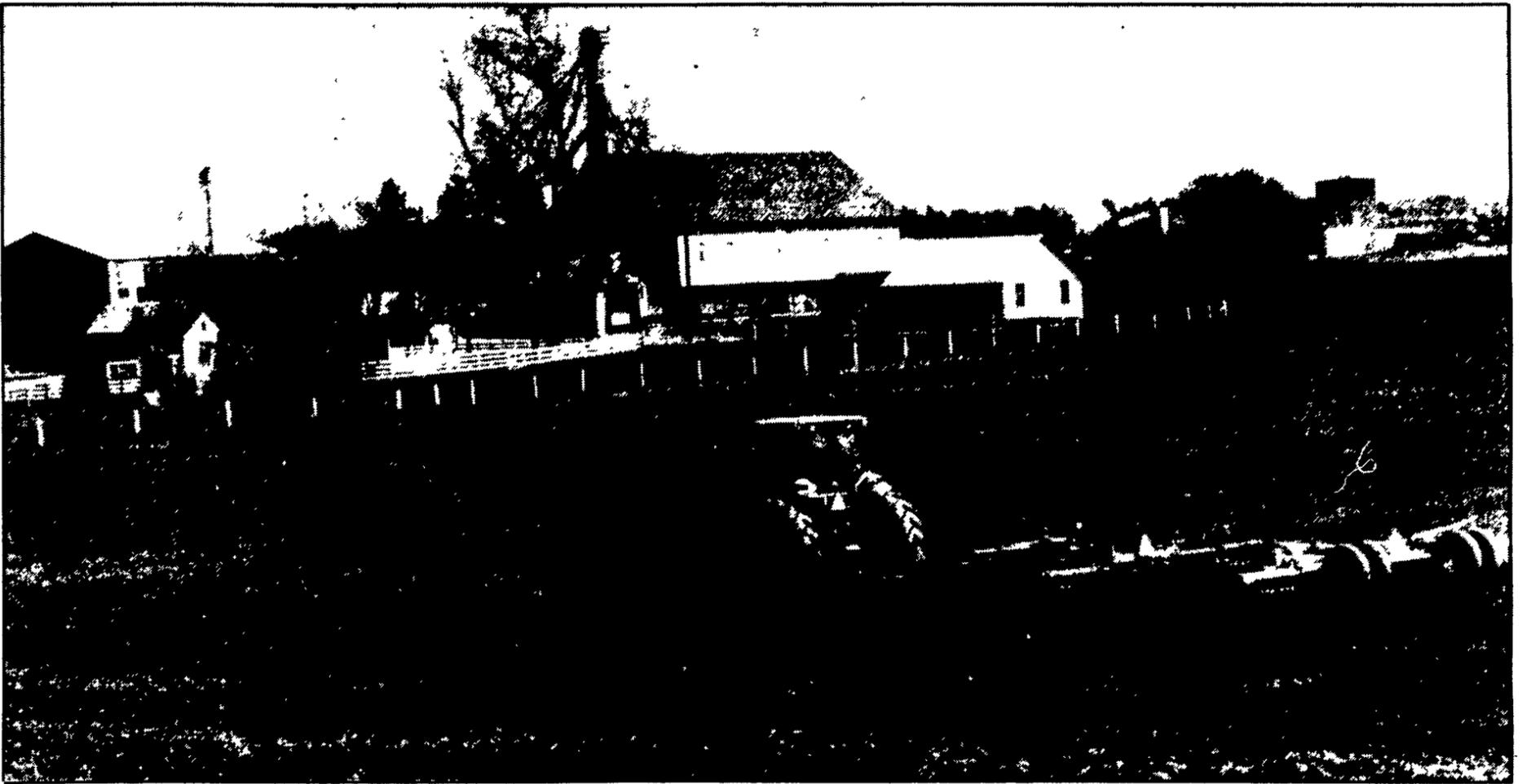
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Farmers attempted to move into spring fieldwork this week, but as usual, some areas were wet and some still so dry planting was held up for fear weed control agents would not be effective until some moisture was in the ground. The Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service reported some corn planted but it is still too cool in many areas. About 70 percent of the winter wheat crop was described as good or excellent. Pasture development has been slow and grazing is off to a slow start.

On a trip south of Taneytown, Maryland along Route 194 on Tuesday,

corn planters were at rest because water was lying in the low areas and the fields were quite wet. But as you moved north into York County, Pennsylvania, only 20 to 30 miles north, tillage equipment was at work in ground that worked up quite nicely. In the photo, Bill Waltersdorff provides the nice spring farming scene. Bill and his brother Tom farm 1,300 acres south of Spring Grove, along Route 116. Parents Norman and Delphine Waltersdorff live in the Waltersdorff Farm homestead that provides the nice backdrop for the field activity. Photo by Everett Newswanger, managing editor.

123 Receive Nutrient Management Certification

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
LICKDALE (Lebanon Co.) — Calvin Miller, a Lickdale dairy farmer, is a certified "individual" nutrient management specialist.

He is one of the first in the state. He has yet to receive his official certification card, they just came in from the printer this week. But he knows his certification number — No. 317.

The number is not reflective of the number of people who took the test and received certification.

Actually, 123 people recently passed the state's first round of nutrient management examinations to become certified as a nutrient management specialist.

Though it means virtually nothing, some clarification might be needed to keep the numbering system from being confusing.

More than a year ago, the state

compiled a list of people who were probable candidates for certification based on their existing jobs and the skills those jobs required.

As that list was compiled, individuals were assigned a number for identification. That was carried over into the first round of testing and now into certification records.

(As an even further aside, Gerald Batz a part-time worker for the Berks County Conservation District, has certification No. 1.)

Miller was one of 22 people statewide to recently take (20 passed) the certification exam to receive certification status as an "individual" nutrient management planning specialist.

Again, some clarity is needed to understand another important aspect to the program.

There are three categories of nutrient management specialists under Act 6 regulations — "individual" for personal plan-

ning use only; "public," for government plan reviewers; and "commercial," which is self-explanatory.

That means the Lickdale-area dairy farmer will be able to develop his own nutrient management plan, once final plan regulations have been approved. That is anticipated to be Oct. 1.

While that almost sounds like

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Wheat Growers Should Scout For Disease, Insect Challenges

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
ROBESONIA (Berks Co.) — Despite near-ideal wheat growing conditions, now is the time for growers to begin scouting for plant disease and insect problems, according to a Penn State agronomist who spoke at a dairy farm here on Tuesday.

Dr. Elwood Hatley, professor of agronomy extension, spoke to about a dozen producers and agri-industry representatives at the Penn State-sponsored Wheat Production Walk. Hatley told producers that, as the flag leaf begins to emerge from the wheat stem, growers should look for signs of mildew and septoria leaf spot in the uppermost leaves.

Hatley spoke at the farm operated by Mark A. Wolfskill and family north of Robesonia.

"Right now is the critical time for disease scouting," said Hatley.

Unfortunately, according to Tim Fritz, Montgomery County agent at the Wheat Production Walk, scouting now can create conflicts of work. "It corresponds to the busiest time for everything else" in planting season, he said.

One strip in a Wolfskill field,

the wheat was at stage 7, with the flag leaf (which produces about 85 percent of the carbohydrates necessary for grain development) still in the stem.

Stages 7 or 8 are the best times to spray to control potential disease formation. After stage 9, when the flag is fully emerged, it is already too late to spray.

Hatley said that most years, producers inspect fields for mildew. "That's the major, most consistent disease," said Hatley.

But last year's growing conditions could have been ripe for the development of septoria — a lot of rain. After planting in late September, there were 10 days of rain, according to Mark A. Wolfskill.

That rain splashes the septoria from the soil to the lower leaves and all the way to the critical upper leaves — and could result in high yield losses.

Hatley indicated he'd seen no signs of mildew or septoria at the Wolfskill farm. To develop mildew, there has to be high humidity

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State Grange Day Event Focuses On Rural Issues

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
UNION DEPOSIT (Dauphin Co.) — Hundreds of members of the Pennsylvania State Grange met Monday at the Sheraton Inn-Harrisburg in Union Deposit to celebrate state Grange Day, attend educational workshops and a banquet with state representatives. The day-long event occupied

several side meeting rooms and the main ballroom of the convention hotel for the banquet.

For the rest of the year and the next, the Pennsylvania State Grange is celebrating 125 years of existence, starting with the first annual meeting, which occurred Sept. 18, 1873 (the organization began with a meeting, thus the 125th meeting is this fall).

The Grange itself won't be 125 years old until 1998.

As part of that celebration, at last year's annual convention, a torch that was made at the Huntingdon County Area Vocational Technical School was lighted and began a tour of each county level Grange in the state.

While the Olympic-style torch was set to be in Potter County for

Monday, it was brought to Harrisburg for the Grange Day event to remind members of the significance of the symbol which represents the purpose of Grange — to pass the light of knowledge and cooperation throughout the land.

The message of hope for rural Pennsylvania families 125 years

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