

LETTER TO THE EDITOR—

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EPHRATA — Enclosed find one dollar for charter subscription to Lancaster Farming, also an advertisement for Mail Box Market — Mrs. Henry G. Rutt



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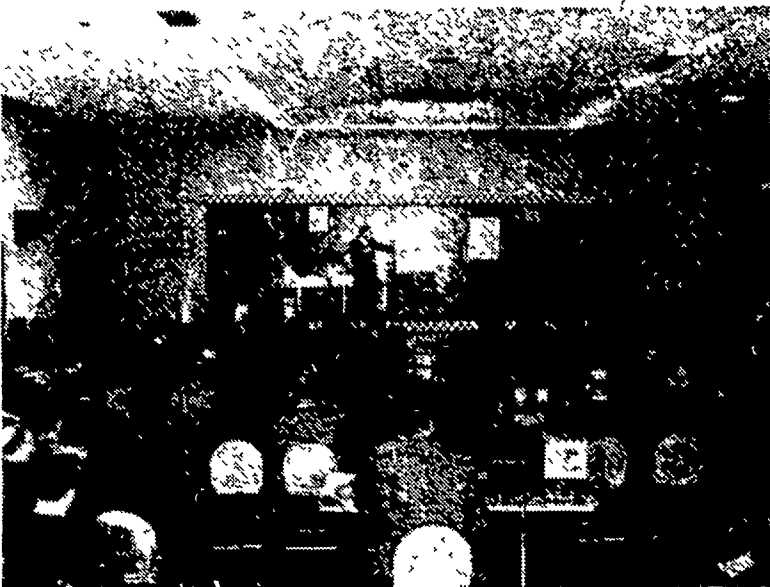
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Latest on Turkey Feeding



Edged in the Checkerboard that identifies Ralston-Purina, the stage was set for latest news and tips on turkey production when Ralston-Purina dealers convened recently at the American Legion Home in Palmyra, Pa. This was one of three Keystone State meetings sponsored by the St. Louis firm to bring dealers and friends up-to-date on the newest in production, management and marketing.

Hybrid Tomato Seed Production Cost Cut Drastically by Self-Sterile Line

Progress Report No. 35 — Pennsylvania Agriculture Experiment Station, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa.

Drastic cuts in the costs of producing hybrid tomato seed are indicated in the development of a self-sterile line with an unusually long style on the blossom. Specimens of the plants bearing the extruded style were originally selected in genetic materials at the Pennsylvania agricultural experiment station in 1951 by Dr. B. L. Pollack.

Since that time, Dr. Pollack has re-selected plants bearing this character so that the style protrudes about a quarter-inch beyond the blossom, whereas the original tomato plants had extrusions of only a thirty-second to a sixteenth of an inch.

Greenhouse, Field Trials

In addition, Dr. Pollack has grown the special materials for three years in both greenhouse and field trials to definitely fix the character. Earlier work in

sterile lines showed wide variations in this character depending on various environmental factors.

Transfers of the long-style sterile lines are now being made to more desirable tomato lines and thus pave the way for easier breeding of tomato hybrids. Because of the extruded style, no pollen is shed on the surface of the stigma, and thus no selfing takes place, making the new type blossom ideal for first generation hybrid seed production with hand-pollination, Dr. Pollack explained. He reported his findings at the last annual meeting of the American Society for Horticultural Sciences.

Commercial Prospects

"This line eliminates the tedious operation of emasculating the blossom by hand" said Dr. Pollack, as he envisioned application of such materials to commercial production of hybrid tomato seed. He has been using some of the materials as the female line in his tomato breeding work at Penn State and has produced seed at less than a tenth of the labor costs required with normal parent lines.

Progress Report — No. 36

With a few changes in construction, ordinary 15-cubic foot food freezers have maintained temperatures of 25 degrees below zero, Fahrenheit, with no fluctuation of interior temperatures. Professor John E. Nicholas has found in experiments under way at the Pennsylvania agricultural experiment station.

"Few people realize the wide variations in temperature of foods as the ordinary freezer cycles on and off" says Professor Nicholas as he explained that all his previous studies point to superior quality of foods maintained at temperatures below zero degrees Fahrenheit.

Test freezers, running in ordinary room temperatures, have the motor running continuously, instead of the usual cycling. However, instead of the one-third horsepower motor ordinarily expected, Professor Nicholas has installed a smaller motor, of one-sixth horsepower.

Another innovation is removal of the coils which in current freezers are usually located under the outer shell of the freezer. Shifting these coils to a new location adds the equivalent of an extra inch of insulation, Professor Nicholas explains, since the heat thrown off by the coils during operation must be overcome to maintain low temperatures. He also encourages the addition of another inch of insulation, contending that too many manufacturers have sacrificed lower interior temperatures to space-saving and attractive exteriors.

GUERNSEY MEET MAY 7-10

May 7-10 has been set for the 79th annual meeting of the American Guernsey Cattle Club with the Pennsylvania state association as host. The meeting will be in Philadelphia and vicinity, with a purebred Guernsey sale and business session slated for May 9.

"If frozen food of high quality is to be expected, then a freezer should be constructed to hold and maintain constant temperatures low enough to preserve the quality in that food" he said. Thus far, operational costs, including the electrical energy, have been less with continuous running than with the normal cycling methods, Professor Nicholas reports.

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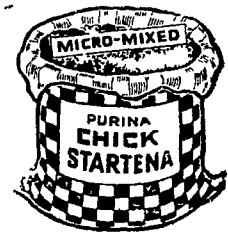
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