



THE FIRST WINNER OF the American Farmer Degree in the Solanco Groundhog FFA Chapter is Lester J. Wiker, R3 Quarryville. He won the degree for his achievements in leadership, agriculture and for good farming practices (LF Photo)

## Solanco FFA Graduate Receives American Farmer Degree for 1957

A 21-year-old Solanco High School graduate has been awarded the American Farmer Degree, the first ever awarded a Solanco FFA graduate.

The winner is Lester J. Wiker, son of Mr. Samuel F. Wiker, R3 Quarryville.

The American Farmer Degree is the highest that can be attained by a member of the Future Farmers of America and makes the recipient eligible to be named American Star Farmer of the Year, the ultimate honor possible.

He will receive his degree during the 30th annual National FFA Convention this fall at Kansas City. The Convention is held in conjunction with the American Royal Livestock Show.

The degree is based on agricultural and leadership achievements through high school and at least one year of farming after graduation.

Among his projects as a vo-ag student were swine, Ayrshire dairy heifers, tobacco, corn, wheat, barley and tomatoes.

His Hampshire swine won several breed awards at the Southern Lancaster County Fair and at Farm Show. He was also a member of the stock judging team during FFA Week at Penn State.

He is currently operating two farms of 72 and 50 acres on shares as well as growing tobacco on his father's farm. In all he helps operate 200 acres, near Quarryville.

### Feed Additives Fail To Replace Management

Farmers feeding medicated substances to their animals are warned not to depend on these to replace good animal husbandry and sanitation practices by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Medication added to feed to control certain specific disease conditions may not affect the particular problem concerning the animals of any one farm.

The visible signs of so many diseases are so similar, professional diagnosis, backed by laboratory tests, is frequently essential to clear up any particular condition, veterinary authorities said.

Indiscriminate use of medicated feeds can lead to a sense of false security which may be expensive in terms of lost production, decreased efficiency and actual loss of infected animals.

Still working with his Hampshire hogs, he is cross-breeding them with Yorkshires and has some 80 head on feed. He owns two tractors, a combine, corn picker and weed sprayer.

He was graduated from Solanco in 1954. He won his Green Hand, Chapter Farmer and Keystone degrees as a member of the Groundhog Chapter under the supervision of Jack Owen, Solanco vo-ag instructor.

He held the office of chapter reporter in 1952-53 and chapter treasurer the following year. That year he was also county reporter. He received the Senior Plaque offered each year to the most outstanding senior FFA student.

Wiker was married June 30 to the former Miss Leah Burkholder of R2 Denver.

### 'Flushing' Ewes Increase Number Of Twin Lambs

Scientists in Australia demonstrated how the lamb crop can be increased if the ewes are "Flushed" on an increasing feed scale so they are at top thriftiness when bred. The ration of the ewes was reduced six weeks before mating, then two weeks before mating, and for two weeks after, the ewes were given an increasing quantity of feed so that their weight was rising.

A similar number of control ewes were fed on a normal constant level program.

As reported in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the flushed ewes had 63 sets of twins and a lambing percentage of 109. The ewes on a normal feeding program produced eight sets of twins and had a lambing percentage of 91. The percentage of ewes which conceived in the experimental and control groups were about the same.

Feeding is particularly important, the American Veterinary Medical Association said, during the last 50 days of gestation when the unborn lamb is making 75 per cent of its growth and when the ewe's udder is making its greatest development.

Undernourishment in this period can result in pregnancy disease and other ills. The more pregnant animals must walk in search of feed, the more energy they require. Ewes allowed to become fat during early pregnancy are more susceptible to pregnancy poisoning, the Association said.

## Henning Bans Oklahoma Cattle Due to Anthrax

HARRISBURG — As a measure of protection for Pennsylvania's livestock industry, State Secretary of Agriculture William L. Henning today placed a ban on the importation of all species of livestock from the state of Oklahoma where parts of three counties are under quarantine due to an outbreak of a highly transmissible livestock disease known as anthrax.

Effective at once, the prohibition will continue until the Oklahoma quarantine is lifted, possibly "sometime in September," Henning declared.

In erecting the fence against Oklahoma cattle, swine and sheep, he said "livestock for immediate slaughter consigned to abattoirs under full-time federal or state inspection service will not be affected by this prohibition, provided they are accompanied by a health certificate signed by the regulatory official of the Oklahoma State Department of Agriculture."

Kansas has established a road block against importation of livestock from Oklahoma where more than 600 animals, including 500 cattle, have fallen prey to the dread disease in less than a month according to reports received by Secretary Henning and Dr. H. A. Milo, director, State Bureau of

## Poultrymen Received More in July For Products; No Feed Cost Change

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania poultrymen received more for their products in July than for the previous month and there was no change in feed prices, the State Department of Agriculture said today.

Egg production in July was 272 million eggs, one per cent below June and three per cent 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.

A Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service survey showed the average price received for commercial broilers was 23 cents a pound liveweight on July 15. This compares with 21 cents for June 15 and 22 and one half cents a pound paid July 15 a year ago. Live turkeys, at 35 cents a pound, brought two cents more per pound than the previous month but three cents under the July 15, 1956 price.

Poultrymen averaged 39.2 cents a dozen for eggs, nearly six cents a dozen above the June 15 price and four cents more than the price received for eggs on July 15, 1956.

Feed costs on July 15 were down from a year ago for laying mash, scratch grain, broiler growing mash and poultry ration, but showed no change from a month earlier.

The number of layers on Pennsylvania farms in July was 15,744,000, up less than one per cent from the previous month but four per cent below July 1956.

### Animal Industry

No anthrax cases have been diagnosed in Pennsylvania in the past eight years, making today's embargo action a movement to prevent possible outbreaks of anthrax and heavy financial losses to farmers.

Anthrax disease spores, once established, can live in the soil for years, Dr. Milo explained. Most outbreaks occur when animals are on dry, short pastures. Death comes suddenly and the animals have an enlarged spleen and very dark, uncoagulated blood.

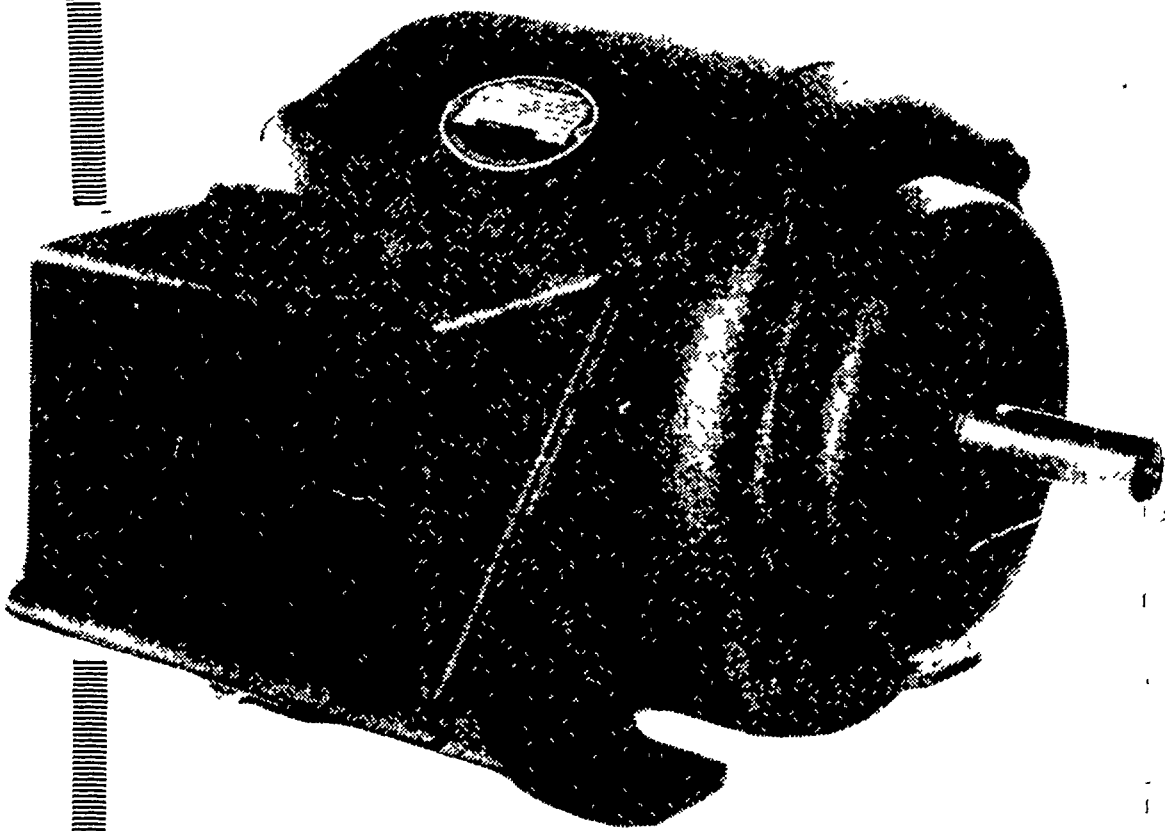
Prior to 1949 Pennsylvania had only nine reported cases of anthrax. In July 1949 eight dairy cows died on a Franklin County farm but no deaths have been recorded since then.

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