

Lancaster Farming

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Gypsy Moth Eggs Found on Crate In Harrisburg

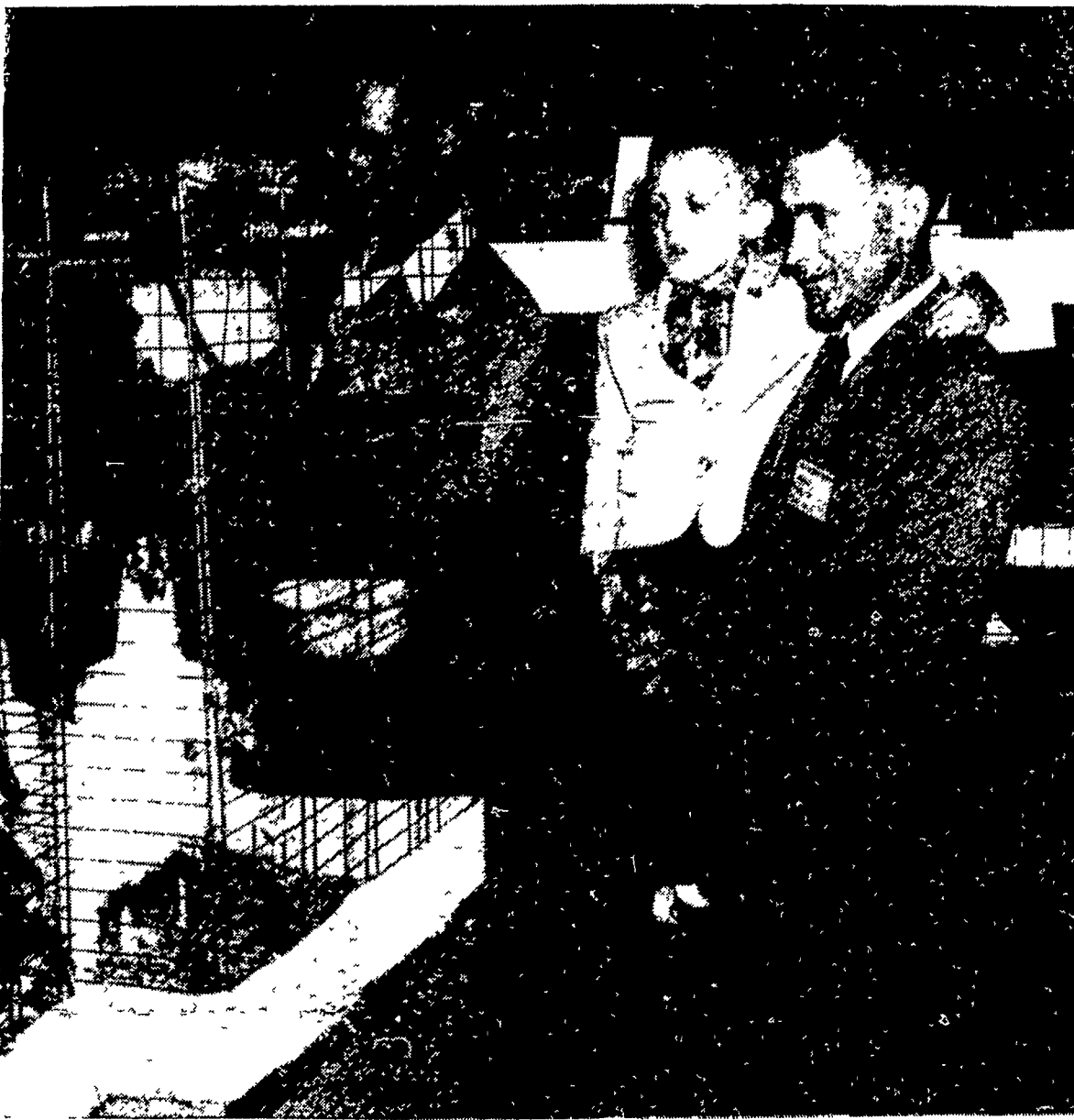
State Secretary of Agriculture William L. Henning has commended the alertness of a Bureau of Plant Industry inspector who discovered gypsy moth egg masses on a poultry crate near the State Farm Show Building.

Henning announced that the timely action of Milton Searfoss of Avoca, Luzerne County, could well have checked a possible infestation of the Harrisburg area by dreaded gypsy moth caterpillars which completely defoliate trees and shrubby.

The insect egg clusters were discovered this week on the underside of a poultry crate shipped about a year ago to the Department of Agriculture's chicken egg laying test buildings near the Farm Show Arena. There was evidence that caterpillars had hatched from one of the four egg masses, but apparently had died because they were unable to reach tree leaves upon which to feed.

Close inspection of poultry crates used to transport pullets for the opening this week of a new egg laying test revealed no gypsy moth egg deposits. Thorough inspection of the area within half a mile or more of the Farm Show Building will be made after tree leaves have fallen, he added.

This was the second "by chance" discovery of gypsy moth by State employees. Earlier this year State foresters reported a defoliated area in southern Luzerne County which later proved to be gypsy moth damage. This area will be sprayed with a solution of DDT next Spring.



LANCASTER COUNTY VISITORS at the NEPPCO Exposition were, left, Harold K. Witmer, R2 Manheim, and his son, Lemer, 18 months old, and Lester Gehman, R2

Manheim, with his son Laverne, who is 5. Both Witmer and Gehman are egg producers, the former having about 700 layers and the latter about 5,000 (LF Photo)

Pennsylvania Poultry Capitol This Week

Visitors from 14 states gathered this week to witness one of the greatest accumulations of modern poultry equipment and educational displays and supplies, contests and events, talks ever staged under one roof.

The occasion was the annual exposition of the Northeastern Poultry Producers Council, staged this year in the Fair Show Building at Harrisburg.

Largely responsible for drawing the crowds were the more than 160 commercial exhibitions, large, colorful and educational to the commercial poultryman whose livelihood depends on his knowledge of the industry.

A "push-button" exhibit featuring a newly-developed colony cage system for laying birds and an egg gathering belt which collects the eggs for the farmer from as many as 1,800 hens in less than five minutes. Feeding and watering is done on a push-button basis, too.

An electronic calculating machine which allows pedigree breeders to accumulate a myriad of records on a single punch-card and to machine analyze the figures, revealing which breeders will make the best sires and dams for future generations of chicks.

Gold-plated laying cages with anodized feeders and waterers in red and green.

A display showing how improved poultry house construction can make use of the heat of the sun in wintertime, controlling moisture problems and minimizing fumes from the litter.

Two Pennsylvania hatcheries swept away top honors in the annual Egg-to-Chick Show.

Grand champion's trophy went to York DeKalb Hatchery, York, Pa., for its entry of DeKalb 121 hybrids. The entry scored 96.52 points.

Reserve champion, for the second year in a row in runner-up spot, was an entry of White Leghorns from Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Hatchery, Harrisburg, scoring 95.97 points.

Just a breath behind the winners in the number three spot was another Leghorn entry from the Babcock Poultry Farm, Ithaca, N. Y., scoring 95.96 points.

Eighty hatcheries from the 14-state Northeastern area participated. The contest got underway early in September, when entrants shipped 60 hatching eggs each to be placed in the incubators at Moore Farms, Lancaster. Each entry was graded on the basis of size, shape, interior quality, color and condition.

When the entry hatched early in October, 25 of the resulting chicks were scored on vigor, uniformity of size and color, condition and weight. Hatchability was also a judging factor.

A pert Leghorn hen owned by Darby Leghorn Farm, Somerville, N. J., was the nation's queen-of-the-roost when she was crowned with poultrydom's coveted Hen-of-the-Year Award.

The bird scored a total of 939.11 points out of a possible 1000 to top the second-place entry, also a White Leghorn, from the farm of Leo J. Graybill, McAlisterville, Pa., scoring 935.93 points.

The award was made on the (Continued on page 11)

Canadian Wool Production Down

Production of shorn wool in Canada during 1957 amounted to 6.1 million pounds, a decrease of about two per cent.

Seven Per Cent Rise in Swine Can Break Bubble of Prosperity

By BOB BEST

With hog prices climbing steadily up to levels not enjoyed by the pork producer since the fall of 1954, the U. S. Department of Agriculture this week issued a special study on the hog situation.

And the story laid out for all to see is not an amusing one.

These things stand out as paramount in the hog situation.

One: Hog prices fluctuate drastically in short periods.

Two: Hog numbers fluctuate even more drastically and in even shorter periods.

Three: The pork industry is losing its share of the consumer dollar to beef, and to some extent, veal.

Four: There is a limited world market for United States produced pork.

Since 1950 swine producers have had four big peak markets, that is, top prices of over 20 cents a pound. And in that same period, there have been five low markets.

The lows ranged from about 18 cent low in 1950 to a 10.5 cent low in the late winter of 1955. In between the lows and highs there have been little peaks and valleys that may at the time seem significant, but have failed in the long run.

Couple this constantly changing market to the yearly price cycle and you have something else again.

Prices of hogs almost invariably rise in the spring and decline in the fall. Seasonal price peaks

and lows have been shifting earlier, farrowings have become earlier and the growing and feeding period shorter. The winter-spring low price is now often in March, and the fall low sometimes is in November.

The corn-hog ratio, the bushels of corn equal in value to 100 pounds of live hog, is usually taken as the best basis of the practical aspect of profitable hog feeding.

While prices of hogs were advancing in 1957 the price of corn remained stable. The hog-corn price ratio increased to a high of 16.6 in September and the September-December average may be between 14 and 15.

The ratio has averaged slightly above 12 over many years.

A ratio of 14 to 15 during the breeding season almost invariably has been followed by increased farrowings.

There is no apparent reason to the per cent of increase in spring farrowings after a rise in the hog-corn ratio. A look at the figures since 1925 shows that farrowings have risen as much as 20 per cent on a rise in the ratio that did not even lead to profitable hog feeding.

During 1942 and 1943 Americans ate pork at a record rate of nearly 80 pounds per person per year. This was nearly 52 per cent of the red meat consumed in the United States.

This year Americans are eating only 65 pounds of pork per person, and this amounts to a, by (Continued on page 11)

Now Is The Time . . .

By MAX SMITH

County Agricultural Agent



Max Smith

TO ACCEPT UNIVERSITY SHORT COURSES — A large selection of both short courses and correspondence courses in agriculture are offered at Penn State University each winter, we recommend these courses as one of the best ways of gaining additional information on a subject without spending much time on the campus. The correspondence courses are conducted by mail and are quite popular throughout the state. Additional information may be secured at our Extension Service office.

TO EXPAND FARM BUSINESS — Many small farmers are having difficulty in meeting growing expenses. To stay in farming and expect a reasonable income farmers should try to keep their

enterprises growing as much as possible. If expansion is impossible then it may be quite difficult to compete with other larger producers.

TO IMPROVE DAIRY BARN VENTILATION — The dairy herd will soon be moving into winter quarters, with more animals under one roof the problem of proper ventilation becomes more acute. Cow comfort is very essential to maximum, efficient production; we recommend the electric exhaust fan system as very successful in this area. An Extension Service Bulletin is available on the subject. A county wide meeting is scheduled for Oct. 22.

TO UTILIZE ROUGHAGES IN STEER FEEDING — Most any form of roughage may be fed to feeder cattle at the beginning of the feeding period; ample pasture, hay, or silage is recommended to get the cattle on feed and to develop capacity, feed nutrients from roughages are usually cheaper than nutrients from grain feeds. As the feeding period advances, the amount of roughages are decreased and the grain increased. Roughages may be used economically on all weights of cattle except heavy, short-fed steers that are nearing the desired market finish.