

Potato Imports Placed Under Regulations

A regulation which specifies minimum grade and size requirements applicable to Irish potatoes imported into the United States was issued today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A similar regulation on potato imports was in effect last season. The regulations will be effective from Oct. 13, 1958, through July 15, 1959.

The importation of round white or red skin varieties is limited to the U.S. No. 1, or better grade, 2 1/2 inches minimum diameter and 4 inches maximum diameter.

Long variety potatoes, such as the Russet Burbank variety, must meet the requirements of the

U.S. No. 2, or better grade, 2 inches minimum diameter or 4 ounces minimum weight, Size A, and may be "not more than slightly skinned."

In addition, all imported potatoes have to be generally "fairly clean."

The regulation does not restrict importation of certified seed potatoes. Also, any lot not in excess of 500 pounds of potatoes may be imported without regard to the regulation.

Most of the potatoes imported into the United States come from Canada. The Canadian Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Service is designated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as an authorized inspection agency for shipments of Canadian potatoes. The Canadian potato standards may be used on the same basis as comparable United States grade standards, except that tolerances for size as specified in the United States standards may be used.

Young Dairyman Named Star American Farmer

Harrisburg, Oct. 15 — A young dairy farmer from Pennsylvania who has developed Holstein cows with outstanding production records has been chosen as one of the four recipients of the nation's most coveted farm youth awards.

He is James H. Speer, Jr., 21, of Blairs Mills, Huntingdon County, who has been chosen by the Future Farmers of America as Star American Farmer of the North Atlantic Region. Word of the distinction won by young Speer was received here by James C. Fink, acting State FFA advisor, from Kansas City where the designation of the Pennsylvania boy was announced at the Tuesday evening session of the 31st annual FFA National Convention in colorful ceremonies during which Speer received a

\$500 check from the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Inc.

Young Speer shared the spotlight with three other FFA members who also were named as Regional Star American Farmers. They are Jimmie John Jarnagin, Jr., 21, of Hanston, Kansas, Ethan Labrier, 21, of Kenton, Oklahoma, and Malcolm A. Niles, 20, of Loleta, California.

Although the award is Speer's highest, it is only one of a long list of honors won by him as an FFA member. Because his achievement record was highest among all FFA boys who received the "Keystone Farmer degree" at the 1956 State Farm Show, Speer was proclaimed FFA's 1956 State Star Farmer. Later that year, in competition with like winners from 12 northeastern states, he was named the North Atlantic Region's Star State Farm-

er. In 1957 he was the FFA State President and later, chairman of the FFAs 1957 national convention committee.

As a dairy farmer, James has 18 producing cows, which, during the last complete year of record keeping, averaged 12,900 pounds of milk and 496 pounds of butterfat per cow. He says he considers any cow producing less than 10,000 pounds of milk and 400 pounds of butterfat a cull animal.

When he evinced interest as a lad in becoming a farmer, his parents encouraged him and gave him a heifer calf. By the time he entered high school and was old enough to join the FFA, he had two producing cows and a heifer calf. His interest in farming by then was such that he passed up the nearest high school at Orbisonia and enrolled at the Juniata Joint High School at Mifflintown, 37 miles away, where he could get the vocational agriculture course. He spent three hours a day on the school bus, leaving home at 6:45 a.m. and returning at 5:00 p.m. As a high school sophomore he began keeping farm accounts for his father's entire 325-dairy operation and for three successive years won first place in the State in FFA's farm records contest.

Upon graduation from high school in 1955, James and his father operated the family farm as partners but when, in January, 1957, an adjoining 350-acre farm became available, James made arrangements to buy it, complete with livestock and machinery for \$17,200. James fed and groomed the animals, which had been poorly handled, and repaired and repainted the machinery which, although fairly new, had been allowed to deteriorate. In April he held a public auction, sold the livestock and machinery for \$10,541, leaving him the farm land and buildings for an investment of only \$6,659. His farm his daily herd, some registered Hampshire swine, and machinery he owns give him a net worth of \$29,701.



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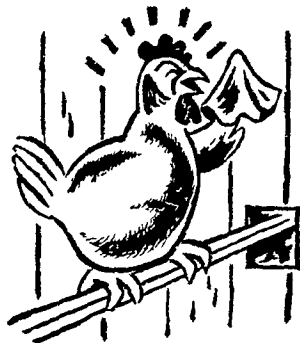
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