

DA Reports

New Control For Peach Pest

Experiments indicate soil treatment may eventually replace tree spraying to control plum curculio in peach orchards, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reports today.

Orchard tests, conducted by entomologist Oliver I. Papp of USDA's Agricultural Research Service at Marietta, Ga., proved several insecticides capable of giving good control of the

peach tree. Aldrin, dieldrin, or heptachlor was spread on the ground under the trees at a rate of about 2 pounds per acre and mixed with the top layer of soil. The treatment controlled plum curculio. Conotrachelus pomonella was killed by the pest but it could emerge from the ground. Similar tests were obtained with all three of these chemicals.

In one of the tests, aldrin was spread under peach trees in March of 1957. No insecticide

was used on the trees during the '57, '58, or '59 season. Only 1.6 per cent of the harvested peaches were infested in 1957, 2.9 per cent in 1958, and 0.7 per cent in 1959. It is possible some beetles may have migrated from outside the treated orchard.

In a cooperative experiment with a Georgia peach grower, 64 pounds of 25-per cent aldrin were mixed with each ton of 10-10-15 fertilizer and spread under several thousand trees in March 1958.

Each tree was treated with 2½ pounds of the mixture, which amounted to 2 pounds of aldrin per acre. The material was broadcast by hand and disked into the ground. No wormy peaches were found when the orchard was harvested in 1958. In 1959 the owner found wormy fruit in only one small area. In contrast, peaches in a neighbor's untreated orchard were ruined by the plum curculio.

Ice Cream Short Course World Wide In Appeal

A world-wide reputation for short course training in ice cream manufacturing is claimed by the Dairy Science Department at The Pennsylvania State University. During a recent course for Ice Cream plant personnel, trainees came from Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, Sweden, Holland, and Canada, in addition to seven states.

Penn State has probably trained as many short course students in ice cream making as all other agricultural colleges combined. That's the belief of Philip G. Keeney, in charge of the two short courses for plant personnel and makers of soft ice cream.

Agricultural short course director Frel C. Snyder hopes there is some connection between Penn State's reputation for training and the growth of the ice cream manufacturing in the State. Pennsylvania leads all states in the amount of ice cream

produced—about 80 million gallons a year. Of this total, about 6 per cent is soft ice cream.

"One of our objectives is to instill within each student an understanding of the importance of sanitary handling of milk and milk products," Dr. Snyder points out.

Following World War II, the soft ice cream business grew rapidly. Many people started out with no prior experience in proper handling and care of perishable foods. Equipment was not always designed for proper cleaning and sanitizing.

So the soft ice cream short course was urgently needed. Started only three years ago, it has now trained 55 men from seven states. Students study the composition and problems of frozen desserts, the ingredients to use, the mixing process, type of equipment to select, and flavoring and freezing of soft frozen desserts. Sanitation

and state regulations are stressed.

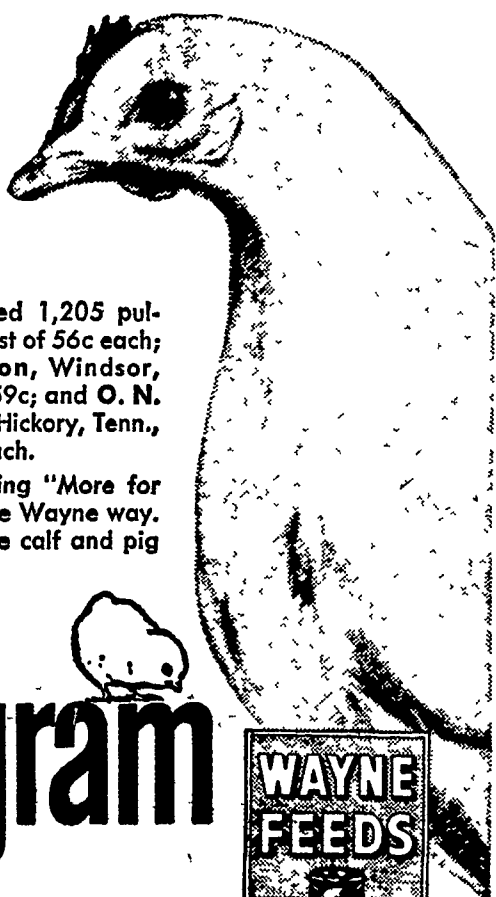
The training of plant personnel has an extra benefit—international good will. For the banquet on January 28, traditional foods were transported by air from Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, Sweden, and Holland. The foods were gifts of trainees from these countries and included typical fare like tortillas, creamed herring, fried bananas (plátano), and candy made from guava, a South American tree fruit.

TEST SOIL FOR POTATOES

A complete soil test is essential for each field planted to potatoes, reminds Elmer Pifer, Penn State extension agronomist. Intended use of the crop also is a guide to choice of fertilizer and the amounts to be applied to get satisfactory yields and the quality desired.

Nationwide, Pennsylvania is fourth among the 50 states in total banking assets—following New York, California and Illinois.

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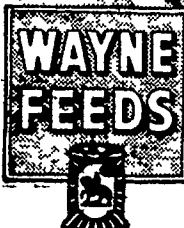


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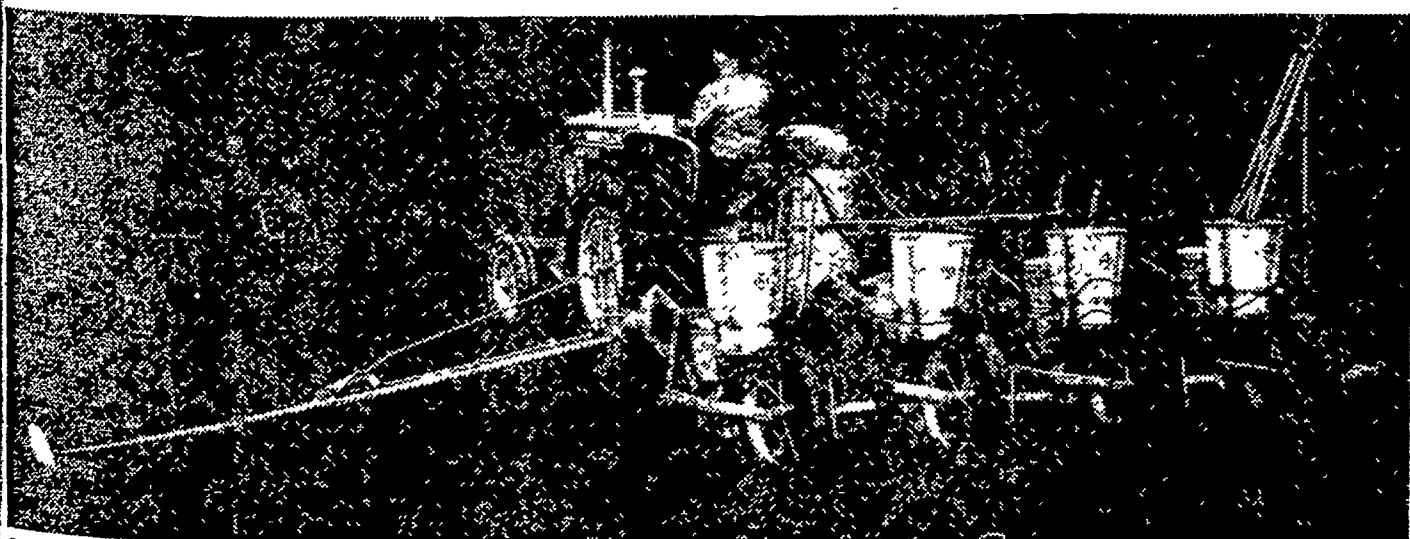
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