

Tobacco Seed Treatment 'Aid' In Wildfire Control

Treatment of tobacco seed with a solution of Silver Nitrate will control wildfire carried on the seed, but will not prevent wildfire from coming in from other sources. Farmers were told this week.

Dr. Carlton Taylor, Extension Plant Pathologist from the Pennsylvania State University, speaking at a tobacco seed cleaning and treating demonstration in the Witmer fire hall Tuesday, said, Treatment of the seed is designed to control wildfire organisms carried on the seed itself. "If wildfire develops in the seedbed, be prepared to spray silver nitrate solution," he told farmers.

Seedbed sterilization will also help control some di-

seases as well as weeds, he said. Dr. Taylor reminded tobacco growers there are several chemicals which can be used for sterilization of tobacco beds, but in most cases chemical treatment is suited only to fall applications. Steam sterilization is about the only recourse that farmers have in the spring. Like steam sterilization, Dr. Taylor pointed out, the chemicals kill damping-off fungi as well as nematodes and weed seed, but any of the more common chemicals must be applied when the soil temperature is higher than 50 degrees F.

Dr. Taylor and personnel from the county extension service treated in excess of 500 ounces of tobacco seed at three locations during the day.

County agent M. M. Smith said, tobacco growers, "who did not have an opportunity to bring seed to the demonstrations but would like to treat the seed, can purchase silver nitrate solution at drug stores. The druggist will mix the solution in the one to 1,000 proportions recommended. Directions for treating seed are available from the county agent's office in the Post Office building in Lancaster.

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Treating Tobacco Seed For Wildfire



DEMONSTRATING HOW TO TREAT TOBACCO SEED with silver nitrate for the prevention of wildfire is Dr. Carlton Taylor, extension plant pathologist left, during a seed cleaning session in the Witmer fire hall Tuesday. Looking on are, left to right, Harry S. Hess, Strasburg R1; Frank H. Peiffer, Pequea R1, and Max M. Smith, county agent who arranged and assisted with the demonstration. —L.F. Photo

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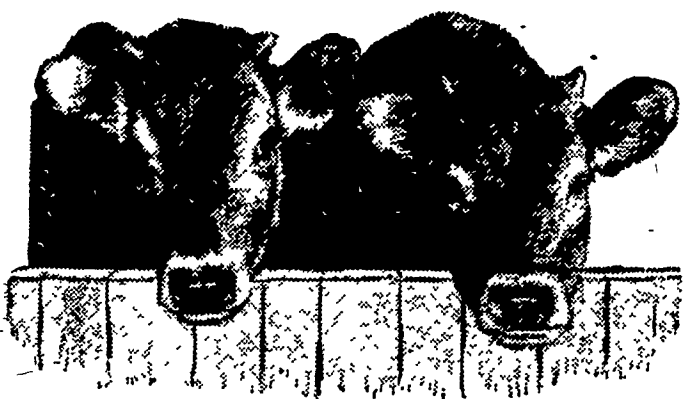
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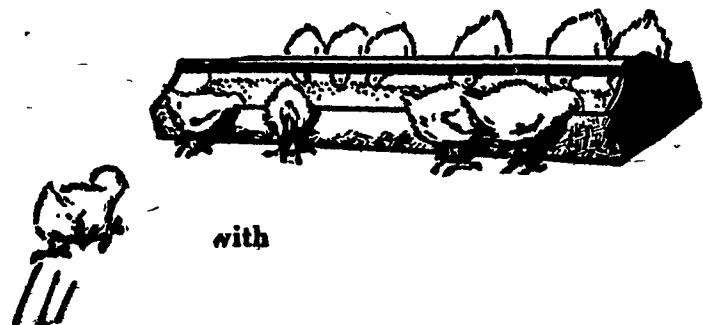
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