

Students Give Credit Parents Helped In Decisions

Students majoring in agriculture at the Pennsylvania State University claim their parents have been the strong influence in choosing field of study. The importance of parents in making decisions of students brought out recently in a survey of freshmen and sophomores in the College of Agriculture. Results were announced by David R. McClay, head of the department of agricultural education at State. Independent choices by the students themselves was rated second to parental influence, although less than half

as important. Others exerting influence in the selection of college and courses were guidance counselors, teachers of vocational agriculture, county extension agents, relatives, agricultural workers, teachers in general, college alumni, and friends. "Students in the College of Agriculture evidently come from families recognizing the importance of scientific training in agriculture," Dr. McClay points out. "These students also come from high schools where agricultural science is a recognized force." he adds. Seventy-four per cent of

the students had completed college preparatory training in high school. Eighteen per cent had completed the vocational agriculture curriculum and seven per cent took general programs of high school preparation. Fifty-six per cent were graduated from high schools where vocational agriculture was offered.

Farmers Plan Cutback In Poultry Numbers

A Feb. 1 survey by the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service shows that Keystone State farmers plan to buy 1 per cent fewer chicks this year than last.

Pennsylvania poultrymen plan to buy about the same number of pullet chicks as last year, but intend to buy 4 per cent fewer straight run and 10 percent fewer cockerel chicks than in 1960. This would make chick purchases 75 per cent pullet, 23 percent straight run and two per cent cockerel. Last year 74 per cent of the chicks purchased were pullets, 24 per cent straight run and 2 per cent cockerels. Differences between farmers intentions and their actual purchases may be expected depending on egg and feed prices relationships and other developments during the hatching season.

There were 168 million layers on Pennsylvania farms on Feb. 1, down about 1 per cent from the month before. Pullets not of laying age amounted to 4 per cent of the total of layers on the farms. This is indicative of a slight slow-down in egg

New Test Found Problem 'Bangs' Herds Target

A new method for detecting bovine brucellosis that shows promise of having value as a supplemental test has been developed by scientists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Called the Heat Inactivation Test (H.I.T.), this method was designed and developed by Thomas E. Amerault and other scientists of USDA'S National Animal Disease Laboratory. While widespread use of this test under field conditions is necessary before final evaluation can be made, research indicates that its primary value will be to supplement the standard tube and plate agglutination tests by clarifying the brucellosis status of cattle in problem herds.

Problem herds are those very few herds in which reactors or suspects are repeat-

edly found after continuous tests and standard caninary procedures. Although such problem herds are not a recent development, they have become more apparent.

The new test must be made in a laboratory by trained personnel. The serum and antigen solutions used are the same as those used in the standard tube test for brucellosis.

To prove the efficiency of the new test method, samples of serum, milk, and other material were obtained from 563 cattle. Of these, 410 were from naturally infected herds, 10 were from Brucella-free herds, and 143 were from a group of cattle artificially exposed to virulent Brucella abortus, the disease causing organism. The blood serums were tested by the H.I.T. Positive reactions to the Heat Inactivation Test were given by all suspect and reactor cattle from which Brucella abortus was isolated. In no instance was the bacterium found in samples from cattle whose serums were negative to the test.

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John Henkel, left and Joe Little, owners, of Willow Glen Farm, R. D. 1, Strasburg.

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