

Fruit Diseases Are Studied By State Scientists

Vigorous attempts to identify viruses causing diseases of tree fruits are on the program of scientists with the

Agricultural Experiment Station at the Pennsylvania State University. John S. Boyle, University Park, and Fred H. Lewis, Fruit Research Laboratory, Arendtsville, are associated in these efforts.

While this research is basic in nature, it is aimed at discovery of virus diseases of cherries, plums, peaches, apples and pears. Effects of

cultural practices and expected to show how trees respond to infection. An attempt will be made to learn more about virus reservoirs or where viruses come from and to develop improved methods of recognizing and indexing them.

Of 50 known viruses attacking stone fruits, yellows of sour cherries probably is among the best known due to spectacular symptoms during shock stages. A half dozen or more virus diseases of apples and three of pears have been identified in the Northeast. Losses of cherries may be estimated at 25 percent of annual crops.

Seedling cucumber plants have been found useful in identifying cherry trees afflicted with yellows. The cucumbers react at once when inoculated with cellular sap from virus diseased trees while the trees themselves would not show symptoms for several years. Several other relationships of this kind are known and Drs. Boyle and Lewis hope to discover others.

Viruses are too small to be seen except with an electron microscope. Some are so unstable that scientists sometimes doubt that they have been present. This habit of disappearing at certain stages makes their study baffling at times. They may cause no observable symptoms until the plant or tree attacked has reached a certain physiological age or degree of maturity. While they are able to multiply only in

Real Estate Values

Farm Price Rise Slows Down

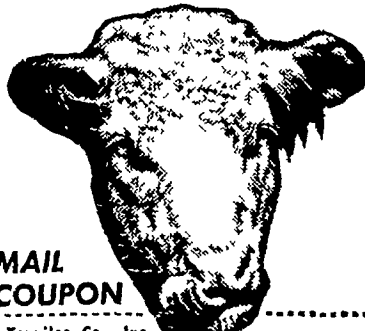
Pennsylvania farm land values rose about 1 per cent last year and farm real estate dealers and observers queried by the U. S. Department of Agriculture expect land prices to change little in the next six months.

In these respects, Pennsylvania departs from the national trend. The trend in the market value of farm real estate which has been steadily upward since 1941 throughout the nation came to a halt in 1960. The national index of average value per acre for November 1, '60, remaining at 172 (values from 1947 to 1949 equal 100 on the index scale), the same as

on July 1, and only 1 per cent above a year earlier. Stated another way, total value of farmland buildings in the nation Nov. 1 was \$128.4 billion, about \$700 million less than on March 1, and \$600 million less than a year earlier.

More than 200 real estate dealers and observers in northeastern dairy states, including Pennsylvania, (Turn to page 11)

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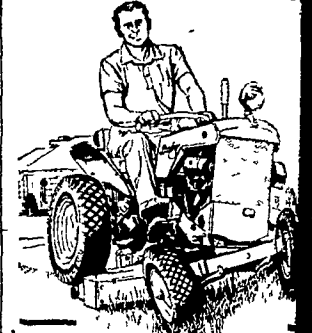
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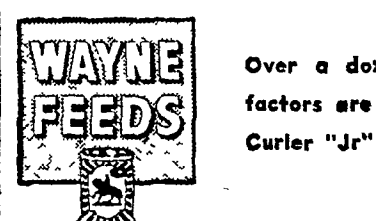
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