

Best Food Buys Blizzard Changes Food Market

That late winter blizzard which this week disrupted our communications and caused temporary interruption of normal supply lines, reports Tom Piper Penn State Extension Marketing Agent Heavy rains and freezing temperatures in California, Arizona and parts of Texas have caused serious damage to produce crops.

Lettuce has been frozen to the heart in some sections. As a result, higher prices and poorer quality lettuce is expected in the weeks ahead. Supplies on hand or in transit, may be priced somewhat higher than last week. As much as seventeen inches of rain has fallen in some early growing areas halting planting operations. Freezing temperatures have caused severe damage to early crops of cantaloupes and honey dew melons.

Potatoes continue to provide an economical source of food nutrients. Other fair buys include tomatoes, radishes, carrots, rhubarb and mushrooms.

Apples remain plentiful and prices unchanged from last week. Banana prices are higher as supplies are barely adequate to meet demand. Grapefruit remains plentiful and it's peak in quality and flavor. Supplies of Valencia oranges are increasing and bringing lower prices. Strawberries from South Florida are more plentiful too.

Pork supplies are ample and various cuts including, loins, roasts, fresh picnic and hams all provide promotional opportunity this week-end. Five prices are lower than witnessed in recent weeks and turkey continues a good meat buy. Beef supplies are ample. Check newspaper ads for features on chuck roasts or steaks.

Consumer buying of fish and shellfish will be at a seasonal peak during Lent. Although total supplies of frozen and canned fishery products are smaller than a year ago, several individual items are in large supply. Supplies of frozen cod, haddock, fillets, fish sticks and portions, and lobster are in larger supply than a year ago. Frozen halibut, cod fillets, sole, ocean perch, white-

fish, scallops and crab meat are in good supply too. Items in short supply and thus higher in price include shrimp, sardines, and oysters.

Pasteurized crab meat is a newly developed seafood item now available at many markets. The process of pasteurization makes it possible to keep this meat at refrigerator temperatures for periods of three to four weeks.

Large size eggs are priced lower than at any time since last fall, they provide a most economical source of protein. Dairy products, including cheese, are also in plentiful supply.

17 Year Locusts May Be On Way

HARRISBURG — 1962 will be a locust year in Pennsylvania.

The 17-year locust will appear in the Commonwealth about the first week in June right on schedule with Nature's calendar.

According to the Bureau of Plant Industry, State Department of Agriculture, Brood II of the periodical cicada which made its last appearance in the state in 1945 will turn up in 16 eastern counties — Lancaster, Pike, Luzerne, Carbon, Monroe, Schuylkill, Lehigh, Dauphin, Lebanon, Berks, Bucks, Montgomery, Chester, Delaware, Northampton and Philadelphia.

The 17-year locust is native only to North America. There are as many as 10 different broods scattered over different sections of the United States. There are at least nine numbered of the species which appear at regular 17-year intervals in portions of Pennsylvania.

The 17-year life span of the locust is spent underground where the nymphs or immature forms of the cicada feed on the sap of tree roots.

The female cicada damages the small limbs of trees by her egg-laying habits. She gouges out a row of punctures

an inch or more long in the center of the limb. The eggs are then placed at the bottom of the punctures. Many such punctures may be made on a small tree, thereby causing considerable damage. This damage is especially harmful to small fruit trees.

The word "locust," which really means the grasshopper group, was applied to this group of insects by early Massachusetts settlers. The brood appeared with suddenness that the colonists thought a locust plague was upon them. Persons interested in protecting small trees from the pest should consult with their county agricultural agent.

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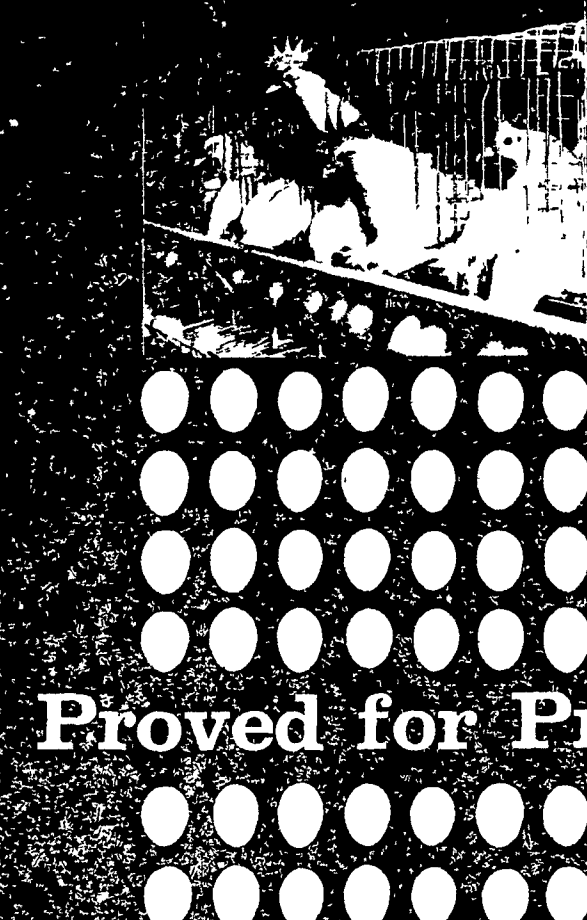
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