

Mechanization Of Harvesting Is Called Gardner's Biggest Need

Mechanized harvesting is probably the greatest challenge to the American vegetable industry, Pennsylvania vegetable growers and canners' fieldmen were advised recently during their annual conference at The Pennsylvania State University.

"We've improved our efficiency in planting, spraying, and packing vegetables, but after 30 years we still harvest tomatoes, cucumbers and many other vegetables by hand," declared John Carew, of the horticulture department at Michigan State University.

Dr. Carew said the science of horticulture "must seek out new ideas for improving efficiency in producing and marketing its products." The horticulture industry must strengthen both the research and extension phases of the state universities, he affirmed.

He urged growers to develop their own ideas and to be aware of other developments. He pointed out that controlled atmosphere storage, dwarf apple trees, and 2,4-D and DDT were not original American ideas. Americans, however, used these to the fullest extent.

The field of horticulture needs skilled executives, he affirmed, to represent horticultural interests in legislature

and at international conferences. And he called for more cooperative efforts in developing new marketing procedures and in promoting horticultural products.

Fruit Growers Asked To Return Survey Forms

HARRISBURG — State Agriculture Secretary Leland H. Bull today urged fruit growers to return survey reports promptly to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service

Survey cards were mailed recently to growers asking for information about number and age of trees and grapevines, and about varieties being introduced or discarded. The information will be summarized and published in a bulletin that will be available to all fruit and grape growers and allied fruit interests, Secretary Bull said.

"Growers need these facts to meet the impact of changing conditions, market requirements and competition," Secretary Bull explained, "and in orderly planning for the years ahead."

Witmers Win National Award

PETERBOROUGH, N. H. — Raymond F. and Louise A. Witmer, owners of Penn-Del Farm, Willow Street, Pennsylvania, have been named Gold Star Guernsey Breeders for 1963 by The American Guernsey Cattle Club. This is their second award.

The Witmers met all of the requirements for this award during the past year. Some of these requirements were that all Guernseys over eight months of age owned by the farm were registered, that the herd included at least 10 registered Guernsey cows with production records made official during the year with at least 70% of them home-bred, that the herd was on official A.R. or H.P.R.-D.H.U.R. test with a lactation average over 10,810 pounds milk or 525 pounds fat, 30% 2X M.E. and that 80% of the cows with official records completed during the year were classified with an average score for the group of 82.5% or better.

The production summary of the Witmer herd showed 32 cows with 32 records averaging 11,817 pounds of milk, 609 pounds of fat, 30% 2X M.E. and with an average classification for 32 cows of 85.1 percent.

Science In Ag. Open House Set

University Park — Opportunities for men and women with a college education will be stressed in the annual "open house" to be held March 28 by the College of Agriculture and the biological science departments of the College of Science at The Pennsylvania State University.

Underway from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the open house will acquaint young persons and adults with developments in the agricultural and biological sciences, says Glenn O. Bressler, general chairman and professor of poultry science.

Lecture-demonstrations, Dr. Bressler adds, will describe a \$90 billion industry employing over 20 million people as production workers, supervisors, managers, fieldmen, salesmen, credit men, newsmen, teachers, laboratory workers, technical workers, technical researchers, economic analysts, and other careers.

Featured in lecture-demonstrations and exhibits will be (1) agricultural business and education, (2) agricultural engineering and physical sciences, (3) animal sciences, (4) biological sciences, (5) plant sciences, and (6) counseling for careers.

Last year nearly 3,500 high school students, teachers, and parents attended the open house. This year's committee

has mailed an invitation and a folder describing the day's events to all high schools in the State — plus leaders in business and industry.

Star Farmer of America is the nation's best known farm boy award. It is a check for \$1,000 presented each year by the Future Farmers of America Foundation to the FFA member judged most outstanding in farming and leadership.

Save Baby Pigs

About one-third of all pigs born never reach market, says Les Burdette, extension livestock specialist at The Pennsylvania State University. Cold, drafty, wet farrowing pens cause troubles with baby pigs. The high death rate among baby pigs can often be prevented by good management.

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