

Pa. Floriculture Industry Research

HARRISBURG — Research aimed at improving the competitive position of Pennsylvania's \$22 million floriculture industry was authorized recently by the State Department of Agriculture.

Leland H. Bull, secretary of agriculture, said the study will be made by the Pennsylvania State University under contract with his department, and with added financial support by Pennsylvania Flower Growers.

It will be directed, he explained, toward improving yield and quality of greenhouse flowers and at reducing cost of production. Attainment of these goals is important to the state's greenhouse operators, he added, because of increased competition from outdoor production in southern states.

Dr. John W. Mastalecz and John W. White, project leaders on the Penn State staff, said their purpose will be to determine optimum combinations of light, temperature, carbon monoxide, moisture and fertility levels for greenhouse flower crops. Secretary Bull said the study is one of twenty being initiated by the Department of Agriculture with harness racing revenue appropriated by the Legislature with the approval of Governor William W. Scranton.

Farm Prices Still Up 9% Over Year Ago

Average prices received by state farmers for their products in March were unchanged from February levels, but remained 9 percent above those of a year earlier, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

The U.S. average of prices received by farmers in March was one percent lower than in February. Average prices paid by farmers for commodities and services however, rose almost one percent to the highest level on record.

Continued decline in the hog market in Pennsylvania was offset by increases ranging from 50 cents to \$1.50 a hundredweight in most other livestock categories. March hog prices averaged \$25.80 in mid-month, down \$2.80 from a month earlier.

Broiler and roaster prices advanced one cent a pound, but prices received for eggs dropped one cent a dozen compared to February quotations.

Prices of most field crops declined a cent or two a bushel. Potato prices rose five cents a hundredweight to \$3.15.

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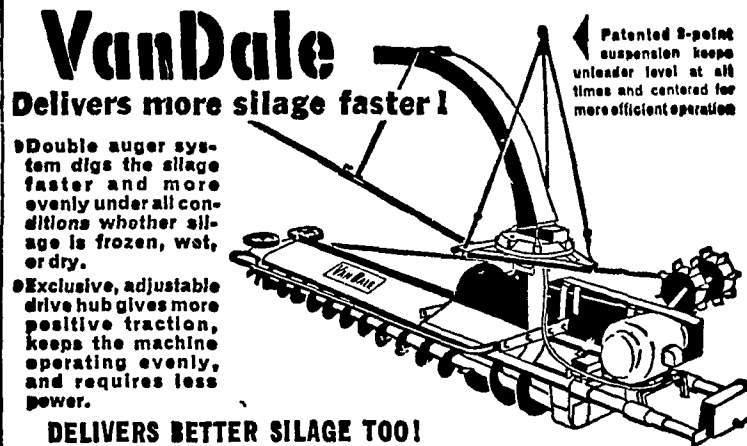
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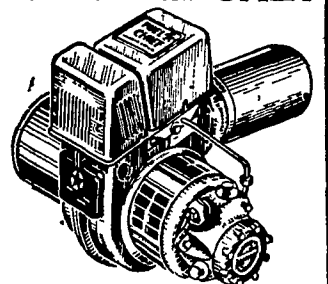
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