

## Chewing Gum Catches More Mice Than Cheese

Save that good cheese for yourself and put chewing gum instead in the mouse trap. Gum makes good mouse-bait, according to Frank Boys, agricultural chemicals specialist at the University of Delaware. And, turn the fan on if you're bothered by buzzing house flies; flies can't fly in winds of more than four miles per hour.

### State Fruit Crop Hurt This Year

**HARRISBURG** — With the exception of grapes, Pennsylvania fruits will fare poorly this year, the State Crop Reporting Service has announced.

This year's grape crop is estimated at 41,000 tons, up four percent from last year and four percent more than average.

Apple production is expected to total seven million bushels, seven percent less than last year and 29 percent below the 1961-1965 average. The peach crop of 800,000 bushels will be the smallest since 1936, while the 400-ton sour cherry crop will be the smallest on record. The five-year average for sour cherries was 11,920 tons.

Pennsylvania pears appear not to be damaged as seriously as cherries and peaches, but the 92,000 bushel estimated production is the lowest since 1956.

Researchers are currently experimenting with several off-beat ideas in pest control, according to Boys. Many of these controls were discovered accidentally, he points out. For instance, two acrylic auto paints attract large numbers of a destructive sap beetle and may be useful in insect traps.

A large outbreak of sap beetles in 1966 led to the accidental discovery of the paint's potential use. The beetles were so strongly attracted to automobiles on which rust spots had recently been painted over with the acrylic paint that painting had to be stopped. In four days of testing an average of more than 2,000 beetles were drawn to traps containing the two most promising paints. Early tests show that other various species of flies are attracted to the paint, so it may be useful in trapping other insects also.

At the University of Delaware several areas of biological control are being explored, Boys says. Releasing predatory mites that are native to Chile may show promise in controlling several species of leaf feeding mites that attack greenhouse plants. Usually, within a week after the release of the Chilean mites complete control of the destructive mites is possible.

Entomologists are also work-

ing with parasitic nematodes to control the larva of striped cucumber beetles, an insect of economic importance on cucumber crops. Nematodes are more widely known as root-infesting pests of many crops; the parasitic nematodes are a different variety.

Beltsville, Md., scientists found out recently that insects have their own built-in biological clock which aids scientists, farmers and homemakers in controlling the pests. More houseflies and cockroaches died after they were sprayed late in the afternoon than at any other time, scientists discovered.

The insects' vulnerability changes because their daily activity varies in a 24-hour cycle, called circadian rhythm. The flies and roaches start their most active period in late afternoon, and this is their most vulnerable period. Spraying at this time produces a greater kill with less insecticide.

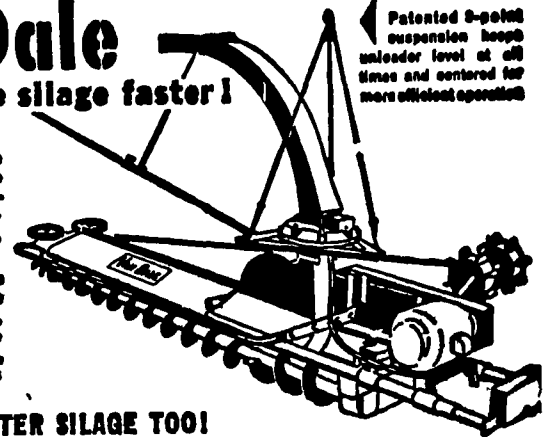
Boys points out that re-

searchers are continuing to develop new insecticides to deal with insect problems; however, biological controls are receiving careful attention.

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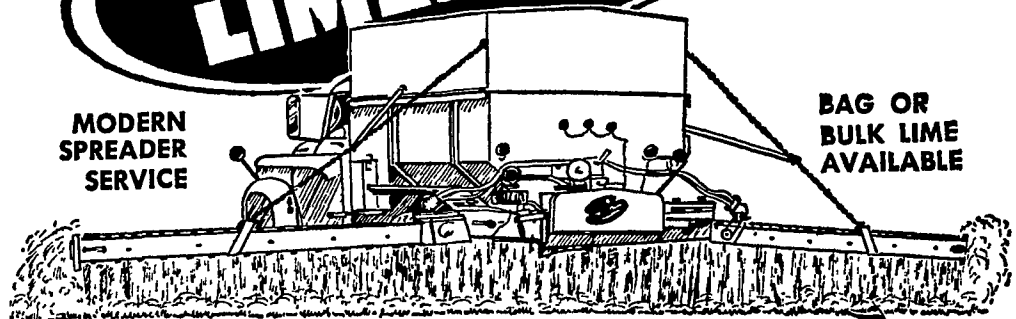
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