

● DHIA

(Continued from Page 1)

probably be in the next two or three years. "The state association would first have to

purchase about \$80,000 worth of new equipment," Hollinger noted.

In comparing the new testing method with the 85-year-old Babcock test, Hollinger

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said the milk-o-tester can sample butterfat in 30 seconds.

According to Hollinger's estimate, the Solids-Not Fat testing program is "phasing out". While at one time there were 80 Pennsylvania herds on the program, he noted there are now about 25.

He explained that failure of the program to "catch on" was partly due to the fact that its objectives were too long-term. "Genetically, it requires a minimum of 12 years to gain substantial improvement in such factors in dairy cows."

One tester on the panel suggested that another reason the program didn't prosper was that the supervisors weren't compensated properly for it, and consequently didn't push it.

OWNER-SAMPLER PROGRAM

Continuing to conjecture on future practices, Hollinger told the panel, and other directors and testers present, that owner-sampler herds will gain in popularity in relation to DHIA herds. "This will be particularly true among young dairymen entering the business and those who don't need the national publicity for selling breeding stock," he predicted.

He further noted that, when the Babcock test is eliminated as a prominent testing method, the owner-sampler program will become more practical. He suggested two possible drawbacks to the O-S testing program: many farmers don't have the labor or time to take samples; and where a dairyman is heavily financed, his backers will want to see official records.

The panel agenda included three general subjects: size of herds and number of cows for a day's testing work; director-supervisor relationship; and milk-o-meters.

Tester Jay Risser noted that his herds vary in size from eight to 130 cows, with the average running between 50 and 60. It was concluded that the size herd a tester can handle in a day depends to a great extent on the individual tester, and on the efficient operation of the farm. It was further pointed out that the tester's relationship with the farmer should be strictly according to the state rules. While it should be mutually friendly, it should still be businesslike.

Serving on the six-member panel were directors Daniel Martin, Allen Risser, and Melvin Groff; testers Jay Risser, Clarence Crider, and J. Wilbur Houser. Moderator was association president Daniel S. Stoltzfus.

SOMEWHAT LESS BUZZING REPORTED IN BEE CROP

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania beekeepers, plagued by two successive years of cold spring weather, reported an estimated 117,000 bee colonies in the state on July 1 matching last year's record low number.

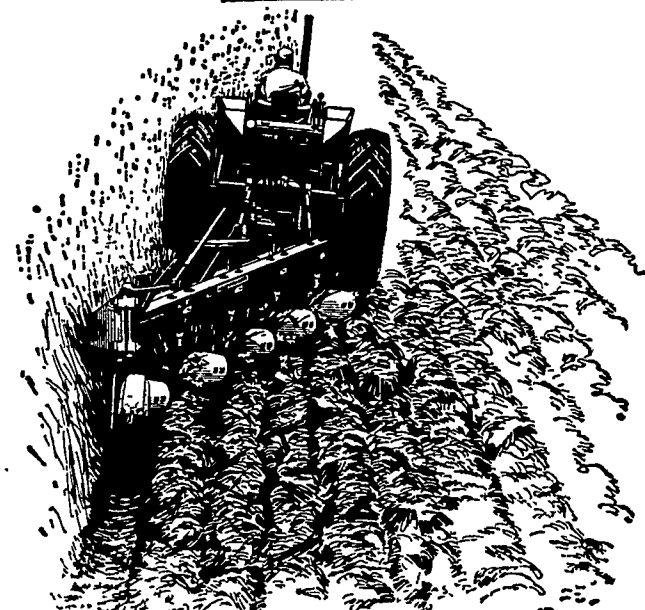
The unseasonable spring weather caused bees to get a late start in replenishing food reserves. However, favorable weather in late May and June brought increased activity and

most hives produced a surplus of honey.

Leading causes of colony losses were starvation, winter kill, and lack of queens. Acquisition of swarms and pacified bees helped offset losses.

According to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service, condition of colonies on July 1 was 83 percent of normal, down one percent from 1966. Nectar plants were 74 percent of normal, nine points higher than a year ago.

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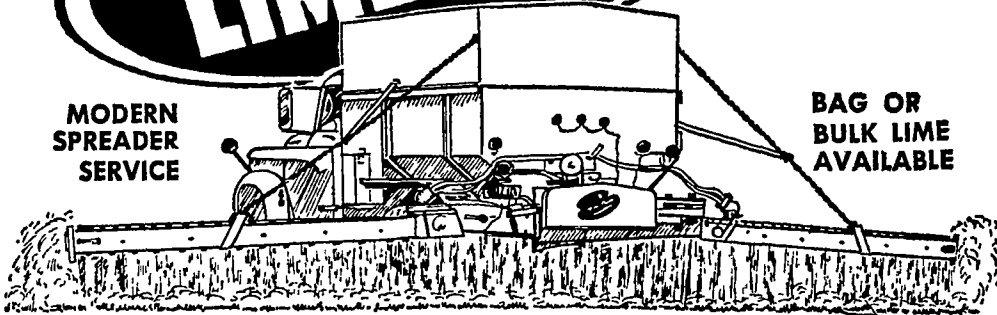
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