

Increased Potato Acreage Needed For Future

Pennsylvania vegetable growers must produce an additional 10,000 acres of potatoes by 1976 to keep pace with increased consumer needs and maintain their competitive place in the nation's market, declared an agronomist at The Pennsylvania State University.

Elmer C. Pifer, speaking to growers and industry personnel attending the 17th annual Pennsylvania Potato Growers Institute on the main Penn State campus March 7, said the 39,000 acres of potatoes grown annually in the Commonwealth will not yield quantities large enough to meet future demands for the "most popular and versatile member of the vegetable kingdom."

He pointed out that frying, chipping, dehydration, and freezing add greatly to the versatility of potatoes which makes them appeal to the housewife as a nutritious, convenience food.

Commenting on advances in technology in the potato industry, the Extension official said the new Penn State Soil Testing Laboratory is answering many

questions on the nutrient status of our soils that were previously unknown. One of these is the balance of nitrogen, phosphorus, potash, and calcium. As growers apply this new knowledge gained, it will undoubtedly result in increased potato yields and improved quality.

"Soil types are playing a major role in the development of fertilizer recommendations under the new system," Pifer explained. "Physical characteristics of soil, particularly depth and drainage, greatly determine the yield potential. Since soil type names reflect these characteristics, Commonwealth soils are divided into several groups. A yield potential for each group has been established."

The five leading potato producing counties are Lehigh, Erie, Cambria, York, and Lancaster, he pointed out.

Approximately 200 potato growers and representatives from industry participated in conference discussions pertaining to labor relations, future needs, and general management practices.

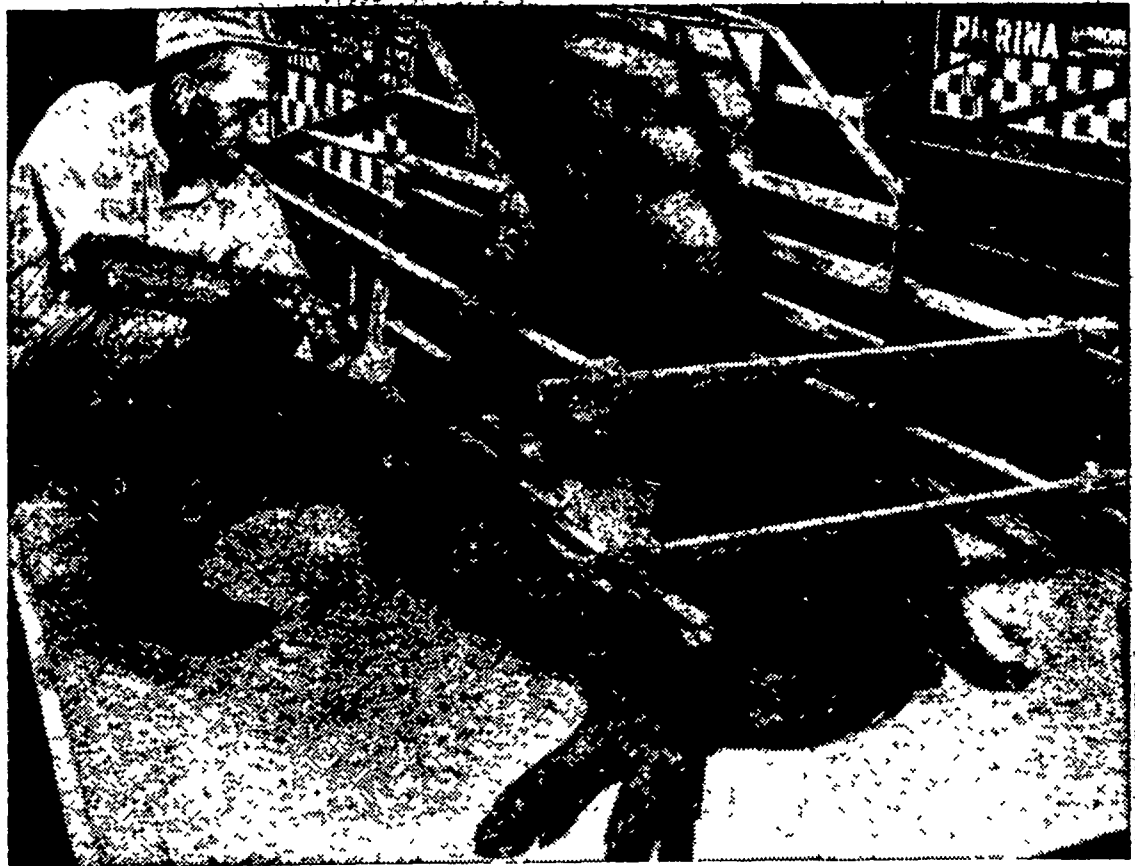
Bucks Completes Intensive Course In Ag Business

Donald Bucks has returned from Kansas City, Mo., where he completed an intensive one-week course in the modern application of agricultural equipment to farms and farm-related businesses. Classes were held in the training center of Butler Manufacturing Company, leading producer of farm buildings and equipment for storing, handling and drying grain and feed.

Mr. Bucks is associated with Agri-Inc., Ephrata, the Butler Agri-Builder in this area. The company designs, engineers and builds "product systems" for farms and commercial feed and grain installations.

DID YOU KNOW—The Tree Farm System was inaugurated in 1947, by the American Forest Products Industries, to encourage better forestry practices on privately owned woodlands in Pennsylvania. (Dept of Forests & Waters)

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